

Kathy Burda, Parish Nurse at Trinity Episcopal Church in Pottsville, has developed a virtual walk through the Diocese of Bethlehem. Below is the first installment in her March Newsletter. Great job, Kathy!

Kathy says she is willing to share, and has e-mailed me her monthly installments. Let me know if you are interested in using the walk (giving Kathy proper credit, of course).

Diana Marshall

Notes From The Nurse - Strap on your pedometers and here we go! We will start our Virtual Walk the Diocese of Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The cornerstone was laid in 1862 and the first service was Christmas Day in 1864. Asa Packer (a name you might recognize from Jim Thorpe) was instrumental in it's building.

We will travel about 1 mile to the Trinity Church in Bethlehem. It's cornerstone was laid in 1871. The new church built for \$4000 and furnished for \$2000 was completed by Christmas, the day on which the Sunday School presented it's first Christmas Pageant.

From there we will travel 19 miles to St. Anne's in Trexlertown. The population of Trexlertown is about 700 but it is home of one of the premier bicycle racing tracks.

Now we are going 8 miles to Grace Church in Allentown. This is Allentown's oldest house of worship in continuous use. Records of an established Parish date back to 1858 when the congregation met at the court house.

In 1 1/2 miles we will pass the Church of the Mediator in Allentown. One of the ministries offered at this church is the Mediator Car Pool which offers rides to those in need of assistance to attend church services or other activities.

In another 1 1/2 miles we will come upon St. Andrews. In the early 1950's the Diocese decided that an Episcopal Church should be built in NW Bethlehem. In 1955 St. Andrews was accepted as a mission.

From St. Andrews we will walk about 7 miles to St. Stephen's in Whitehall which is distinct in their use of the Anglican Service Book. St. Stephen's has grown from it's humble beginnings in 1870.

From there we will walk 9 miles to St. Margaret's in Emmaus. In 2007, Emmaus was listed as one of the top 100 "Best Places To Live" in the United States by Money Magazine.

Now we will travel 12 miles to St. George's in Hellertown. Which will celebrate 100 years of witness and service this year.

Then 15 miles to St. Brigid's in Nazareth, founded in 1995, was accepted as a mission in 1996 and in 2005 was accorded parish status. The name was chosen in honor of our Diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Meath & Kildare in Ireland.

In about 9 miles we arrive at Trinity in Easton, where every month they support a different local or global ministry through their Mission of the Month.

We will now travel 17 miles to St. Mary's in Wind Gap. Wind Gap is considered the "Gateway to the Poconos". It is loved for its small town feel while it is centrally located and only minutes from several cities.

The next leg of our journey takes us 4 miles to St. Joseph's in West Bangor where the Rev. Pat Dwyer MacMillian is Rector.

The last leg of our trip this month is 10 miles to Christ Church in Stroudsburg. Once a month the Pullen Clinic provides services for people who have no health insurance. Their physicians, nurses and clinical workers all volunteer their time and expertise to serve approx. 240 people per year.

We have now traveled about 114 miles. Congratulations. If you haven't picked up your pedometer, it is not too late, call Kathy Burda at 621-3220. Remember, walking is one of the easiest ways to get and stay healthy