

VIRGINIA EPISCOPALIAN

A Publication of the
Episcopal Church
in the Diocese
of Virginia

NOVEMBER 2009 + VOLUME 118 + NUMBER 6

The Call to Tanzania

Partnerships, relationships bring Virginians to east Africa

By Emily Cherry

There's a certain infectious quality about the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in Tanzania, particularly, it would seem, for Virginians. Since 2006, partnerships between the two dioceses have been growing at a feverish rate, and with good cause. Virginians who have traveled to Tanzania inevitably come back and speak of a trait that is hard to pinpoint, although the word "joyful" pops up again and again. But perhaps most frequently, Virginians who return from Tanzania find themselves with a passionate desire to return to the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Now, more than ever, the people of Tanzania are in need, and Virginians are responding.

'I Want To Go Back Now'

The Rev. David May, rector of Grace, Kilmarnock, fell in love with Tanzania after a 2008 trip there with Buck Blanchard, diocesan coordinator for world mission. The group spent time visiting several



Photo: Emily Cherry

The Carpenter's Kids Program includes a daily meal for the neediest children in each of 95 partnered villages in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.

villages, but the one they really felt called to was Bankola. Today, Grace, Kilmarnock has partnered with Bankola in a unique relationship thanks to a ministry called Carpenter's Kids.

Started as a partnership between the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the Episcopal Diocese of New York, Carpenter's Kids supports some of the most impoverished

/ Tanzania continued on page 15

Next Steps After General Convention

Episcopal Church responds, reacts to resolutions

By Lauren R. Stanley

Decisions made at July's General Convention in Anaheim are reverberating throughout the Episcopal Church more than three months later.

Perhaps the biggest impact is at the national level, following the \$23 million cut in the Church's budget. But the reduced budget, which led to the laying off of more than 20 percent of the Episcopal Church's staff, has not stopped the Church from having an impact around the world.

"Given the difficult economic

times, budget matters were bound to be a major issue in Anaheim," said the Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas, Executive Committee member and professor at Episcopal Divinity School. "The fact that the Episcopal Church unequivocally reconfirmed our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals by providing 0.7 percent of the Church's budget for the Nets for Life anti-malarial program in Africa is an incredible symbol of our faithfulness to God's mission around the world.

"This commitment is even more significant because it came at a huge cost to our staffs and programs at the Episcopal Church Center and caused great pain for those who have now lost their jobs. Faithfulness," Dr. Douglas said, "is never easy."

The Rev. Dr. R. David Cox, deputy from Southwestern Virginia, said that the Convention's decisions on global mission should be felt in local congregations. General Convention "passed some resolutions

/ GC continued on page 10



November 2009

+ VOLUME 118

+ NUMBER 6

Circulation 22,500

Published by The Diocese of Virginia

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston

Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones

Editor

Henry D.W. Burt II

Managing Editor

Emily Cherry

Design/Layout

John Dixon

Advertising Assistant

Karen Smith

Copyright ©2009 *The Virginia Episcopalian*. No article, column, photograph or illustration in *The Virginia Episcopalian* may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the editor.

The Virginia Episcopalian (ISSN 15353621, USPS 019711) is published by the Diocese of Virginia, located at 110 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220. It is published bimonthly six times per year. Periodicals postage paid in Richmond, VA 23232-9998.

Subscriptions:

- + \$5.00 / year for communicants of the Diocese
- + \$6.00 / year for non-communicants
- + \$1.50 for individual copies

Views expressed in this newspaper are not official statements of policy by the Diocese of Virginia.

Editorial and advertising policy is set by the editor and Executive Board with the advice of the editorial advisory board.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rediscovering Church at General Convention

Congratulations for the excellent reporting on General Convention 2009 in the September issue.

In addition to those things already reported, I would only add:

First, the Church took the strongest stand it has yet taken against domestic violence.

Second, the Church adopted the essence of a resolution passed by the Anglican Consultative Council on May 5, calling on all of us to seek non-violent alternatives to violence for the resolution of all disagreements.

Third, the Church renounced the "doctrine of discovery," dating to Henry VII of England, under which the Church justified the claims of "Christian" sovereigns and their agents against the territory and lives of indigenous people.

Fourth, the church entered into full communion with the Moravian Church in the United States.

I was struck by the proportion of resolutions adopted by both houses that came from individual deputies. As Bonnie Anderson, president of the House of Deputies, observed in her opening remarks to Convention, "God speaks through all the orders of the Church."

For the record, I attended at my own expense, and sat for most of the Convention in the "sideline seating" reserved for alternate deputies. I feel now—more than at any time since the 1970s—that this is the Church that I joined nearly 53 years ago: an open Church, proclaiming God's free gift of grace and love to all people.

PAUL R. BROCKMAN
THIRD ALTERNATE DEPUTY
ST. PAUL'S MEMORIAL, CHARLOTTESVILLE

Christchurch or CCS?

The article, "Great Journeys Begin at the River" from the September issue of *The Virginia Episcopalian* is nicely done, and expresses well both the physical beauty and the educational objectives of my alma mater.

I am a 1941 graduate of Christchurch School, and also a past member of the Local Board of Christchurch School. Please note my use of the correct name of Christchurch School. The incorrect reference (CCS) is used often in this article, and unfortunately it is condoned—even encouraged!—by administrators of the school.

The school took its name from its location near the Episcopal church (Christ Church, Middlesex) and the local post office, Christchurch, Va.

Unfortunately, the referenced article uses both Christchurch School and CCS to identify the school. It can not be both.

HUGH C. DISCHINGER
WARE CHURCH, GLOUCESTER

Editor's Note: *The Virginia Episcopalian* followed the current usage that the school provided, as listed in Christchurch School's official Style Guide. We recognize the historic "CS" as another symbol of Christchurch and appreciate the wonderful history that it represents.

Water Ministry in the U.S.

I note that Bishop Lee is from Greenville, Miss., the town with a poor water supply which President Obama promised to fix during his campaign and hasn't done yet. Would it be a good way to give thanks for the bishop's ministry to ensure that this is done? Perhaps by an offering of letters to Obama, or offering Episcopal expertise. We raise money for water in Africa but this country needs it too.

ROSE MARY BALISTER
ST. PAUL'S MEMORIAL, CHARLOTTESVILLE

CHURCH TIES

100% WOVEN SILK TIES
SHIELD IN FULL COLORS
ON NAVY



QUANTITY ORDER DISCOUNT
To order, specify color & send
\$29.95 plus \$4.95 postage

CHURCH TIES

864-895-7730

WWW.CHURCHTIES.COM

45 Winstons Chase Ct., Landrum, SC 29356



Caring for Someone with Alzheimer's or Dementia?

Add the Kind Reminder™ to your toolkit.

Simplest possible recorder plays your comforting, reassuring message at the touch of the one, big button.

Lightweight, worn as a pendant, 1 AAA battery.

\$19.95 plus S&H

Order now at www.kindreminder.com

Supporting *The Virginia Episcopalian*

The *Virginia Episcopalian* is here to tell your stories: stories of mission trips, of church building renovations, of clergy and lay leaders who contribute to their communities. These are stories that help shape who we are as a Diocese. Without your assistance, we would not be able to share these stories with you. *The Virginia Episcopalian* needs your help.

First, we need you to let us know about your own stories. Our goal is to include news and updates from a wide variety of churches and individuals. If your church has not been featured in *The Virginia Episcopalian*, please let us know about your news and ideas so we can help share them with the Diocese.

Each year, the Diocese of Virginia asks churches to contribute to our communications ministry through support of *The Virginia Episcopalian*. We request a voluntary contribution from each church of \$5 per communicant household receiving the newspaper, and we strongly encourage all households to receive a paper copy. We also ask each church to make updates to your mailing list so we can most efficiently reach all of your parishioners.

The following churches have supported *The Virginia Episcopalian* this year by updating their mailing lists and/or making financial contributions. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these churches for making the work we do possible.

All Saints' Sharon Chapel, Alexandria
 All Souls', Mechanicsville
 Aquia, Stafford
 Calvary, Hanover
 Christ Ascension, Richmond

Christ Church, Charlottesville
 Christ Church, Gordonsville
 Christ Church, Luray
 Christ Church, Saluda
 Christ Church, Spotsylvania
 Christ Church, Lucketts, Leesburg
 Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville
 Church of Our Saviour, Montpelier
 Church of the Epiphany, Richmond
 Church of the Holy Cross, Batesville
 Church of the Holy Cross,
 Dunn Loring
 Church of the Incarnation, Mineral
 Church of the Resurrection,
 Alexandria
 Church of the Spirit, Alexandria
 Cunningham Chapel Parish,
 Millwood
 Emmanuel, Woodstock
 Emmanuel Church, King George
 Emmanuel, Brook Hill, Richmond
 Epiphany, Oak Hill, Oak
 The Falls Church, Falls Church
 The Fork Church, Doswell
 Grace, Bremo Bluff
 Grace Church, Berryville
 Grace Church, Cismont, Keswick
 Grace Memorial, Port Republic
 Holy Comforter, Vienna
 Immanuel, King & Queen
 Immanuel, Old Church,
 Mechanicsville
 Kingston Parish, Mathews
 Little Fork, Rixeyville
 Meade Memorial, Alexandria
 Piedmont/Bromfield Parish,
 Madison
 Pohick, Lorton
 St. Andrew's, Arlington
 St. Andrew's, Burke
 St. Andrew's, Mount Jackson
 St. Andrew's, Richmond
 St. Anne's Parish, Scottsville
 St. Barnabas', Annandale
 St. Bartholomew's, Richmond
 St. Christopher's, Springfield
 St. Dunstan's, McLean
 St. Francis', Great Falls

St. George's, Fredericksburg
 St. James', Leesburg
 St. James', Louisa
 St. James-the-Less, Ashland
 St. John's, Arlington
 St. John's, King George
 St. John's, Tappahannock
 St. John's, West Point
 St. John-the-Baptist, Ivy
 St. Luke's, Wellington, Alexandria
 St. Mark's, Alexandria
 St. Mark's, Richmond
 St. Mary's, Arlington
 St. Mary's, Berryville
 St. Mary's, Colonial Beach
 St. Mary's, Richmond
 St. Matthew's, Sterling
 St. Patrick's, Falls Church
 St. Paul's, Alexandria
 St. Paul's, Hanover
 St. Paul's, West Point
 St. Paul's Church-on-the-Hill,
 Winchester
 St. Paul's, Bailey's Crossroads,
 Falls Church
 St. Paul's, Nomini Grove, Montross
 St. Peter's, Montross
 St. Peter's, New Kent
 St. Peter's, Port Royal
 St. Peter's, Purcellville
 St. Stephen & the Good Shepherd,
 Port Republic
 St. Stephen's, Catlett
 St. Stephen's, Culpeper
 St. Stephen's, Richmond
 St. Thomas', McLean
 St. Thomas', Orange
 St. Timothy's, Herndon
 Trinity, Arlington
 Trinity, Charlottesville
 Trinity, Fredericksburg
 Trinity, Manassas
 Trinity, Washington
 Varina, Richmond
 Vauter's, Loretto, Champlain
 Ware Church, Gloucester
 Wicomico Parish, Wicomico Church

It's not too late to contribute to *The Virginia Episcopalian* by updating your mailing list or making a financial contribution. If you would like to support *The Virginia Episcopalian*, or if you believe your church's name has been mistakenly excluded from this list, please contact Emily Cherry, managing editor, at echerry@thediocese.net. +

Education/Liturgy Resources



134-140 College St.
 Oxford, NC 27565

*The Episcopal Bookstore which
 supplies Shrine Mont's store
 offers to serve your book needs
 with mail delivery.*

Ph.: 919/693-5547
 Fax: 919/693-3376
 e-mail: edlit@gloryroad.net

Receipts off?

Pledge fulfillment
 inconsistent?

There is a Solution

**Peter Williams
 The ACH Processing
 Company
 of Northern Virginia**

www.achpcnva.com

(703) 684-8813

510 King Street, Suite 416
 Alexandria, VA 22314



The Great Commission: Preparing for Annual Council

Go, teach, preach, baptize

The 215th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia will be an occasion for celebration. Not only will we continue our tradition of gathering together to worship together and conduct the communal business of our Diocese, but this year we will also celebrate the investiture of the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, bishop of Virginia.

Council will take place January 29-30 in Richmond at the downtown Marriott Hotel. Bishop Johnston's investiture will take place at 9 a.m., January 29 at nearby St. Paul's, Richmond. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, will preach and preside as this special liturgy. Regular Council business will resume following the reception after the service.

Joining participants as chaplain for the two-day event will be the Rt. Rev. Julio Murray Thompson, bishop of Panama in La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America. Bishop Thompson has been bishop of Panama since 2000. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Latin American Council of Churches and is vice-president of the Council of Bishops of La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

Details You Need to Know Pre-Council Meetings

Pre-Council meetings will take place on January 16 at St. James's, Richmond and on January 23 at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria. Both meetings will last from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be a chance to review proposed resolutions and canonical amendments, hear more about the Council agenda and meet some of the nominees for elected positions. All members of Council, in particular, should make an effort to attend one of these meetings.

Deadlines

This year, the deadline for hotel reservations at the special diocesan rate at both hotels is January 7, 2010.

The deadline for registration, nomination submission, report

submission and resolution or amendment submission is January 12, 2010. Please note these are firm deadlines.

Council Documents

For the third year, all Council documents will be made available online prior to Council. It will be the responsibility of each delegate to print all of the documents at www.thediocese.net under the "Print These Documents" section

table(s) and staff, available online. All exhibitor registrations will be handled by Stuart Meeting Management. Please contact Courtenay Altaffer with questions: 540-368-5633 or ctaltaffer@verizon.net.

Hotel Information & Reservations

Please make your reservations directly with either the Richmond Marriott Hotel or the Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Downtown by visiting their Web sites or by calling and asking for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia rate. Reservations must be made by January 7 at both hotels to receive the special diocesan rate. Hotel contact information is available at www.thediocese.net under "Annual Council."

Nominations

The 2010 Annual Council will elect a new class to the Standing Committee, the council of advice to the bishop made up of six laity and six clergy. Two clergy and two lay persons will be elected. Nomination forms may be downloaded online, and should include an electronic photo of the nominee.

The 2010 Annual Council will also approve nominations for the Trustees of the Funds and the Diocesan Missionary Society. The boards will elect new members from the approved nominee slates. There are three positions open with the Trustees of the Funds and four positions open with the Diocesan Missionary Society. Both groups' bylaws mandate a minimum of two nominees for each open position. Nominees for either board may be currently sitting members.

Reports

Every diocesan committee, commission, related organization, school, home and region must submit an annual report in writing. These reports should be submitted electronically to Matthew Farr at mfarr@thediocese.net.

Resolutions & Amendments

Guidelines on how to submit resolutions and amendments are available online. +



And I will be with you always

Ill: John Dixon

of the Annual Council page. These documents will be ready to print on January 14, 2010. We will include a "Safe to Print" designation on the site after we have stopped uploading new information.

Council documents should be submitted to the assistant to the secretary, Matthew Farr, at 110 W. Franklin St., Richmond VA 23220 or mfarr@thediocese.net unless noted otherwise.

Council Registration

Registration forms for attendees are available online. Each individual attendee should submit one form.

Exhibitors

Exhibit space is limited. First preference is given to diocesan committees and commissions. All exhibitors must complete the registration process, which includes filling out a registration form for

An Occasion for Celebration

by Emily Cherry

On Saturday, September 19, the Diocese gathered at St. Paul's, Richmond to celebrate 25 years of shared ministry with the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee. Almost 550 clergy, lay leaders and other communicants of the Diocese joined in the celebratory liturgy, which featured a Service of Leave-Taking.

"I take leave of you today with gratitude, with appreciation for the many gifts which we have received from God over this quarter century together, with acknowledgement that we have made mistakes," noted Bishop Lee in his sermon. "But most of all, I take leave of you today with the assurance that God's sovereign

love will see us through, and we can keep calm and carry on."

State Senator Edd Houck joined the festivities to present Bishop Lee with a resolution, passed jointly by the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate in Bishop Lee's honor. At the reception following the liturgy, Governor Tim Kaine commented on



Photo: John Dixon



Photo: Emily Cherry

(Left) The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee celebrated his last Eucharist as bishop of the Diocese of Virginia surrounded by his fellow bishops, regional deans and the rector and assistant rector of St. Paul's, Richmond.

(Right) Governor Tim Kaine honored Bishop Lee during the reception following the liturgy, noting that Virginia is a better place thanks to Bishop Lee's leadership.



A new book of photography and poetry by an Episcopal priest for spiritual meditation, for a hostess or a celebration gift, or for the pleasure of enjoying the great diversity in this world from a unique perspective.

Call Vienna at 804.353.4176 to order.
The cost of the book is \$50.00 + \$10 for mailing.

All profits support St. James' Choir in Richmond, VA

Bishop Lee's leadership style: "The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia is so well known for the outreach—for the loving heart and the spirit of welcome that you extend both within your parish families and beyond, and that would not happen by accident, without a leader who made that a real hallmark of his brand of leadership: the 'Good Samaritan' trait of extending a hand to all and trying to break down the barriers that often get in our way." Governor Kaine addressed Bishop Lee, adding, "Virginia is a much, much better place in the last part of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century because of your strong and principled leadership, and we will very much miss you."

Bishop Lee is now serving as interim dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. +

Canon to the Ordinary to Begin in 2010

On October 4, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston announced the appointment of the Rev. Susan E. Goff as canon to the ordinary for the Diocese of Virginia. Ms. Goff will begin her work at the Diocese on January 18, 2010.

In her new role, Ms. Goff will oversee the day-to-day supervision of various episcopal ministries, including the discernment and ordination process for the Diocese, the transition process for clergy and congregations, including the Fresh Start Program, and misconduct prevention and response. Ms. Goff will also work closely with churches in the areas of congregational development and crisis and conflict resolution. While she will be based in the Richmond office, Ms. Goff will travel extensively throughout the Diocese.

"This is a really wonderful development, especially at the beginning of a new episcopate," said Bishop Johnston. "It is very important to restore the office of canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Virginia. The canon's ministry will have a huge impact, both at the congregational level and in diocesan responsibilities. That is why I'm so proud to announce that Susan is the one to take this position. She brings deep and wide-ranging experience to this new ministry, her colleagues know her and respect her highly, and she is a person of great spirituality in addition to her professional skills."

Ms. Goff joins the diocesan staff from St. Christopher's, Springfield, where she has served as rector since 1994. In addition to her work at St. Christopher's, she has served as an adjunct instructor in liturgics at Virginia Theological Seminary. Prior to St. Christopher's, Ms. Goff served as rector at Immanuel, Old Church, and was chaplain at St. Catherine's School in Richmond and St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock. Prior to her ordination in 1981, Ms. Goff spent two years as a lay minister at St. Michael's Mission on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, was a summer ministry intern at the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and was Camp Coordinator of Eagle's Nest Camp in the Diocese of Newark.

Her leadership at the diocesan level includes serving two terms as a member of the Standing Committee, one term from 1993-



The Rev. Susan Goff

1996 and one term that ends in January 2010. In addition, Ms. Goff has served as secretary of the Commission on Human Need and as a member of the Diocesan Human Sexuality Dialogue Group. She has supervised some 15 seminarians, been a trainer of seminarian supervisors and worked closely with postulants and the

newly ordained. Her involvement in the wider Church includes serving as a deputy to General Convention in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

Ms. Goff graduated with a masters of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York with distinction in 1980. She received her baccalaureate degree magna cum laude from Douglass College at Rutgers University, where she majored in psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Goff is married to the Rev. Thomas C. Holliday, an interim ministry specialist who has served numerous churches in the Diocese.

"Susan Goff's ministry as canon to the ordinary will make a big difference in my own work as bishop of Virginia," added Bishop Johnston. "To me, the canon occupies a unique position in a bishop's office. We will share a special relationship of consultation and collaboration while she also takes charge of a number of critical diocesan responsibilities. I have complete trust and confidence in Susan for all of this." +

Mardi Gras & Live Auction



When: Saturday, January 30, 2010
Where: NRECA Conference Center
 Arlington, VA
Time: 6:30–9:30 pm

*Celebrating the purchase of our
 Northwest office by honoring those
 who made it possible.*

**SAMARITAN
 MINISTRY**
of Greater Washington

To purchase tickets or for additional information,
 contact Mary Belknap at 202-722-2280 x 305
www.samaritanministry.org

The United Thank Offering: Building Bridges

By Anne Gordon Curran, Province III UTO Coordinator

The mission of the United Thank Offering (UTO) is “to expand the circle of thankful people,” building bridges wherever it goes. The UTO can trace its roots back to 1871, when the American Church Board of Missions authorized a Women’s Auxiliary as a bridge to include women in the mission field. In 1889, at the Women’s Auxiliary Triennial meeting, the Auxiliary made their first mission grants to help expand mission and mission opportunities for women.

Beginning with that first grant of \$2,188.64 to send missionary Lisa Lovell to Japan and Alaska, the women at each Triennial continued

to build bridges through the UTO by funding mission in the developing United States and in foreign countries, initially supporting female missionaries in Japan, Cuba, Alaska, Mexico, Brazil and Liberia. Women who often could not travel for themselves saw the value of supporting others who could.

Now, for 120 years, the UTO has built bridges throughout the Anglican Communion. The basis of these offerings is prayers of thanksgiving which are accompanied by a financial donation. Often, these donations come from the UTO “blue box,” a small cardboard box used to collect coins (and prayers) for the UTO.

Most recently, the UTO was the beneficiary of a special offering at the 2009 General Convention in Anaheim during a festive liturgy. This year’s offering from the congregation of 7,000 gave \$28,168, a 37 percent increase from last General Convention’s offering and the largest yet received.

The history of the UTO has been a marker for the development of women in the church where a substantial bridge has been constructed and continues to strengthen as women have become active in all aspects of church life. Every penny of prayerful giving is granted now on a yearly basis. +

Virginia Gives Thanks for UTO Grants

By Jeanelle Moritz, UTO Coordinator

Founded on the values of thanksgiving, generosity, mission and ministry, the United Thank Offering (UTO) has historically enriched ministry in the Diocese of Virginia. This year is no exception.

Each year a diocese may submit two grant applications, one to be used within the diocese and one to be used overseas in a diocese connected in some way to the sponsoring diocese. At the Episcopal Church Women Triennial this summer, UTO granted a total of \$2,065,472.43 in grants—\$53,134 of which went to Virginia recipients.

Grace, Stanardsville will use their \$23,134 grant to help in kitchen renovations. This facility is used to support a feeding program, preschool and after-school tutoring

programs and a gardening and food preservation program for neighbors in a low-income neighborhood. “The kitchen renovation is more than just enhancing the building,” said the Rev. Jane Piver, vicar. “It also enhances our ministry not only to ourselves but also to the community at large.”

Bromley Episcopal School in Monrovia, Liberia will receive \$30,000 to support its staff housing project. Sponsored by St. James’, Leesburg, Bromley School shares a long history with both the UTO and the Diocese of Virginia: an early UTO grant of \$3,500 was instrumental in the founding of this school for girls, and missionaries from Virginia aided in its establishment. The school, closed during recent years of civil war in Liberia, is now once again educating

girls and young women and helping to bring stability in their lives. The proposed duplex-style housing will help attract good teachers.

Grant proposals for the 2010 granting year are being accepted at this time. Applications may be obtained from Frances Caldwell at the diocesan offices (800-DIOCESE x41 or fcaldwell@thediocese.net). The deadline is December 1.

The most important thing about UTO is encouraging the practice of thankfulness. As we say prayers of thanksgiving and put coins (or bills!) in our Blue Boxes, we truly do “expand the circle of thankful people” and live out the maxim, “Daily thanks improves daily life.” +

Happy Birthday to St. John’s

Every year, the parishioners of St. John’s, West Point return to their historic church building for a homecoming liturgy. This year marked a particularly special celebration, as the congregation celebrated the building’s 275th year. Built in 1734 as a church in St. John’s Parish, the building fell into disrepair after the Revolutionary War, when the congregation disbanded. A new congregation reformed in the present St. John’s building in West Point in 1882, and the vestry purchased back

their historic building in the early 1900s. The Old St. John’s Restoration Association took a somewhat flexible approach to historical accuracy in providing some renovations to the building, including electricity, heating, air conditioning and new pew boxes. On Sunday, September 27, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston celebrated the anniversary of the historic building with the congregation during his visitation. +



Songs from Canterbury

By Wendy Oesterling

The Piedmont Singers, a musical outreach ministry of Emmanuel, Middleburg, was selected as the visiting choir at Canterbury Cathedral, August 4-10, 2009. Under the direction of Wendy Oesterling, music director at Emmanuel Church, the 35-voice choir sang daily Evensong and Sunday Holy Eucharist. The Piedmont Singers was formed in 1999, inviting singers from area churches to present sacred concerts for the community. The group included travelers from Emmanuel, Middleburg; St. Peter's, Purcellville; Church of Our Redeemer, Aldie; Grace, The Plains; Christ Church, Winchester; St. James', Warrenton; St. James', Leesburg; St. John's, Tappahannock; and 11 other churches outside the Diocese of Virginia. Barbara Verdile, music director at St. Peter's Purcellville, was principal organist for the residency.

"Singing daily Evensong and being part of the life of the Cathedral for the week was a great honor for us, especially coming from a small Virginia parish" said Ms. Oesterling. "Adding our voices to the 900+ year continuing tradition of choristers at Canterbury Cathedral was an unforgettable experience." A singer described it as "one of the spiritual highlights of my life." The choir sang music by 11 American composers, including the "Middleburg Evening Service" composed for the Piedmont Singers' residency at Wells Cathedral in 2007 by Dr. James Laster, former music director at Trinity Church, Upperville, and professor emeritus of music at Shenandoah University, Winchester. Many of the musical selections had not been sung at Canterbury Cathedral before.

The dean of the Cathedral, Robert Willis, a long-time friend of the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, asked Ms. Oesterling to convey his warm greetings to his friend. The choir also had a joyous reunion with the Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, bishop of California, and his wife, Sheila. Bishop Andrus was rector of Emmanuel from 1997-2001, having supported the founding of the Piedmont Singers. He and Sheila, who sang with the choir for its first three seasons, joined old and new friends for Evensong and dinner. +



Photo: Anne Michael Breeden

The Piedmont Singers, a musical outreach ministry of Emmanuel Church, Middleburg, are pictured here during their residency at Canterbury Cathedral in August 2009 with the Very Rev. Robert Willis, dean of Canterbury, and the Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, bishop of California and former rector of Emmanuel Church.

Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Receive free weekly e-mail updates via the e-Communiqué newsletter, your source for announcements, events and important information for our shared ministry. Visit www.thediocese.net to sign up.

Roslyn Calendar of Events

Clergy Retreat

- November 16 – 19, 2009
- Complimentary retreat for active or retired clergy in the Diocese.

Christmas Open House

- December 16, 2009, 5-7 p.m.
- Celebrate the season with your friends at Roslyn.

Bed and Breakfast

Are your guest rooms full during the holidays? We can help! From Thanksgiving through the New Year, Roslyn is offering bed and breakfast accommodations for your out of town guests.

Cost is \$50 per room per night and \$5 per person for a continental breakfast.

Clergy Retreat

- January 3 – 6, 2010
- Complimentary retreat for active or retired clergy in the Diocese

Please call 804-288-6045 for more information.



Roslyn, 8727 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229

A Little Culture, a Little Tea and a Lot of Humanity

By Cindy Correll for the Staunton News Leader

All the boys sat at one table, leaving the other two for the girls. That was the only way this meal resembled an ordinary sixth-grade class lunch. Since this summer, when every student at Stuart Hall School read *Three Cups of Tea*, classroom activities have been a little out of the ordinary.

Sue Appleby's sixth-grade literature class got more than words on a page when they studied the story of Greg Mortenson, a man who tried to climb a mountain in remote Pakistan but ended up building schools in the country — and bridges across cultures.

Ms. Appleby shared more than the many lessons of that book. She shared the tea as well, and a homemade Pakistani meal. The menu? Balti butter chicken, pulao, red beans and peas, chapati, kheer and, of course, po cha (butter tea).

The project started, as all good ones do, in someone's heart.

Upper School Director Cindy Patton's son is serving with the Army National Guard in Afghanistan, not far from the Pakistani border. With her child in harm's way in a foreign land, she did all she could do: Learn as much as possible about the place where he was serving as an engineer.

A friend suggested Ms. Patton read *Three Cups*, and Mr. Mortenson's message inspired not only the heart of this mother, but her educator's mind.

She took the book to the group planning the school's 2009 summer reading program. The book, written in three versions for all age

groups, began to inspire teachers and students.

The title comes from a Pakistani saying about the fellowship that comes with sharing the warm beverage. The first cup with Haji Ali, chief of the village that took the ailing Mr. Mortenson in, is between strangers. With the second cup, it is between friends. With the third cup of tea, the newcomer becomes family.

With the Pakistanis' generous hospitality, Mr. Mortenson regained his strength, but it took several weeks before he could head home.

He could not ignore the poverty, the lack of basic necessities we take for granted and the gnawing hunger for knowledge the village children carried. The impression bit into Mr. Mortenson, a man of little means, and he promised he would return to build schools.

He did and he still does.

And halfway around the world, children in a school in Staunton read his words and meet the people he's met. The themes of mission, global awareness and sacrifice were perfect for Stuart Hall students. So the summer reading assignments went out — and teachers were asked to figure out how these themes could play out in their classrooms.

In art classes this year, students draw or paint scenes from the Pakistani culture. In music class, sounds of Pakistani music open hearts. In history classes, current events tie what they read and hear of the violence in that area to the people met in Mr. Mortenson's story.

At the Friday lunch, the menu did not go over without questions.

Butter? In tea?

That wasn't the only shock to the students' taste buds. As in any culinary cultural visit, the palate needs some adjustment. Quite a few even went for seconds. Gifford Duncan and Elle Wood were among them. Both appreciate food from different cultures.

I left Stuart Hall School feeling better about the world. I'd eaten Ms. Appleby's delicious food, and I had a cup of tea, not enough according to Haji Ali's statement to be family, but enough to know that when we share knowledge, friendships naturally follow. And I couldn't forget the words of a young girl who no doubt gets it.

"We should be surrounded even more by tastes and flavors," Gifford told me.

That's from a sixth-grader, after she read a book about a man who wants to teach children who are trapped in poverty and are hungry to learn. That's from a sixth-grader who enjoys the best of America, but is touched by those who have so much less.

"It expands our horizons," she added.

Oh yes, it does, Gifford. And it makes a huge, confusing and often angry world much smaller and much more accessible.

That and a cup or three of tea is a very good thing. +

Excerpted with the author's permission.

New Web Resources for Churches, Committees

The Diocese of Virginia has contracted Web Solutions, a company based out of Connecticut, to host and help redesign our diocesan Web site. Our goal is to create a diocesan site that provides the information that our churches and visitors need in an attractive, user-friendly manner. We recognize that our Web site is an important extension of our ministry. We've taken into account feedback from across the Diocese, and plan to integrate that feedback as we improve upon this ministry.

Another of our priorities is to provide better Web and IT services to our churches. With that goal in mind, we've contracted Web Solutions to offer template Web sites and technical support, two things that we weren't able to provide before. Web Solutions will host our churches' Web sites for the low fee of \$10/month. The monthly fee includes the following.

- A simple template that the Diocese will customize for you with your choice of colors and logo
- 5 e-mail addresses and unlimited e-mail aliases

- News Module
- Events Module
- Contact Form Module
- Driving Directions Module
- Additional modules (donations, blog, photo gallery and more) available for a fee

Please visit www.thediocese.net for more information, as well as a list of frequently asked questions about the transition process. Questions? Contact Emily Cherry at echerry@thediocese.net. +

GC continued from page 1 /

of global scope, then brought them to the local level. [Resolution] D025, for instance, reaffirms our commitment to the Anglican Communion. Next, D075 challenges congregations to put that commitment into action by doing something, anything, in global mission in the next three years."

General Convention's impact on congregations may be felt through Resolution D051, Dr. Cox said. That resolution "originated in Virginia and gives an example" of how people in the pews can engage in world mission by "asking every Episcopalian to give 80 cents a year for three years and thereby double the number of world missionaries."

Two human resource issues will directly affect many parishes, according to Mike Kerr, the Diocese of Virginia's treasurer.

The Denominational Health Plan, which mandates health insurance coverage for all clergy and lay employees who work more than 1,500 hours annually, "should be the proper next step for Virginia churches" now that the Church Pension Group has "caught up to our work over the past 17 years," Mr. Kerr said. But the plan, which will go into effect by 2012, "should be a non-issue to our churches, except to improve the element of personal choice in provided health insurance."

The Lay Pension requirement, which mandates pensions for lay employees of parishes who work more than 1,000 hours per year, will have a greater impact because fewer parishes offer lay pension plans. But, Mr. Kerr explained, the plan "is a matter of equality and justice

for our lay employees. We expect a great deal from those who serve our churches, and we ought to support our employees in a like manner. Many of our churches already provide a pension benefit at some level, and I do not believe that our parishioners, if made aware of the relatively modest baseline required in this change, would object to what will be phased in by 2011."

The sexuality debate is another major topic that will affect Episcopalians in the pews. In two major resolutions, General Convention affirmed the realities of where the Church is on gay and lesbian participation in the Church, including the fact that the ordination process is open to all baptized Christians, as well as calling for the collection and development of theological and liturgical resources for same-gender blessings.

How those issues play out in local parishes remains open to debate.

"The sexuality issues and actions remain problematic," said the Rev. Susan Eaves, General Convention deputy and rector of St. Thomas', Richmond. "While it was heartening to have the Church make a clear statement about the reality of the Episcopal Church being genuinely open to all, laid alongside an affirmation of the sovereignty of God to choose whom God pleases," Convention's decisions have "left the person in the pew little further forward."

"The gay and lesbian members of my own congregation are remarkable for their patience," Ms. Eaves said. "At times, it seems to me that the person in the pew, whatever their sexual

identity or opinion, has already moved on and it is the institution that has greater difficulty in owning the breadth of Jesus' vision."

Russell Randle, a General Convention deputy from Christ Church, Alexandria, reflected on the affects of General Convention on a national and international level. "The things for us to watch are the upcoming episcopal elections in the dioceses Minnesota and Los Angeles," said Mr. Randle. "If a partnered gay or lesbian priest is elected, and three have been nominated in these two elections, such an election and subsequent confirmation would badly strain our relationship with the worldwide Anglican Communion. Regardless of the wording in the resolutions passed at General Convention, what we actually do in the next few years will be much more important to the rest of the Communion than what we said in our resolutions."

Not everyone agrees that General Convention's actions will have much impact in parishioners' daily lives.

The Very Rev. Penelope Bridges, rector of St. Francis', Great Falls, said that in her parish, General Convention was not discussed much.

"Life at St. Francis' has been full and demanding since the summer," Ms. Bridges said, "with a tragic spate of deaths in the parish which came just as we were gearing up for our annual Country Fair," an event that requires the participation of some 200 volunteers. "These events have focused our full attention locally, with the result that the 2009 General Convention came and went with little comment." +

Mustard Seed Dollars at Work at St. Asaph's

St. Asaph's, Bowling green recently celebrated the groundbreaking of a new handicap accessibility project. Made possible in part thanks to a grant from the diocesan Mustard Seed Fund, the project includes construction of an elevator that will make all parts of the church, including the undercroft, accessible to the handicapped. An "Elegant Evening" event, featuring a silent auction, also helped raise money for the project.

Pictured at the groundbreaking are, left to right, Linda Sullivan, Ray Piland, Elizabeth Ferrer, Pat Piland, Deborah Howard, Joyce Goforth, Patrick DeCrane, Michael Thomas and Sherry Gravatt. +



A Theology of Community

Dear Diocesan Family,

It was so gratifying to receive many enthusiastic notes and comments about last month's special edition of *The Virginia Episcopalian*. Generally, people said that they felt that they knew me better, both personally and in my thinking. Great—that is just what we were trying to do. Now, as we work together making this transition into my leadership as your diocesan bishop, I want to continue this theme of helping you to know me better. To do this, I'd like for us to think about community.

Much of my theology is founded on the premise that Christianity is a faith that is inherently and necessarily communal. I know full well that this runs against the grain of our current culture, which is very much oriented toward the "me-and-mine." So be it. (I also believe that the community that is the Church is most often at its best when it must be counter-cultural; much of our history, from ancient times to the present day, confirms this.) The meaning of the word that first described the Church was "gathering." Virtually every aspect of our worship acts out the communal nature of Christian faith and life. As our Lord Christ gathers us together to be His earthly body through baptism, we find ourselves to be people who are interrelated by our faith. At every level of church life, in a congregation, as part of a Diocese and as the Episcopal Church, we are part of something larger and more embracing. This is true about even the Anglican Communion itself, as it is a part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. This great universal reality begins with one—you as a disciple of Jesus.

Just as was true for those original disciples, faith in Jesus is anchored in a group, a community committed to one another. In our tradition, to be wholly faithful each one of us must be committed to living our faith communally. Pondering honestly those times and circumstances when we have broken this personal covenant of commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ, we have some repenting and healing to do. Praying for the grace to do just that is a good place to start.

One key point in a theology of community is mutual submission. This means that every person is willing to



yield self-interest for the sake of others. This is a concept that is grounded in St. Paul. Nonetheless, we'd have to admit that for us it is idealistic, even naïve (have you ever seen it?). But how sad that this is so. Just think what it would mean in Christian community if this vision were realized. I remember speaking to

someone about this and he countered by saying that the result would be that nothing would ever get done—there would be only this constant "yielding" to the others. Far from it. In mutual submission, when each person is protecting the interests of another we would end up with the transformation of us all. Any decision or result that comes forth would be one that could not have even been imagined before. I can't help but long for the day when we could really give this a try. "But that isn't democracy!" No, it isn't—at least, not as we have been practicing it in the Church. "But our polity is democratic." Yes, it is—but I might argue that democracy in the Church doesn't have to look like the dominance of sheer voting power.

Of course, I can't cover all the angles of "community" in this letter (and certainly not so for the theology of mutual submission!). At least, I hope that I've stirred something in hearts and souls about who we are to one another. And when a broken, cynical, polarized world (or Church?) sees that Christians are marked by commitment to each other—a commitment that doesn't have to mean "agreement"—then the people will see the presence of Jesus in this life (or Church?) that they've longed to see.

Blessings to you,



Who We Are

In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 73 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces.

The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams

In the United States

A community of 2.2 million members in 110 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Organized 1789.

The Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Episcopal Seat: The Washington National Cathedral

In the Diocese of Virginia

A community of more than 80,000 baptized members and 424 clergy in 38 counties of central, northern and northwestern Virginia, serving the world through 180 congregations, six schools, two diocesan centers, and six diocesan homes, and home to the largest Anglican seminary in the world. Organized 1785.

The Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston

The Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones

The Mayo Memorial Church House: 110 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220-5095

804-643-8451, 800-DIOCESE, FAX 804-644-6928.

Episcopal Seat: The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, Orkney Springs

How to reach the Diocesan Staff

Call 800-DIOCESE (346-2373) or 804-643-8451.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Paris Ball, Acting Program Director | ext. 27 |
| Buck Blanchard, World Mission Coordinator | 35 |
| Mary Anne Bryant, Administrative Assistant, World Mission | 15 |
| Henry Burt, Secretary of the Diocese, Chief of Staff | 30 |
| Joy Buzzard, Financial Administrator | 22 |
| Frances Caldwell, Director of Development and Stewardship | 16 |
| David Charlton, President, Church Schools | 804-288-1730 |
| Emily Cherry, Communications Officer | 21 |
| Laura Cramer, Benefits Administrator | 40 |
| Matt Farr, Assistant to the Secretary | 25 |
| Tyler Fox, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Jones | 703-824-1325 |
| Cathy Gowen, Executive Secretary to Bishop Johnston | 34 |
| Peggy Hombs, Coordinator of the Ordination Process | 11 |
| Kim Henderson, Corporate Secretary/Assistant Treasurer, Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia | 804-288-1730 |
| Allen Jamerson, Bishop's Clerk | 38 |
| Wilbert "Skeet" Jones, Sexton | 28 |
| Michael J. Kerr, Treasurer | 20 |
| Mildred Lofton, Bookkeeper | 23 |
| Anna Moncure, Program Coordinator | 31 |
| Lindsay Ryland, Transition Ministry Officer | 13 |
| Karen Smith, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant | 10 |

November**7****Town Hall Meeting**, Holy Comforter, Vienna, 10 a.m.**Town Hall Meeting for Youth**, Holy Comforter, Vienna, 2 p.m.**Music from the Chancel**; St. Barnabas', Annandale; 4 p.m. Free will offering; reception to follow.**12****Fresh Start**; Trinity, Fredericksburg; 9 a.m.**Joint Meeting of Executive Board, Standing Committee, Deans, Presidents**; St Andrew's, Burke; 10 a.m.**13****Committee on Priesthood/COM Postulancy Interviews**; Roslyn; 9 a.m.**13-15****PYM Sixth- and Seventh-Grade Retreat**; Shrine Mont. Contact Paris Ball, pball@thediocese.net.**14****Alternative Giving Fair**; All Saints', Sharon Chapel, Alexandria; 9 a.m.**Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate**; St. Mary's, Arlington; 10:30 a.m.**15****Bloodmobile**; All Saints', Sharon Chapel, Alexandria; 9 a.m.**16****Diocesan Missionary Society Meeting**; Trinity, Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.**Virginia Theological Seminary Fall Ministry Conference.****16-19****Clergy Respite at Roslyn.** Contact info@roslyncenter.org.**19****Pohick, Lorton's Annual Christmas Mart**; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Handmade arts and crafts, baked goods; free and open to public.**21****Town Hall Meeting**; St. Paul's, Ivy; 10 a.m.**Town Hall Meeting**; St. Stephen's, Culpeper; 2 p.m.**December****6****Ordination to the Priesthood**; St. John's, McLean; 4 p.m.**10****Fresh Start**; Trinity, Fredericksburg; 9 a.m.**Executive Board Meeting**; Mayo House; 10 a.m.**16****Roslyn Retreat Center Open House.****Episcopal News Briefs****Executive Council Living into Discernment**

At its October 5-8 meeting in Memphis, Tenn., the Episcopal Church's Executive Council divided its work into five new standing committees called Local Ministry and Mission (LMM), Advocacy and Networking for Mission (ANM), World Mission (WM), Governance and Administration for Mission (GAM) and Finances for Mission (FFM).

Interfaith Letter on Sudan Peace Delivered to White House

The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia, and Alexander Baumgarten, interim director of government relations for the Episcopal Church, joined faith leaders from Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions for a meeting at the White House October 2 to present a copy of a letter urging "efforts that will bring peace to millions" in the Sudan, signed by more than 1,400 clergy from across the United States.

*Is Virginia Theological Seminary
the right place for you?*

Here's a chance to find out.

Be our guest at a one-day Fall Ministry Conference on Monday, November 16, 2009 at the VTS campus in Alexandria, Virginia. Hear about our programs, talk to faculty and students, go to classes, have lunch, and tour the campus.

To register for the Conference:
Registration forms are available
on our website: www.vts.edu/admissions

For further information:
Email us: admissions@vts.edu
Or call 703-461-1706

VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
3737 Seminary Road Alexandria, VA 22304



...since 1823

Bishops' Visitations

Bishop Johnston

November 1

a.m. All Saints', Richmond
p.m. Fork Church, Doswell

November 8

a.m. St. Andrew's, Arlington
p.m. St. John's, Arlington

November 15

a.m. St. Stephen's, Culpeper
p.m. St. John's, Columbia

November 22

a.m. Lynnwood, Port Republic
p.m. Good Shepherd of the Hills,
Boonesville

December 6

a.m. St. Barnabas', Annandale

December 13

a.m. St. Anne's, Scottsville
p.m. St. Luke's, Simeon

December 20

a.m. Emmanuel, Harrisonburg
p.m. Emmanuel, Rapidan

Bishop Jones

November 1

a.m. All Saints', Sharon Chapel,
Alexandria

November 8

a.m. St. Mary's, Goochland
p.m. Incarnation, Mineral

November 15

a.m. St. Matthew's, Sterling
p.m. Meade Memorial,
White Post

November 22

a.m. St. Peter's, New kent

November 29

a.m. St. Dunstan's, McLean

December 6

a.m. Emmanuel, Alexandria

December 13

a.m. St. Timothy's, Herndon

December 20

a.m. St. Bartholomew's,
Richmond

Visiting Bishops

Bishop Creighton

November 8

a.m. St. Paul's, Owens,
King George
a.m. St. John's, King George
a.m. Hanover with Brunswick,
King George



Clergy Changes

+ **The Rev. Joseph G. "Jody" Burnett**, a transitional deacon from the Diocese of Mississippi, began serving as assistant rector at Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna on July 1.

+ **The Rev. Geoffrey D. "Geoff" Coupland** has been called as rector of Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond. He began his ministry there on October 4 after serving as interim rector of All Saints' in St. Louis, Mo.

+ **The Rev. Robert G. Hetherington** has joined the staff at St. James's, Richmond as interim associate rector. He is the retired rector of St. Paul's, Richmond.

+ **The Rev. C. Lynn Holland** completed her ministry at Kingston Parish, Matthews at the end of August.

+ **The Rev. James C. McCaskill** has been called as rector of St. Paul's, Bailey's Crossroads. He has been serving as priest-in-charge of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Lundwood, England since 2004. He will begin his ministry at St. Paul's on the first Sunday of Advent.

+ **The Rev. Anna M. Scherer** has joined the staff of St. Dunstan's, McLean as assistant rector. She is a transitional deacon canonically resident in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and began serving at St. Dunstan's in September.

+ **The Rev. Fletcher M. Wells** has joined the staff at St. James in Wilmington, N.C. as assistant rector. He completed his ministry at St. George's, Fredericksburg at the end of August.

+ **The Rev. Dr. Ann Bagley Willms** has joined the staff of St. Paul's Memorial, Charlottesville as assistant rector. She is a transitional deacon canonically resident in the Diocese of East Carolina.

+ **The Rev. R. Ellen White** has been appointed as priest-in-charge at St. Anne's Parish, Scottsville as of September 1. She returns to the Diocese of Virginia after serving as priest-in-charge at St. Mark's, Adams, in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Deaths

+ **The Rev. Dr. Boyd Hickman May Jr.** died on Tuesday, September 22. Dr. May was a priest in residence at the Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond, for over 20 years. He was ordained in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and served as assistant rector at Christ and St. Luke's, Norfolk, from 1974-1982. Dr. May was also a practicing anesthesiologist.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and his children Laura Condrey, Susan Bland, Thomas May and the Rev. David May, rector of Grace, Kilmarnock. A funeral took place on September 26 at Holy Comforter, Richmond.

+ **Mrs. Margaret Duff Pratt**, widow of the late Rev. George Lyon Pratt, died on Monday, August 17. Mr. Pratt was the former rector of St. Michael's, Arlington.

A funeral is took place at Christ Church, Gordonsville.

Teología de la Comunidad

Apreciada familia diocesana:

Ha sido muy reconfortante haber recibido muchas notas y comentarios sobre la edición especial de nuestro periódico *The Virginia Episcopalian*. En general, me han dicho que les ayudó a conocerme mejor, tanto personalmente como en mi forma de pensar. ¡Muy bien! Esto era lo que estaba tratando de hacer. Ahora nos dedicaremos a continuar de una transición hacia algo más permanente como su obispo diocesano, quiero continuar conversando sobre este tema para que ustedes lleguen a conocerme mejor. Para hacerlo, hablemos de comunidad.

Una gran parte de mi pensamiento teológico está basado en la premisa de que el cristianismo es una fe que inherentemente y necesariamente es comunitaria. Yo sé muy bien que esto va en contra de la corriente de nuestra cultura contemporánea, que está orientada hacia “yo y lo mío.” Está bien. (También creo que la comunidad que es la iglesia está en su mejor momento cuando se hace contracultura; así lo confirma una gran parte de nuestra historia, desde los tiempos antiguos hasta el momento presente.) El significado de la palabra que describió la primera reunión de la iglesia es “asamblea.” Virtualmente cada aspecto de nuestro culto surge de la naturaleza comunitaria de la vida y fe cristiana. Puesto que nuestro Señor Cristo nos incorpora en su cuerpo terrenal por medio del bautismo, podemos descubrir que somos un pueblo interrelacionado por nuestra fe. A cada nivel de la vida de la iglesia, en una congregación, en la diócesis y en la Iglesia Episcopal, somos parte de algo más grande y más integrante. Se puede decir lo mismo de nuestra Comunión Anglicana como una parte de la Iglesia, Una, Santa, Católica y Apostólica. Esta gran realidad universal realmente comienza con una persona: usted como discípulo de Jesús.

Tal como fue cierto para los primeros discípulos, la fe en Jesús se afianza en un grupo, una comunidad comprometida entre unos y otros. En nuestra tradición, cada uno de nosotros para ser completamente fiel debe comprometerse a vivir nuestra fe comunalmente. Reflexionando honestamente sobre los tiempos y las circunstancias que han quebrantado este deber de compromiso personal hacia nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, nos damos cuenta que necesitamos tener actos de arrepentimiento y sanación. Orar por la gracia de hacerlo es una buena forma de comenzar.

Un punto clave en una teología de la comunidad es la sumisión mutua. Esto quiere decir que cada individuo está dispuesto a rendir su interés personal por el bien de los demás. Este es un concepto que está fundamentado



en San Pablo. Sin embargo, tendríamos que admitir que esto es un poco idealista o, peor, simplista (¿alguien lo ha visto?) Qué triste que sea así. Piensen en lo que podría pasar si en cada comunidad Cristiana esto se hiciera realidad. Recuerdo haber hablado con alguien sobre este tema y me contestó diciendo

que el resultado sería que nunca se podría hacer nada, excepto “rendirse” constantemente unos a otros. Pero no es así. En la sumisión mutua cuando cada persona protege los intereses de los demás el resultado sería la transformación de todos. Cualquier decisión o resultado debería ser uno que no podría haberse imaginado de antemano. Ansío por el día cuando nosotros podamos hacer la prueba. “Pero esto no es democrático.” No; no lo es. Por lo menos en la forma en que lo hemos practicado en la Iglesia. “Pero nuestra estructura es democrática.” Si; es así. Pero podría argumentar que la democracia en la Iglesia no tendría que ser el dominio de la superioridad numérica.

Naturalmente, no puedo cubrir todos los aspectos de “comunidad” en esta carta... y mucho menos sobre la teología de la sumisión mutua. Por lo menos, espero haber producido cierta inquietud en corazones y almas sobre quiénes somos, los unos para los otros. Y cuando un mundo fracturado, polarizado y cínico (¿o iglesia?) vea que los cristianos están caracterizados por el compromiso de los unos por los otros (y compromiso no tiene que significar “acuerdo”), entonces el pueblo contemplará la presencia de Jesús en este mundo (¿o iglesia?) que tanto ha deseado ver.

Bendiciones,



Tanzania continued from page 1 /

children by seeking to pair each of its 200 parishes with partners. These partners typically commit to providing 50 of the village's most vulnerable and needy children with uniforms, school supplies, soap, socks, a daily hot meal and emergency care for five years.

The need for such a project in Tanzania is immense. The high rate of HIV/AIDS results in a large number of orphans, and although primary school is government-funded, students must have their own uniforms and supplies in order to attend.



Photo: Courtesy Leslie Steffensen

In a summer 2009 trip to Tanzania, Leslie Steffensen (left) and Josiah Rengers (second from right) were part of a team that represented Virginia Theological Seminary. VTS maintains a partnership with the village of Mgunga.

The parishioners of Grace, Kilmarnock have rallied around their Carpenter's Kids village in creative ways, sponsoring a "Living Gift" program at Christmas in which parishioners could purchase a certificate for \$70 to support one Carpenter's Kid. The certificates sold out immediately.

"The mission is clear, the relationships are so enduring," said Mr. May. "I just find it really clarifying. Here's why we're doing what we're doing. Here's why I love God." And it's something special about this place in particular, too. "I want to go back now," added Mr. May.

It Takes a Diocese

One reason that Carpenter's Kids has gained such popularity in the Diocese of Virginia is that it has identified and conquered many of the obstacles common in such partnership programs. They've developed committees that select the most vulnerable children who might benefit from Carpenter's Kids; they've created a system to provide for food and clothing distribution

on a regular schedule. The well-run nature of the program is thanks, in part, to a remarkable diocese.

The concept of a diocese is different in Tanzania than it is in Virginia. Here, a diocese is a resource center for clergy and congregations, for transition ministry and outreach. In Tanzania, a diocese is all of that plus a social services agency. The diocesan offices in the capital city of Dodoma house an emergency health care clinic and physiotherapy office alongside the accounting and human resources offices. Their programs run the gamut, from Buigiri, the first-ever school for the blind in Tanzania



Photo: The Very Rev. Beth Palmer

Children at the preschool on the grounds of Msalato Theological College receive support from St. John's, West Point – and "Episco-Bag" gift bags from the churches of Region II.

which, in recent years, placed 57th out of 12,200 primary schools in Tanzania in national examinations for graduating students, to Msalato Theological College, where students study theology, prayer and spirituality alongside courses in AIDS education and awareness.

The priorities and ministries of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika are broad, all-encompassing and overwhelming; provide adequate teaching for children and teachers; support youth; promote equality and dignity in the lives of women; provide preventative and curative health programs; support development programs. It's priorities such as these that have drawn Virginians to this diocese.

Making Children a Priority

Carpenter's Kids is known for meeting challenges with results. A private donor has created an initial fund for Carpenter's Kids to attend secondary school, which is not paid for by the government. But the number of qualified students will soon outstrip available funds. This particular obstacle is a mark of

success: in the village of Mwitikira, as the Carpenter's Kids program progressed, so did the number of students passing their qualifying secondary school exams, rising from 25 students in 2007 to 45 in 2008.

Mwitikira is where St. Paul's, Richmond found its second home. When they decided to support the village in 2007 as part of a commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), they probably didn't realize that it would be the start of a relationship that would call numerous parishioners across oceans and continents to visit with their partner village.

Mwitikira has been a Carpenter's Kids success story thanks to a number of factors. The first is the Rev. Erasto Ndahani, who came to Mwitikira three years ago to serve as rector. His leadership is supported by a group of hard working and dedicated villagers, who have set priorities for their village and have contributed physical labor. And then there's the partnership with St. Paul's, Richmond, who felt called to support 136 of the village's most vulnerable children instead of the usual 50 that the Carpenter's Kids partnership calls for. "By becoming partners through the Carpenter's Kids, we have also become like family," said Fr. Erasto. "The relationships go well beyond monetary support; there is now friendship and love."

In addition to supporting the children, St. Paul's has committed to supporting the village itself through the development of a three-phase water development project. Their efforts were led by Roger Whitfield, a longtime parishioner and retired chemical engineer, but the villagers performed the labor themselves, most recently digging over three miles of trenches for a new water distribution site. "If you want education to be accessible, the best thing you can do is make water accessible," noted Suzanne Johnson, a St. Paul's parishioner who is also the diocesan mid-term missionary to Tanzania. Ms. Johnson has made four trips to the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in an effort to build up even more relationships with Virginia.

"From St. Paul's experience as a partner with the Carpenter's Kids, I feel I have great Good News to share with others," said Ms. Johnson. "Every time I go to Mwitikira, I see how we are helping to make a significant difference in the lives of children, and indeed in the whole

/ Tanzania continued on page 16

Tanzania continued from page 15 /

village." But the relationship is far from one-way: "I failed to consider how profoundly the partnership would change us at St. Paul's," she added. "Our hearts have expanded to include in daily prayer, concern and love people with names and faces we cherish in a place so far away ... We are family—with the joy and sorrow, concern and responsibility—being family opens us up to."

St. John's, West Point has also maintained a lasting relationship with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Past projects have included sending toothbrushes to a needy parish in the diocese. The Very Rev. Beth Palmer, rector, also spent time teaching at Msalato. Most recently, Ms. Palmer returned from an August 2009 trip where she did some groundwork for a new outreach program. As part of its commitment to be a ONE Parish—a church that supports the MDGs by dedicating .7 percent of its budget to those goals—St. John's will help support the preschool located on the grounds of Msalato. Ms. Palmer spent time with the 42 students there on her most recent trip, taking pictures of all the students so they could be included on a prayer cycle back in Virginia. Contributions from St. John's will help complete much needed renovations to the preschool building. Regarding her plans for the future, Ms. Palmer answered the question before it was even asked: "Yes, I plan to go back."

The Phenomenon Spreads

Leslie Steffensen, administrative coordinator for the Center for Anglican Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), knows firsthand the effect that Tanzania can have. After spending a year teaching at Msalato, Ms. Steffensen returned to Virginia committed to building support in our diocese for their diocese. Her home parish, St. Andrew's, Burke, recently committed to a five-year partnership with the village of Chlolo as a way to support the MDGs. "I had thought that it was a great program, just knowing how it was run," she said. Ms. Steffensen, whose husband and two children lived with her during her time at Msalato, also recognized that sponsoring a child-centered mission "would be a good way to connect our Sunday school kids and teens with outreach."

For St. Andrew's, Carpenter's Kids was a very real and concrete

way to participate in the MDGs. Ms. Steffensen brought the same idea to VTS, where the whole community decided to partner with the village of Mgunga. When the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, dean of VTS, visited Mgunga in June 2009, in fact, he was made an honorary chief of the village.

VTS has also been able to build a reciprocal visiting partnership with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. A delegation from VTS visited Tanzania this past summer. Josiah Rengers, a middler, and Meredith Holt, a senior, accompanied Ms. Steffensen and the Rev. Jacques Hadler, director of field education for VTS. As part of the reciprocal relationship, this January, four students from Msalato will come to VTS thanks to a grant from Trinity, Wall Street.

Building partnerships such as the ones with St. Andrew's, Grace Church, St. Paul's and VTS is a top priority for Carpenter's Kids, particularly in light of the fact that many of the five year commitments are about to expire. That's where Ms. Johnson comes in. "Carpenter's Kids is the Good News in action," she noted, "and I want others to experience it as well." It's an experience built on that reciprocal nature of giving. "Carpenter's Kids also opens the door for people from these parishes to visit each other and to learn many things," said Fr. Erasto. "Indeed, Carpenter's Kids helps build the unity of the Church in the world."

Despite existing challenges, Carpenter's Kids is looking toward new and exciting adventures. Two Carpenter's Kids villages are currently taking part in a pilot health education program in which volunteer villagers take a survey of basic sanitation and hygiene practices and use the results as the basis for an education program. In villages which are typically situated far from any major hospitals and where the only medical aid is under-funded government-run dispensaries, health education can go a long way in improving quality of life.

'I Can't Wait to Return'

Si Wofford is a member of St. Paul's and a senior at St. Christopher's Episcopal School in Richmond. His first trip to Mwitikira took place in June 2009 when he, his mother and other members of St. Paul's spent a month teaching English in the village. When he came back to Virginia he brought with him a new passion for a new group of people. "It is an amazing place full of love and laughter, fun and faith," said Si.



On their most recent visit to their partner village of Mwitikira, members of St. Paul's spent three weeks teaching primary school students. Pictured with two village mothers are (top row) Suzanne Johnson, left, and Sandra Whitfield, middle, and (bottom row) Trudy Bryan, far left, and Sarah Canfield, far right.

"The people there were so friendly and they accepted me immediately into their family."

But one thing that troubled Si was news of the impending famine in east Africa. Due to a dry rainy season, the next several months will bring deep famine to the people there.

Si and the St. Paul's youth decided to get involved by leading a fundraising effort for famine relief. "I started the fundraiser to save and feed my new friends in Mwitikira," said Si. "I had to help." All told, the \$20,000 raised by St. Paul's and St. Christopher's will feed over 900 children—not just the Carpenters Kids, but all the children in the village school—three meals a week from October through March. St. Christopher's plans to make their own trip to the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in 2010, and Si will be on that trip. "I can't wait to return," he said.

Getting Involved

For many, a five-year commitment of \$4,000-\$5,000 per year is not feasible. But that's where

/ Tanzania continued on page 17

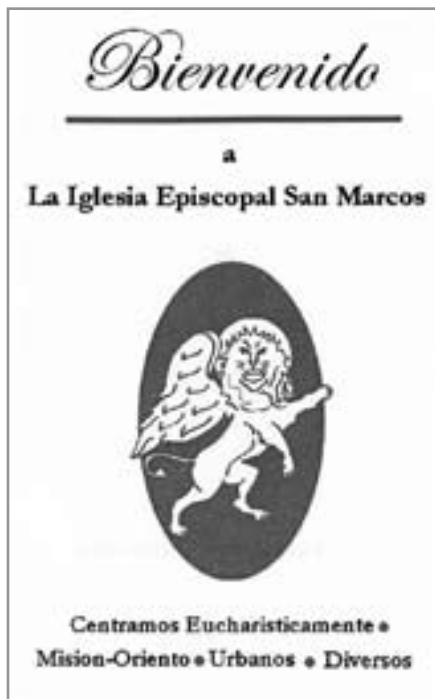
Bienvenido a San Marco, Richmond

By Lindsay Ryland

On September 13, the members of St. Mark's, Richmond opened their doors to the Hispanic community of Richmond with its first service in Spanish. In the weeks before, the rector and parish members had walked around the neighborhood with flyers and handouts, letting all know of the warm welcome they would receive at St. Mark's. The Rev. Margaret Watson, rector, celebrated the Eucharist and preached in Spanish, with parishioner Ron Merrell serving as lay reader. The music was led by Pete Lagato with guitar accompaniment.

The congregation of St. Mark's was joined by a neighborhood family and members of the diocesan Latino Task Force, who provided the hymnals and prayer books to St. Mark's, for the first service.

"Richmond is a dynamic



St. Mark's distributed this brochure at their first-ever Spanish liturgy on September 13.

community, and the call to serve the spiritual needs of its diverse population keeps changing," noted Dr. Merrell. "The growth in the number of Spanish speaking people in our city urges us to include them in our parish life and learn more about their needs. I like the approach at St. Mark's where the service is really a part of our overall parish life. I hope to see the service grow until the Spanish speaking part of our parish has its own clear voice in our direction and mutual journey in Christ's work."

Services in Spanish are held at St. Mark's at 12:30 p.m. every Sunday at 520 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220. The congregation also has a Spanish version of their Web site, www.stmarksrichmond.org. +

EfM Mentors Gather for Training at Roslyn

By Wendy Gayle, EfM Coordinator for the Diocese of Virginia

Education for Ministry (EfM), a theological education program for laity administered by the School of Theology of the University of the South at Sewanee, includes both individual study and group work in seminars under the guidance of trained mentors.

Training of new mentors and regular in-service training for current mentors maintains the quality of the EfM program and assures students that mentors are well-prepared and able to facilitate a group effectively. Mentors must

undergo training every 12 to 18 months in order to maintain their status as mentors.

As the new EfM coordinator for the Diocese of Virginia, my first task was to plan the annual training event from July 27-29, 2009. The annual EfM Mentor Training at Roslyn Conference Center always draws a record crowd and this year was no exception. Fifty-five participants from Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Washington, D.C. worked intensively with certified

trainers from Sewanee for 18 contact hours over the three days in small groups. The Diocese of Virginia offers an EfM mentor training event at least once a year and it is one of the largest EfM training events in the country.

Currently, there are 47 active EfM groups in the Diocese of Virginia. Parishes interested in finding out more about EfM or individuals interested in finding an EfM group should contact awgayle@aol.com for more information. +

Tanzania continued from page 16 / creativity and flexibility come in. Churches or regions can join together to sponsor a village. And the partnerships are not limited to church organizations. Buck Blanchard, the diocesan world mission coordinator, joined with some college friends to partner with Carpenter's Kids. Friends From Colorado, as they're known, sponsor two villages and 300 children.

For churches and organizations looking for a smaller commitment, there's the Holy Cow Project. \$750 purchases one cow, whose milk goes to create the Carpenter's Kids'

daily meal. That cow's first-born then goes to the parish priest as a retirement gift.

If you're interested in exploring Carpenter's Kids partnership opportunities, or in joining with another church to undertake a sponsorship, please contact Suzanne Johnson at 804-377-9738 or suzclarkjo@gmail.com.

There are two Swahili words that are essential to any traveler in Tanzania: *asante* and *karibu*, or "thank you" and "welcome." They are repeated regularly in conversation, in greetings, in everyday life. And they are the words, too, that help

define the people of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika: people marked by a deep sense of thankfulness and welcome, two traits that will continue to call Virginians to Tanzania. +

Emily Cherry, communications officer for the Diocese of Virginia, recently traveled to the Diocese of Central Tanganyika with a group from St. Paul's, Richmond (including Trudy Bryan, Sarah Canfield, Suzanne Johnson, Sandra and Roger Whitfield and David Wofford).

New Building for the Building Fund

Episcopal Church Building Fund moves to Richmond

By Sarah Reiners Bartenstein

In early October, St. Stephen's, Richmond welcomed two new faces to its offices when the president and vice president of the Episcopal Church Building Fund took up residence in the parish house.

St. Stephen's is the new location for the 129-year-old organization, which had been at the Episcopal Church Center in Manhattan for more than 30 years, and in Philadelphia before that.

Much like Virginia's own Diocesan Missionary Society, the Building Fund lends money to and advises churches engaged in building or rehabilitating church structures. The staff move comes as part of a re-visioning of its mission and its desire to be in closer touch with the churches it serves.

"We are excited about the forward-looking and creative leadership of the ECBF," said the Rev. Gary D. Jones, rector of St. Stephen's, "and we look forward to

a mutually beneficial partnership in serving the larger Church."

Fund President Julia M. Groom-Thompson is looking forward to "collaborating with the staff, even if it's on an informal basis...what they're doing, what they see out there, what their challenges are. We want to get out to other churches, too, learning more about them."

It was that desire that led the fund's leadership to consider housing its two-person staff—which also includes Vice President Sally O'Brien—at a church, bringing them in closer touch with parishes and their day-to-day lives.

The organization's basic mission has been to lend money to congregations for constructing or rehabilitating a church building, a rectory, a school or other church-related structure. While their plan is to continue to lend the money they have, Ms. Groom-Thompson said, "We don't have hundreds of

millions of dollars." ECBF's desire to re-think the organization's focus was an opportunity to consider how the location could support an expanded mission.

"We are at this very exciting time," she said, with the Fund now looking not only at bricks and mortar, but at issues related to buildings and grounds that are mission-focused—how to use resources in ways that will strengthen the church locally and beyond.

The ECBF is also happy to be in the Diocese of Virginia: "We talked to a lot of people ... everyone had great things to say about what was going on, and the direction of the Diocese. People who understand how we want to reinvent ourselves said [the Diocese] would be a place we could do it." +

Sarah Bartenstein is communications director at St. Stephen's, Richmond.

Discounts for Your Church on Copy Needs

This fall, the Diocese has partnered with FedEx Office (formerly Kinko's) to extend our discounted pricing on copying, printing and general business services to our churches and schools. The Diocese has maintained a contract with FedEx Office, and has recently been able to negotiate to extend the discounted benefits of that contract to other members of the Diocese.

To learn about how to enroll in this program, please visit www.thediocese.net or contact Emily Cherry at echerry@thediocese.net. +



Making Senior Housing Decisions?
Downsizing, One level living, Renovation, Retirement housing??

To make the right housing choice, surround yourself with a
Circle of Senior Specialists

- Strong marketing skills
- Sensitive pastoral care
- State of the arts technology
- Supportive services



Join our circle by contacting us to serve your needs

DGM Properties, Inc.
Rev. Diane G. Murphy, Ph.D. Real Estate Broker and Episcopal Priest
Jeanne M. Barton, Realtor, Certified Stager and Marketing Specialist
diane@dgmproperties.com, 703.408.1152

Mark Allen, Real Estate Attorney

SFMM

STUART-FISHER MEETING MANAGEMENT

904 Princess Anne Street • Suite 204-A • Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
Tel: 540/368-2535 • Fax: 540/368-2536 • Email: astuart@verizon.net

Planning a meeting or conference?

Let our experienced and dedicated team help your business

- Research and locate the perfect hotel/destination
- Negotiate contracts & lower guest room rates
- Arrange meeting space & plan menus
- Save you time and money

Please call to see how we can help you with your next conference or trip.

From Uganda to Virginia: A Circle of Peace

By Emily Cherry

When Joanita Senoga was a child growing up in Uganda, her parents and grandparents taught her an important lesson: “Education can take you places.” It’s a lesson that she put to good use when she helped start the Circle of Peace School, a nursery and primary school in central Uganda.

Although her story starts in Uganda, Ms. Senoga’s story is one that has taken her to the Diocese of Virginia. Ms. Senoga left Uganda in 1996 and found herself in the Oregon Hill neighborhood of Richmond, where on a chance encounter she met St. Andrew’s then-rector the Rev. David May (now rector at Grace, Kilmarnock) who quickly issued an invitation to worship. St. Andrew’s helped Ms. Senoga find not only a church home, but also employment at the church, and an apartment. Before long she was sending money back to the Circle of Peace School.

As a Sunday School teacher in Uganda in 1993, Ms. Senoga decided

to establish the Circle of Peace School as part of a national effort to enroll children in nursery schools. Before long, her entire family—including her mother, six sisters, four brothers and many nieces, nephews and cousins—was in on the effort, and Circle of Peace grew from a nursery program to a school for nursery through 7th graders, with about 200 students. Today, many students are orphans of AIDS/HIV, and 40 students are boarders. In addition to an education, students receive uniforms and a daily meal.

Why the name “Circle of Peace”? Because students came from homes where they “thought they had no hope,” explained Ms. Senoga. “When they came to school, you could see the peace in them.” It’s a sanctuary of learning, she added, a sanctuary from the turmoil of life, a refuge where students can flourish.

Today, as Ms. Senoga continues to support the school from Virginia,

her involvement in the Diocese of Virginia has increased. She works part-time at Roslyn Retreat Center on the weekends, in addition to a full-time job at the University of Richmond Library. Her sister works at St. Andrew’s, where they both continue as members.

Recently, Circle of Peace has partnered with Ahead Energy, a non-profit organization based out of the University of Rochester that works for practical energy solutions for schools and clinics in Africa. Improvements have included the construction of a new kitchen and cook stoves, as well as the installation of solar panels. Ms. Senoga and her family have high hopes for the future of Circle of Peace, including expanded dormitories, a library, an infirmary, a computer lab and guest quarters.

To learn more about Circle of Peace School, contact Ms. Senoga at jsenoga@richmond.edu. +

Celebrating a Tradition of Excellence, Creativity and Individuality

Steeped in the tradition of the Episcopal Church, Goodwin House Alexandria and Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads have provided exceptional lifestyle and care for older adults in the Northern Virginia area for more than 40 years.



Both Communities have:

- Spectacular views of the Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia skylines
- Updated kitchens with full-size appliances
- On staff Chaplains
- Wellness Centers with indoor pools
- Formal and casual dining bistros
- The reassurance and value of our lifecare program as well as Long-term Care Insurance options

Call or come see us today.

Goodwin House Alexandria

4800 Fillmore Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22311
703-824-1236

Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads

3440 South Jefferson Street
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-578-7201



www.goodwinhouse.org



Share Your Voice with the Diocese

This fall marks a time of discernment for the Diocese as we join together in a series of Town Hall Meetings to explore future mission and vision priorities for the Diocese, now and for the next two to three years. Already, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston has hosted three Town Hall Meetings across the Diocese, providing the opportunity for youth and adult members of the Diocese to hear from the bishops and to work in small groups to discuss their vision for our work together. There are four more opportunities to take part in a Town Hall Meeting. All are welcome. Please make every effort to attend one of these meetings. +

Saturday, **November 7,**

Holy Comforter, Vienna, 10 a.m.

Saturday, **November 7,**

Holy Comforter, Vienna, 2 p.m.

Youth (14+) and Youth Ministers Only

Saturday, **November 21,**

St. Paul’s, Ivy, 10 a.m.

Saturday, **November 21,**

St. Stephen’s, Culpeper, 2 p.m.

For All the Saints: Richard Hooker

An occasional glimpse into the great “cloud of witnesses”

By Matt Farr

Richard Hooker’s feast day immediately follows All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days in the Church Calendar. While the timing could be seen as coincidental (Hooker died on November 3), the celebration and commemoration of the life and work of Hooker could not more appropriately follow any other day.

Hooker was born in 1553 near Exeter in Devonshire to a modest family. Through family connections and with the help of John Jewel, bishop of Salisbury (who, with Hooker, is one of the most famous Anglican apologists), Hooker attended Corpus Christi College, Oxford. From there he entered ordained ministry in 1581 and, upon moving to London, found himself close to the religious debates of the Elizabethan Church. The Puritans’ bitter attacks on the several aspects

of Anglican worship and organization led Hooker to write his most famous work, *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, which is a strong defense of the episcopal structure of government and worship that so angered Puritans but was the foundation for Anglicanism in America and throughout the world.

Many Episcopalians have heard of the famous three-legged stool of Scripture, tradition and reason, an image drawn from Hooker’s position that Scripture can only properly relate to the worshipper through the harmonious balance of reason and tradition as applied to any reading of the Bible. What is perhaps more important for the Diocese of Virginia and the Episcopal Church today is that we always remember the spirit



in which Hooker wrote and preached. He lived in a time more contentious than our own; the disputes of his day would eventually play a part in the English Civil Wars. Despite the bitterness of debate in the Elizabethan Church, Hooker was able

to engage in arguments with grace and spirit, so that he was known as a man “of moderate, patient and serene character,” and even the pope is said to have admired Hooker’s works. Hooker’s Anglicanism allows for a large room, filled with all the saints, living with differences but living those differences together and able to worship in the same Spirit-filled room. +

Sources: *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* as well as Philip B. Secor’s *Richard Hooker: Prophet of Anglicanism*

Saving the Planet, Saving Money

Portfolio Manager software helps churches with energy savings

By Susan Midland

Your church could save precious dollars every month by reducing energy and water costs. The energy use for lighting, cooling, office equipment and other systems can be identified, measured and analyzed using an online tool called Portfolio Manager. While Portfolio Manager has been previously available for other building types, its use in houses of worship was introduced for the first time at the diocesan Stewardship Conference at St. John’s, Richmond on September 12. Jerry Lawson and Steve Bell, developers of the software, demonstrated the steps to set up and implement the program to track energy consumption, performance and comparison with other churches.

Portfolio Manager is the second step in a three-step process for guiding churches in saving energy. At the meeting, Rocco Tricarico, chair of the Stewardship of Creation Committee and member of St. Stephen’s, Heathsville, explained the three-step process for starting an energy savings program. The first step is an inspection of the church



Gardeners of all ages participated in the planting of the children’s kitchen garden at Buck Mountain, Earlysville.

using the “Energy Savings Tips” list compiled by the Stewardship of Creation Committee. This list of tips can be found at www.thediocese.net/stewardship_creation.shtml. As many tips as feasible should be implemented before moving on to step two.

Step two requires data collection from survey and fuel consumption questions which is

Church in Action

Under the guidance of Ann Eddins and Shelley Smith, young gardeners from Buck Mountain, Earlysville outside Charlottesville learned how to plant, water, weed and harvest a small plot of vegetables and flowers. As each crop ripened throughout the spring, summer and fall, each child took home bags of spinach, peas, beans, lettuce, radishes, beets, carrots and cherry tomatoes. The children are now enjoying their first crop of pumpkins and watching their fall flowers bloom. The project has been so successful that the garden has expanded to grow extra food for the church’s food pantry.

submitted to Portfolio Manager. The software will analyze the data and rate energy performance on a scale of 1-100, with a rating of 75 or higher eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR designation. The rating also signals when a church needs to continue to step three, which entails auditing specific energy issues such as lighting and HVAC

/ Planet continued on page 21

Examining Your Own Life's Journey

By the Rev. Canon J. Fletcher Lowe Jr.

THE INVITATION: IN DIALOGUE WITH JESUS;
JOHN DANNEMILLER AND IRVING STUBBS;
CREDO HOUSE PUBLISHERS, 2009.

I just finished watching “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” Ken Burns’ incredible six-series, 12-hour documentary about our country’s national parks. With magnificent photography, personal stories and the ever present tension and conflict of preservation with use and development, Mr. Burns provides a deeply moving experience of the great gift we have as a nation in our parks. And what it all triggered in me was my own experience in some of those parks: Yosemite, the Great Smokeys, Mesa Verde, Yellowstone, the Lincoln Monument—all personal experiences that have added significantly to my own life’s journey.

So a relevant question to ask, after watching such a story, might be, “How can I relate this experience to my own life’s journey?”

That same question is at the core of the stimulating book which John Dannemiller and Irving Stubbs bring to us in *The Invitation: In Dialogue with Jesus*. The authors invite us into a journey with Jesus, to enter into 52 significant encounters he had with his contemporaries, with Mark’s Gospel as our guide. The format for each of the “Jesus events” consists of a relevant paraphrase from Mark, seven penetrating questions on that event for individual reflection or small group dialogue and an open

space for journaling. With every event comes the concluding question: “How can you relate this experience to your own life’s journey?”

The authors’ invitation is for “anyone who would like to know Jesus better or who thinks Jesus is someone worth getting to know better.” It’s an invitation to enter into dialogue with Jesus, with one’s self and with others, as each of these events unfolds.

The book relives such key events as the calling of Peter and Andrew, the healing of blind Bartimeaus, the three disciples on the Mount of the Transfiguration, the conflict with the religious authorities, the disciples at Gethsemane, Mary at Golgotha and Joseph of Arimathea offering his tomb. Take, for example, Jesus’ trial before Pilate. The authors ask: “If you were granted an interview with Pilate in the days following Jesus’ trial, what questions would you ask him?” “Have there been times when you resisted the prevailing sentiment to stand up for what you believed was right? How? When? If not, are there times you wished you had?” And then, as always, “How can you relate this experience to your own life’s journey?”

The authors’ hope is that quality time spent in such dialogue with Jesus will lead to new insights, deepened commitment and transformation, all of which lie



at the heart of real dialogue. “Dialogue is the opposite of ‘small talk,’” they write. “It is ‘big talk,’ a heart to heart sharing that has the power to transform both parties to the ‘transforming conversation.’” To encourage small group dialogues in churches, neighborhoods and

offices, they provide guide lines for discussions and for facilitators. Woodcuts and illuminations of Gustave Dore, the great 19th century German artist, plus maps and diagrams of Palestine and the Temple Mount significantly enhance the book, which is the first of five in the Living Dialogue series. The others, yet to be published, are the Journey with Paul via Romans, the Law with Moses via Exodus, the Marriage with Hosea and the Transformation with Jesus via John’s Gospel.

John Dannemiller, the former CEO of a Fortune 500 company, is a leading spokesperson on leadership, ethics and moral values. Irving Stubbs, a Presbyterian clergyman and resident of Westminster-Canterbury, Richmond, has focused his ministry on consulting with corporations and organizations on leadership, values and ethics in the workplace. +

Canon Lowe is the rector emeritus at Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond.

Planet continued from page 20 /

systems. The first two steps can be accomplished at no cost by in-house committee members. The third step is done by an outside source and can often be expensive so it is wise to complete steps one and two as completely as possible.

Recognizing methods for saving energy not only promotes environmental stewardship but also represents a responsible act for careful spending of parishioner’s tithes. The 2008 Annual Council authorized the creation of the Lee-Atkinson Energy Savers Award to recognize the church that makes the most significant progress in energy savings during a one-year period. Representing over 18 years of work, the Lee-Atkinson award

stems from Resolution 1991-A195 which was passed at the 70th General Convention which placed environmental stewardship as a matter of “highest urgency.”

The most recent General Convention, held in July in Anaheim, updated Resolution 1991-A195 with the passage of the national interfaith campaign known as the “Genesis Covenant” (www.genesiscovenant.org). This new resolution encourages all parishes to take steps to reduce greenhouse gases by 50 percent in all faith-based facilities within the next 10 years.

Managing energy use makes good financial sense for your church as well as helping the

environment. According to ENERGY STAR, if America’s houses of worship cut energy use by 10 percent, they could save nearly \$300 million for congregations’ missions and other priorities, in addition to saving over 1.8 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

If you have any questions about the program or steps in getting started, please contact Rocco Tricarico at norneck@hughes.net or Susan Midland at smydland@gmail.com. Please contact Mr. Tricarico if you would like to be considered for the Lee-Atkinson Energy Savers Award. +

Classifieds

Short- or Long-Term Beach House Rental
– Oak Island, North Carolina. Perfect for snowbirds. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, fully furnished and equipped. Rent by the week or month. Deposit required. No student group rentals. Prices drop for long term rental. Call 434-971-3606.

Be Prepared for Mission Trips - Real world safety awareness briefings for missionary trips. For information call 540-775-5008 or jamanard@gmail.com

SAT & PSAT Prep Classes – gather 10 students and hold a Hunt Course at your church. www.huntprograms.com, toll free 866-425-7656. The Hunt Course, preparing Virginia students since 1976. Mention The Virginia Episcopalians and receive a \$50.00 tuition discount. Owned and operated by Episcopalians.

Virginia Maid Cleaning Services – Residential commercial cleaning. Weekly, bi-weekly cleaning reasonable rates. Richmond area. Gardner G. Phillips 804-350-5733.

Bed and Breakfast – In rural Albemarle County between Charlottesville and Shenandoah National Park; minutes from UVA, Monticello, and Skyline Drive. Affordable rates. Hosts: David and Ginny Wayland, retired Episcopal priest. Wayland Orchard B&B, Crozet, Virginia 434-823-7323.

Vacation or Short Term – Mountain Chalet just a mile from Shrine Mont for rent. Beautiful inside. Awesome view/Jacuzzi. Great room with fireplace for small group or planning retreats. 703-864-2535.

Home Movies and Still Photos on DVD – Those old memories are stored in your closets and you haven't seen them for decades. Transfer them to DVD before they are gone forever! 8mm/Super8/16mm movie film; VHS/8mm video; slides and prints to DVD or VHS. IMAGES Past & Present (571) 243-8371 or rmmorris21942@yahoo.com.

Bagpipe Music for Special Occasions. Make your next event memorable with the sounds of the Scottish Highlands. Performance. Instruction. Composition. Contact Marsha Bell at 703-998-2903 or visit www.marshabell.com or marsha.bell1@verizon.net

Piano Lessons for Adults/Seniors in Richmond. Also teenagers. Beginners to advanced. Build solid classical foundation, develop artistic expression, ergonomic technique. Play music you enjoy, with pianist/composer Jamie K. Sims. 25 years experience – mostly in NYC. Complimentary consultation. Near Carytown. 804-355-0414, jksims@comcast.net.

Dering's Cleaning Service, LLC – Solo LLC, residential cleaning, Richmond area. Licensed, Bonded and Insured. 804-239-5865.

Piano Lessons – Juilliard trained instructor specializes in teaching beginning students, both children and adults. Old Town Alexandria, Virginia 703-519-3987.

Hilton Head Oceanfront – Extraordinary townhome on Seapines Goldcoast, sleeps 6-9, four full baths, msnwb@yahoo.com; 804-824-1148.

Would you like information on Shenandoah Valley Real Estate? We specialize in the area around Shrine Mont, and the Larger Shenandoah Valley, and can help you find your investment, vacation, 2nd home or relocation or retirement home. Experience a better lifestyle. If you love Shrine Mont, you will love the Valley! Call Aspen Properties at Metro number 703-864-2535.

Escape to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley! Reasonably priced vacation and retirement homes, condominiums and building lots near Shrine Mont and Bryce Resort. Two hours from the DC metro area. Skiing, golf, fishing and hiking, we have it all! Contact Kemp Miller, Coldwell Banker Four Seasons Realty, 540-856-8492 or kmiller@shentel.net.

New life for treasured records and tapes! Audio Restoration by Sound Advice digitally removes unwanted noises, enhances the sound and transfers your priceless records and tapes to CD. We also transfer color slides and prints to CD or DVD. For information phone 540-856-8492 or kmiller@shentel.net.

Bed and Breakfast – Three miles from Monticello, Ash Lawn, 10 minutes from Historic Downtown Charlottesville, University of Virginia, Stadium and surrounding wineries. Thirty minutes from Montpelier. Gourmet Breakfast. Call or Email for low Rates 434-296-6134. Wogonjm@netZero.net.



CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOL

Great journeys begin at the river!

a curriculum for the 21st century

An Episcopal college preparatory school located on the Rappahannock River.
Boys boarding and co-educational day school for grades 9-12 and PG

www.christchurchschool.org | 804-758-2306

A Place for Young Adults

By Emily Cherry

Why is young adult ministry so important? “Ministry to any age group is important,” noted Paris Ball, acting program director, “but it’s crucial to reach out to young adults in particular because many are in the process of relocating, of discernment, of finding new church homes.”

“There is real energy in the Diocese for this ministry,” added Ms. Ball, who attended the Young Adult Summit in October at Camp Mikell in the Diocese of Atlanta, in an effort “to help create better connections between our dioceses, but also to help our Diocese learn best practices and new opportunities for young adult ministry.” Future diocesan plans include a retreat for young adults

as well as a mission trip to the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

St. Mary’s, Arlington, not only has a healthy 20s and 30s ministry of its own, but also participates in a regional 20s and 30s ministry. St. Mary’s, St. George’s Arlington and St. Peter’s, Arlington formed a communal ministry group known as Trivium. Each individual church sponsors certain opportunities ranging from social events to Bible studies. The 20s and 30s ministry at St. Mary’s is currently readdressing its mission, hoping to build upon the program’s strengths and pursue additional areas for growth and ministry.

With a new rector in his 30s (the Rev. Wallace Adams-Riley),

St. Paul’s in downtown Richmond recently began the process of rejuvenating a ministry for young adults. Mr. Adams-Riley and the education staff see young adult ministry as another way of building relationships both within the parish and in the broader Richmond community. The new “eightfifteen” group for 20- and 30-somethings offers a variety of social events. To join the “eightfifteen” mailing list, contact Leslie Choplin, St. Paul’s minister of Christian formation, at lchoplin@stpauls-episcopal.org or 804-545-5418.

Interested in learning more about young adult ministry? Contact Paris Ball at pball@thediocese.net. +

The People You Meet in Haiti

By Paris Ball and Cathy Gowen

THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA IS ORGANIZING ITS FIRST DIOCESAN-WIDE YOUNG ADULT MISSION TRIP IN FEBRUARY 2010 TO GONAIVES AND BAYONNAIS, HAITI, BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERING DONE DURING A PREVIOUS TRIP BY ST. JAMES’S, RICHMOND. DIOCESAN STAFF MEMBERS PARIS BALL, CATHY GOWEN AND BUCK BLANCHARD TOOK A PRELIMINARY TRIP TO THE AREA IN SEPTEMBER 2009, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL DONOR.

When telling people that you have just returned from a mission trip to Haiti, the questions that follow often betray some of our preconceived ideas about mission work there. Did you see any voodoo? Did you feel safe? How was the food? (For the record, no, yes and amazing!) As friends look through pictures from the trip, most are surprised by the breathtaking beauty of the countryside, which admittedly matched our own reactions when first driving out of Port au Prince. Yes, Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, but it is beautiful. And the people are gracious, resilient and kind.

But the toughest question by far has been, “What did you do?” A simple question by American standards, but as anyone who has been on a mission trip knows, it misses the point. Yes, we had a goal for our trip – to lay the groundwork

for a continued partnership with the young adults of the Diocese of Virginia and the people of Gonaives and Bayonnais. Still, the “work” that we accomplished was in the relationships we began to form, experiencing the breadth of the Church through the people we met.

The Very Rev. Accimé Max, or Père Max, is a dignified and quiet priest, wearing his black clergy shirt and collar despite the intense heat and caring for his three widely dispersed parishes and schools: Gonaives, Bayonnais and Petit-Rivière. Père Max started our visit with a tour of the Episcopal School in Gonaives, a city of 300,000 located on the coast. As we went from classroom to classroom, we were greeted by enthusiastic students and teachers, eager to make us feel welcome and to show off their hard work.

Père Max also took us to the more remote village of Bayonnais, where the young children shared with us the simple pleasures of blowing bubbles and playing kazoos and rushed to hold our hands as we walked down the street. We talked with the manager of the goat project, a breeding program which fosters nutrition in addition to providing an economic stimulus for families. He explained to us the details of the work using a series of precise and understandable drawings he had created for

the villagers who cannot read (which also helps with the visiting Americans who don’t speak Creole).

On Sunday morning, we attended church in Gonaives. Following the service, we sat down with 25 young adults from the congregation who were so eager to develop a relationship with us that one man who couldn’t attend the meeting sent his father as his representative. We shared with this group our plans to return next year with young adults from the Diocese of Virginia to continue to get to know each other, and we assured them that this is only the beginning of a new connection within the larger Church. In a symbol of our ongoing friendship, we ended the meeting with a newly-learned Creole phrase, *Na we anko*: See you soon. Their response was clear and full of hope. *N’ap tann ou*: We’ll be waiting.

N’ap tann ou – the people in Gonaives and Bayonnais are counting on us to return. Come with us as we walk alongside the people of Haiti and show each other what it means to be part of the Church.

For details on participating in first diocesan-wide young adult trip in 2010, please contact Paris Ball at pball@thediocese.net. +

Michaux House: Space for Community

By Emily Cherry

St. James's, Richmond has reason to celebrate, and that's exactly what they did on Wednesday, September 23 during the Feast of Blessing at the new Michaux House.

Michaux House is 27,900 square feet of space with a lot of potential. Named in honor of Dick and Julia Gray Michaux, whose generous gift to St. James's helped jumpstart the project, the new building is one that blends in with the rest of the historic neighborhood. Taylor and Parrish, the contracting company, built onto an existing house located on the corner to the east of the church building. From the street, the facility looks like a string of three row houses, which inside are all connected and accessed through one central doorway.

From a library and well appointed parlors to an expanded parish hall and classrooms for adult learning, Michaux House was a necessary space to meet the needs of the growing congregation, whose 2,400 baptized members regularly see 100 new members each year. The house also includes a teen-friendly room for use by the youth group, a state of the art kitchen to help prepare the 15,000 meals made at St. James's each year and some multipurpose space.

But the part the Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, rector, is most excited about is the finished basement. The expansive room—earmarked as “outreach space”—is space that the church never had before. One potential use for the basement is for CARITAS, a Richmond winter housing and feeding program. Bathrooms



St. James's new Michaux House facility features 27,900 feet of space to meet the needs of both the congregation and the community.

equipped with showers will help make such outreach possible.

“We were really anxious to build something not just for us but for the community, as well,” said Mr. Hollerith.

One of the biggest challenges in the project, Mr. Hollerith described, was the discernment process: deciding what form an expansion would take, and what priorities parishioners wanted from the expansion. Parishioners quickly rallied around the project and got involved in its leadership. Project leaders include Jim Goggins, chair of the Building Committee; Sarah Cann, chair of the Interiors Committee; and Eric Burfeind, chair of the Kitchen Committee. The committees all worked to ensure that “green features,” from recycled materials to energy efficient appliances, were used in



Photos: Valerie Hubbard

the renovation whenever possible.

The renovations are the result of years of brainstorming and planning. The “Fan the Flame” campaign, which started formally in November 2006, raised almost \$8 million for the two-phase project. Phase two, already underway, includes renovations to the current activity areas to create improved space for use by the Children's Center, Sunday School and music programs. The anticipated completion date for phase two is early 2010. A future bequest of \$1.1 million will provide an endowment for building maintenance.

Fifteen years ago, the St. James's sanctuary burned to the ground in a disastrous fire. Today, the parish not only continues but grows and thrives, in a space that is a blessing to the parishioners and the surrounding community. +

VIRGINIA
EPISCOPALIAN

A Publication of the
Episcopal Church
in the Diocese
of Virginia

110 West Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220-5095

PERIODICAL