

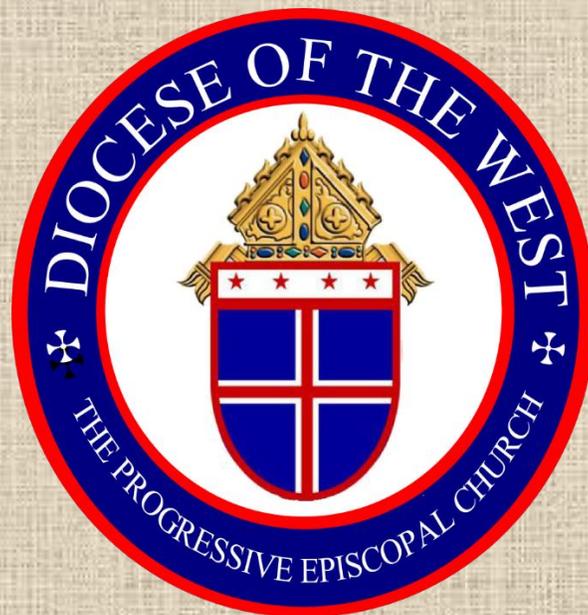
The New Epistle

a newsletter of

The Progressive Episcopal Church

Volume I Number 9

November 2015



“SEDE VACANTE” ENDED!

*RT. REV'D THURLOW WEED SUCCEEDS
BISHOP MANSELL GILMORE IN THE
DIOCESE OF THE WEST*

A Double Ordination

On Saturday October 24, 2015 at 2 p.m., observing the Feast of St James of Jerusalem, the **Venerable Thurlow Weed** was consecrated to the episcopacy of the Progressive Episcopal Church by visiting bishop John A. Bell on behalf of TPEC, and under authorization & consent of the Presiding Bishop. At the conclusion of the consecration, Bishop Weed was installed as the second Bishop of the Diocese of the West upon taking the oath of office.

At approximately 2.45 p.m., the second service began under the presidency of the newly consecrated bishop, who proceeded to ordain to the priesthood **Daniel Jonathan Beach** of Portsmouth, Ohio.

The Episcopal Consecration followed the Ordinal of 1928 (a Western liturgy), and the priestly ordination of Rev. Beach followed largely the Eastern Orthodox form. East and West met together in harmonious communion. Following the service there was a reception in the church's undercroft with cake, and the best fresh-made raw apple cider in the county.

The service was held at Grace United Church of Christ in Lancaster, Ohio, which on the following day (Oct 25th) launched the year-long programme of celebration of the 200th anniversary as a congregation. The Progressive Episcopal Church extends a sincere "thank you" to Pastor Mindy Quellhorst of Grace UCC for allowing the use of their church for the service. We also congratulate Grace on their 200-year milestone.

It was also announced by Bishop-elect Weed that the service was to be in celebration of the life and extraordinary ministry of Rev. Katharine Royal of our intercommunion [in progress] partner, the Progressive Christian Alliance. Rev. Kat Royal passed away in her sleep Oct 23, at the tender age of 33.



Rt Rev'd Thurlow Berend Weed
Bishop of the Diocese of the West;
Vicar, St Luke's Progressive Episcopal Mission,
Lancaster, Ohio



Rev. Daniel Beach
Priory of St Cyprian of Antioch
Portsmouth, Ohio

Photos from the Ordination



Visiting Bishop John A. Bell Bishop Thurlow B. Weed Fr. Daniel. J. Beach



Consecration of Bishop Weed



Installation as Bishop of the West



Fr Daniel's ordination begins

Note the extra candle on the Altar. This is known as the “Bishop’s Candle.” It is traditionally used for the official visitation of a diocesan bishop. It is a rarely-seen custom.



The Examination of Daniel Beach



Ordination of Daniel Beach



Bishop Weed with Rev. & Mrs. Daniel Beach

In Memoriam

Rev. Katharine "Kat" Royal

24 Jan 1982 – 23 Oct 2015



A very bright light has gone out. Rev. Kat Royal of the Progressive Christian Alliance passed away in her sleep on Friday, October 23rd.

The Progressive Christian Alliance and The Progressive Episcopal Church have been informal ministry partners for quite some time, and a number of our clergy have dual affiliation.



Kat's extraordinary ministry reached far and wide, particularly Operation Bullyhorn, which advocated for those who were victims of bullying. So many young lives have been lost due to bullying, and Kat was a tireless advocate in the campaign to raise awareness and facilitate positive change in the world. She was, in her life and ministry, the very embodiment of God's love in action, the Holy Spirit radiating from her like a fire.

The Progressive Episcopal Church extends its heartfelt condolences to her husband Rev. Micah Royal.



Thanksgiving

In the Northern Hemisphere, the harvest season is in full swing. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is planting season. Throughout the world, societies and cultures have for millennia celebrated harvest-tide with festivals and ceremonies to give thanks to their Deity for the fruits of the harvest. Similarly, there are ancient celebrations for the arrival of Spring.

Both Autumn & Harvest, and Spring & planting are associated with much colour. In the N.H. the leaves of the trees turn brilliant shades of orange, yellow, and red. In the S.H. the land is awash in the brilliant colours of Spring.

All these brilliant colours remind us of all the colours of God's love, and of the manifold blessings we receive from the Creator. While we in the Northern climes approach the time of harvest thanksgiving - and here in the United States the Thanksgiving Holiday - let us be mindful that our thanksgiving to the Creator - the Great Oneness - should be part of our every waking moment.



EVOLUTIONS

Miscellaneous TPEC news

Our online forum, though well-intentioned, simply did not work out as planned. It has been removed from the website, though it has been saved, and is “in storage” should there be a desire to re-instate it.

We will be establishing a new Facebook [closed] group page for our clergy where we can share and discuss our ministries, and better communicate and support each other in our ministries. It will be a place to ask questions, and find answers concerning the life and work of TPEC.



We regret that Mar Melchizedek has resigned as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Cumberland, and expressed his desire to excardinate from the Church. The excardination was granted on October 26. We thank Mar Melchizedek for his service to The Progressive Episcopal Church for the short time he was with us, and wish him well as he goes to where Spirit directs.

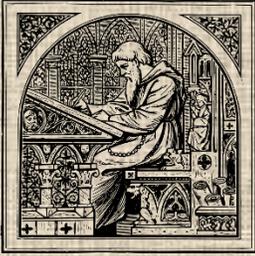


The Progressive Episcopal Church continues to work with the Progressive Christian Alliance (PCA) to establish a formal Agreement of Intercommunion. Rev. Jarrod Cochran is one of our priests in the Diocese of Cumberland, and is also part of the leadership of the PCA; he has graciously agreed to be our liaison to work with the PCA leadership council to make this agreement a reality.



In preparation for the establishment of the Diocese of the Northeast, Presiding Bishop Michael Sherbert has directed the creation of the Northeast Archdeaconry, and has appointed Bishop-elect Francesca Fortunato to serve as Archdeacon as she prepares to lead the new diocese upon her consecration.

We welcome the Venerable Francesca to her new leadership role as brings a solid anchoring presence to our New England region. Many blessings to you in your ministry!



From the Office of the General Secretary

A lot has been happening in the Church over the last few months. There has been some concern communicated to me through emails from our clergy about the state of TPEC, since on the surface we seem to be having some turnover of clergy and bishops who have left us or retired. But there is much going on that is unseen, and we are actually growing in numbers. Min. Tommie Spain will be ordained to the priesthood in the first part of November, and of course Min. Daniel Beach was just ordained to the priesthood. Mother Francesca will be consecrated as Bishop on April 30, and upon her consecration the Diocese of the Northeast will come into existence. +Mani remains very active in his ministry, and still very much part of this Church.

I have one candidate who is geographically near me who is about to begin his discernment process; my initial conversations and investigation of him have been very positive. We also anticipate the incardination of a priest who has made application for such. He has an extraordinary ministry which will likely be featured in a future newsletter, as well as on our Facebook page.

The remaining communication gaps are slowly but surely being bridged, and bring us closer together as a family. I spend about between 15-20 hours per week with TPEC-related work.

Some of our clergy are highly visible in their ministry, such as Jarrod Cochran and Colin Keller, among others. Both have been with us for quite some time, and contribute greatly to the mission & purpose of this Church, but also to our stability. There are other clergy who we don't often hear from, but have valuable and fruitful ministries in their own areas, and are living the social Gospel of radical inclusion and hospitality in their communities. One provides a safe haven for battered and abused women; another ministers and counsels hoarders. Our current candidate for priestly incardination has a most remarkable and compassionate ministry working with autism, approaching it from a human therapy standpoint, rather than a drug treatment approach. The results of treating the person as a whole as opposed to a "broken" person with a disease are truly remarkable.

Now for some numbers! As website administrator, I see all manner of statistics that Weebly provides; similarly, Facebook provides us administrators with data as well.

Here are some numbers for the website, month of October:

1036 visitors
 128 views of the Clergy Directory
 57 views of "Who We Are"
 51 views of "Vocations"

How people have found the website:

Google	106
Facebook	25
Anglicans Online	17
Cars with Muscles	10 (?? I honestly have no idea But that what the data shows.)

The last week of October reveals 637 page views. We have a small but very real presence, and are being found by those who are seeking a Progressive faith community. Now for some Facebook page numbers; we have 631 page "Likes", with 8 new this week. 510 of them are in the United States, with others scattered around the world. 65% are men, 33% are women. Our posts have reached 1370 people in 45 countries.

The Progressive Episcopal Church is unique in the ISM (Independent Sacramental Movement). Unlike most of the others, we are a structured church after the Anglican model, and based on a Creation Spirituality that is built upon the social gospel of doing good unto others, and demonstrating a radical hospitality. Each of our clergy have the autonomy to operate their ministry and worship as needed to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Our ministry focus is on people, not rigid doctrine, rank or title. Though we are bishops, priest, deacons, and licentiate ministers, we gather at a table that is round and there is only one level. Our bishops are servant leaders who have demonstrated their faithfulness to the stewardship of our human family. Strict authoritarian governance has no place here.

It is this structure that draws people to us. It is true that some of those drawn to us in the past revealed questionable intentions and desire to exert authoritarian control. These situations were addressed, and the individuals were either removed or left of their own volition, and were issued a letter of excommunication. Others have left because the Spirit has simply drawn them to follow a different path. It is essential that we remain a community, working together as equal partners in ministry, regardless of title; we rely on each other for mutual support, guidance, and insight. We have built – and continue to build – a community of Progressive Christians from all walks of life, living the Gospel message & teachings of the Master, Jesus.

The Progressive Episcopal Church is a very real presence, and meeting needs; we are a community of communities reaching out to the marginalised & oppressed of our society: victims of bullying, LGBT, battered women, Indigenous peoples; those turned away from mainline churches because of who they are or aren't. The list goes on. Thanks to our dedicated clergy throughout the United States and abroad, we are stable and doing well, and making a difference in the lives of those around us – and giving hope.

We have experienced a minor setback in the process of incorporation, but this is being addressed, and in due time will proceed. In the meantime, the leadership earnestly desires that all our clergy prayerfully consider offering financial support toward the cost of administration. The current administrative expenses are about \$100 each month. Office space in Nebraska is \$200 per month. We are well aware that a number of our clergy are on limited retirement or SSDI incomes, and support might be difficult. But – as you are able – we humbly request that you help support the regular daily operation of the Church. As we grow, your financial support is very much needed to help cover the costs of background check service, church administration software subscription, postage, and other administrative supplies such as certificate forms, etc.

So *please* ... consider a contribution toward the operating expenses of TPEC, so that no one person is paying for everything out of their own pocket (as is currently the case). Forty-five dollars would cover the CHO software subscription for one month; thirty dollars the background check service for a month. A gift by check can be mailed to the General Office at 1005 N. Columbus St, Lancaster OH 43130. Paypal is also available, but please contact the General Secretary (me) at admin@tpecusa.org for that information.

We are a progressive voice crying in the wilderness, bring God's reconciling Love to a world desperately in need of renewal; we are a Light shining in the darkness. We are hope to those despised and rejected by society. We are a community of compassion.

We are The Progressive Episcopal Church.





November 2015



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Churchman's Ordo Edition

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALL SAINTS' DAY 722 1 Glo.Cr.Prf.A.S.	Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) 2 Prf.Dead	Richard Hooker, Priest, 1600 3 Glo.Prf.Bap.	[Charles Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, 1584] 4 [Common of a Theologian and Teacher II, Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.]	[Elizabeth and Zechariah, 1st Cent.] 5 [Common of a Saint II, Glo.Prf.St.2]	FERIA ✱ 6 Proper 26	Willibrord, Archbishop of Utrecht, Missionary to Frisia, 739 7 Glo.Prf.Ap.
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 723 8 Proper 27 Glo.Cr.Prf.L.D.	FERIA 9 Proper 27	Leo the Great Bishop of Rome, 461 10 Glo.Prf.Epi.	Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397 11 Glo.Prf.St.2	Charles Simeon, Priest, 1836 12 Glo.Prf.St.2	FERIA ✱ 13 Glo.Prf.Bap.	Consecration of Samuel Seabury, First American Bishop, 1784 [Bestowal of the American Episcopate] 14 Glo.Cr.Prf.Ap.
The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 724 15 Proper 28 Glo.Cr.Prf.L.D.	Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093 16 Glo.Prf.Bap.	Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200 17 Glo.Prf.St.2	Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680 18 Glo.Prf.St.1	Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary, 1231 19 Glo.Prf.St.2	Edmund, King of East Anglia, 870 ✱ 20 Glo.Prf.Bap.	[Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary] 21 [See Propers for May 31 Glo.Cr.Prf.Inc. or BVM (TASB)]
The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King 725 22 Proper 29 Glo.Cr.Prf.Bap.	Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100 23 Glo.Prf.St.2	FERIA 24 Proper 29	James Otis Sargent Huntington, Priest and Monk, 1935 25 Glo.Prf.St.2	THANKSGIVING DAY IN USA 26 Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.	FERIA ✱ 27 Glo.Prf.Bap.	Kamehameha and [Emma] of Hawaii 28 Glo.Prf.Bap.
The First Sunday of Advent 29 Cr.Prf.Adv.	SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE 30 Glo.Cr.Prf.Ap.	✱	READINGS Mass — Year B Office — Year One After 11/28 Mass — Year C Office — Year Two Weekday Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LFF, pages 498-528. See Notes on Reverse [] - In some Places	Glo.—Gloria Cr.—Creed Prf.—Proper Preface of Adv.—Advent Inc.—Incarnation Epi.—Epiphany H.Wk.—Holy Week Eas.—Easter Asc.—Ascension	Pen.—Pentecost Tri.—Trinity Sunday A.S.—All Saints St.—Saint Ap.—Apostles Ded.—Dedication Bap.—Baptism L.D.—Lord's Day	Days of Special Devotion are noted with ✱