Energy and Inspiration: From Liverpool to Virginia

Bishop Johnston visits Liverpool, builds on partnership

By Emily Cherry

Stretching across 389 square miles of urban and rural England, serving a population of 1.53 million and supporting parishioners and clergy in 250 congregations, the Diocese of Liverpool is a diocese rich in diversity, innovative in programming and strong in mission. It’s also a diocese that, like the Diocese of Virginia, has made a commitment to examining and recognizing its complicity in the slave trade. The Diocese of Liverpool, the Diocese of Virginia and several dioceses in west Africa have engaged in the Triangle of Hope partnership to help turn the relationship of despair that existed between these three points on the globe during the slave trade into a relationship of redemption, hope and promise.

In June 2010, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston paid a visit to the Diocese of Liverpool at the invitation of the Rt. Rev. James Jones, bishop of Liverpool. The goal of this trip was “to build on and enrich the existing links between the two dioceses,” in addition to looking for new ways to carry out the original mission of the Triangle of Hope, explained Bishop Johnston.

Bishop Johnston spent time in Liverpool touring diocesan institutions and organizations. “There is much we can learn from our brothers and sisters in Liverpool,” he said. In the area of inner-city ministry to children and families at-risk, for example, Liverpool excels. “To see what they’re doing, very often against the odds, was very energizing for me. It is quite similar to the Peter Paul Development Center ministry in Richmond,” said Bishop Johnston. Their church schools system is also a thriving entity. “These are just a couple of ways that Liverpool demonstrates a dedication to innovation and creativity,” explained Bishop Johnston. “Their Fresh Expressions ministry, another example, takes a new approach to church planting by following different models and means of organization. It’s all very inspiring.”

Bishop James Jones invited Bishop Johnston to give the presidential address at the meeting of the General Synod, or governing body, of the Diocese of Liverpool. Bishop Johnston focused on the five mission and ministry priorities of the Diocese of Virginia so that the bishop and clergy of Liverpool could have as much of an insider view of ministry in Virginia as possible. Bishop Johnston stressed that this could be a major part of the foundation of the relationship between the two dioceses.

“One of the most interesting things that I saw and connected with in Liverpool is a parish that is being re-opened after 30 years of closure,” explained Bishop Johnston. St. James in-the-City-Church is located just down the street from the old office of John Newton, a former slave trader who experienced a conversion expressed in his hymn, “Amazing Grace.” Situated in the port area of Liverpool, it’s a church that was built by slave owners and that has monuments to major figures in the

As part of his June 2010 trip to the Diocese of Liverpool, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston joined the Rt. Rev. James Jones, bishop of Liverpool, in opening and dedicating a new parish hall at Christ Church, Aughton. Pictured above, Bishop Johnston joins the Rev. Ross Moughtin (right) and others in hailng the celebratory bells that marked the joyous occasion.

Liverpool continued on page 5
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Three Principles

In a world that seems to be falling apart, the last thing I want to see is the Church following the same path with seriously misguided liberals/progressives leading the way. The Episcopal Church is supposed to stand on three principles: the Bible, tradition and reason.

I have just finished reading [the July 2010 edition of] The Virginia Episcopalian and it left me wondering: Just how low will the Church lean before it collapses: The article by Emily Cherry, “R-14s Task Group Appointed,” is simply amazing. The Bible clearly does not approve of homosexual conduct (I Corinthians 6:9-10) and marriage is defined in no uncertain terms in I Corinthians 7. Tradition certainly has no place for homosexual marriage either. Reason should say that five percent should not dictate to 95 percent, yet that seems to be what is happening, and marriage, already gravely threatened, is about to be further devalued if the left has its way.

I might add that as I know one member of the task group and know where her leanings are, I suspect conservatives are few, and the Church marches toward great trouble. The article on page 17, “Presiding Bishop Describes Sanctions as Unfortunate,” is really the same problem: biblical prohibition. How is it that the left is allowed to push its agenda? If this continues, the Episcopal Church is going to loose its members as never before. I know one member for sure who is going to leave if things don’t stop – me! And I won’t be alone.

Robert L. Petersen
Kingston Parish, Mathews

Are you keeping up with the Diocese online?

Visit us at thediocese.net for the latest news stories and to learn about our ministry.
Visit us at Facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseofVirginia for links to interesting articles, exclusive photo albums and conversation with other Episcopalians.
Faith, Technology and Communications Combine
Episcopal Church communications director to headline conference

From blogs to bulletins and everything in between, the landscape of church communications is one that is constantly morphing and evolving. New trends change so quickly that best practices are difficult to pin down. And technology overload can often result in your church’s communications being lost in the crowd.

The diocesan Faith, Technology and Communications Conference will help shed some light on how to combat these common obstacles. Parish communicators, parish administrators, clergy, vestry members and anyone with a vested interest in your church’s communications is invited to this Wednesday, November 17 event at Christ Church, Spotsylvania.

“The role of the communicator can feel like a particularly challenging one because it’s your job to communicate all of the ministries of your church,” noted Emily Cherry, communications officer for the Diocese. “That can feel like an overwhelming challenge. The aim of this conference is to offer some support to communicators while taking a fresh look at how we approach communications in a faith environment. We hope that this conference will offer practical and affordable solutions to real problems.

“We’re delighted that the director of communications for the Episcopal Church, Anne Rudig, will be joining us as keynote speaker,” said Ms. Cherry. “She is a dynamic speaker with a wealth of information and experience to share.” Ms. Rudig will address the overlap of social media planning and share. “Ms. Rudig will address the overlap of social media planning and share.” Ms. Cherry. “She is a dynamic speaker with a wealth of information and experience to share.”

In addition, attendees will have the chance to attend three workshop sessions. Options include:

**Building a Communications Ministry with Patrick Getlein, Director of Communications for the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy**

**Creating Powerful Content and Effective Parish Newsletters with Ed Jones, Editor of the Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star**

**Building Your Church’s Graphic Identity with John Dixon, Freelance Graphic Designer, Runningfire Design**

**Principles of Imaging and Design with John Dixon, Freelance Graphic Designer, Runningfire Design**

**Overcoming Obstacles in Church Communications with Sarah Bartenstein, Director of Communications for St. Stephen’s, Richmond**

**Managing Crisis Communications in a Church Setting with Lisa Van Riper, Assistant Vice President for Communications at the University of Richmond, and Henry Burt, Secretary of the Diocese**

**Strategic Communications Planning with Jim Naughton, Editor of Episcopal Café and Partner in Canticle Communications**

**Stepping Out of the Holy Huddle: Repurposing Content and Addressing the Print-Digital Gap with Sharon Tillman, Director of Communications for the Diocese of Maryland, and Jason Hoffman, Associate for Electronic Communications for the Diocese of Maryland**

**Public Relations & Reaching the Secular Media with Amanda Deaver, Partner in Prism Public Affairs**

**Improving e-Mail Marketing through Constant Contact with Emily Cherry, Communications Officer for the Diocese of Virginia**

Attendees will also have the chance to learn about Web Solutions, the Web template hosting package offered through the Diocese.

The cost is $40/person including lunch, with discounts available for multiple attendees from the same church and for seminarians. Registration forms are available online at www.thediocese.net.

Questions? Please contact Emily Cherry, communications officer (800-DIOCESE x21 or echerry@thediocese.net). +

Resource-Building
Concurrently with the Faith, Technology & Communications Conference, the Diocese will release a set of church communications resource documents on subjects from guidelines for photo release forms for minors to tips for starting a video ministry in your church. Do you have suggestions for what types of communications resource documents would be helpful to your church? Send an e-mail to echerry@thediocese.net.

Bishop Lee to Begin New Ministry at GTS

The Rev. Lang Lowery, interim president of General Theological Seminary (GTS), recently appointed the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, XII bishop of Virginia, as interim dean of GTS. Bishop Lee will start his new ministry at the New York-based seminary after completing his term as interim dean at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco at the end of September.

Bishop Lee has served on the Board of Trustees at both Virginia Theological Seminary and Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. “We are extremely fortunate to have Bishop Lee’s notable gifts and proven abilities,” said President Lowery. “He has a unique ability to shepherd others during these challenging times of change.”

“General has always been a grand flagship in theological education and my plan is to do everything possible to see that this important ministry to the Church continues and flourishes,” said Bishop Lee in conversations with GTS staff members. +
The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston will lead a series of listening sessions this fall to provide a period of sharing and listening on the subject of faithful sexuality and the blessing of same-gender unions. Clergy, lay leaders and parishioners from across the Diocese are encouraged to attend one of five “Listen…And be Heard” sessions.

“The time is ripe for fulsome sharing and listening on these topics,” said Bishop Johnston. “I want to make clear that these gatherings are not intended to be crossfires or debates. Each session is designed so that every person present will have the opportunity to speak honestly and openly, and to be heard by each other and by the leadership of the Diocese.” Bishop Johnston added, “It’s our goal to have these sessions reflect the broad spectrum of perspectives in the Diocese.”

In addition to time set aside for sharing and listening, the bishop will present a reflection at each session. “I look forward to the chance to share my own thoughts and perspectives with the Diocese. But most importantly, I look forward to hearing your voices – your stories and experiences, your hopes and fears.”

The bishop and the Rev. Canon Susan Goff, canon to the ordinary, collaborated with several regional deans on the planning and form of these events. The listening sessions will take place on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, September 29**, Calvary, Front Royal, 7-9 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 13**, St. Paul’s, Ivy, 7-9 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 27**, St. Alban’s, Annandale, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, November 3**, St. John’s, Tappahannock, 4-6 p.m.
- **Wednesday, November 17**, Christ Church, Glen Allen, 7-9 p.m.

These sessions come following a 2009 General Convention resolution, R-C056, which allows bishops, particularly those in dioceses affected by civil jurisdictions where same-gender marriage, civil unions or domestic partnerships are legal, to provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of the members of the Church. “Since the District of Columbia’s same-gender civil union law went into effect earlier this year, we have felt a very personal impact. Deciding how to provide an appropriate pastoral response to same-gender couples in our congregations is a very real issue in the Diocese of Virginia,” said Bishop Johnston. “These listening sessions will help us equip our minds and hearts as we continue our important work of discernment.”

 Churches from across the Diocese are fostering a new point of contact with their parishioners through Facebook. Facebook can help churches reach out to different demographics; promote discussion; and even keep in touch with parishioners who’ve moved far away. Here are just a few examples of Diocese of Virginia churches in action on Facebook.

- St. Paul’s Church-on-the-Hill, Winchester posts photos from fellowship and worship events.
- St. Mark’s, Alexandria posts updates about news from mission teams, as well as guest preacher announcements.
- At St. Peter’s in the Woods, Fairfax Station, the Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe, vicar, posted updates from her trip to Oxford.

**Help! What’s Facebook?**

In March 2010, Facebook became the first site to ever surpass Google as the most visited Web site in the United States; as of July 21, Facebook is home to 500 million users – more than the population of the United States, Canada and Mexico combined. For those who might not be in-the-know, Facebook is a social networking site that allows individuals and organizations to create their own “page” to post news, announcements, photos and more. Users subscribe to your page by “liking” it. When users like a page, they’ll receive updates every time you add new information to that site. It’s a great way to bring a community together in an online environment while promoting discussion and visibility for your church.

Is your church missing out on the Facebook revolution? Contact Emily Cherry (echerry@thediocese.net or 800-DIOCESE x21) if you’re looking for assistance in creating a page for your church.
Exploring Our Roots
A report from the Committee on Race Relations

By John Chilton

The Diocese’s Committee on Race Relations has a natural connection to the work of the Triangle of Hope. Current and past members of the Committee have visited the Diocese of Liverpool to share with them our anti-racism training program, and to learn more from them about the triangle of despair. Others have visited prisons in west Africa where slaves were held before transport to America. Last year we met at Mayo House with the bishop of Liverpool and our bishops to share our committee’s goals.

The Committee on Race Relations has adopted four mutually supporting functions:

1. It conducts anti-racism training for diocesan and congregational leadership, as mandated by General Convention.
2. It is putting together a group of education and information offerings consisting of programs of varying duration and models called “Many Faces–One Faith.”
3. In response to the charge of General Convention to each diocese, the Committee is preparing a report on the history of slavery and discrimination in the state, and the role played by the Diocese.
4. The Committee is studying how the Diocese can become an anti-racist, multi-cultural organization. Where are we on the continuum from seeing racial and cultural differences as deficits, to being able to tolerate difference, and ultimately to seeing differences as assets?

In what specific ways can we become an anti-racist church?

Our diocese traces its 400-year history back to the established church of the English colony at Jamestown. Its role in slavery and discrimination goes back just as far. That established church was supported by a head tax on white men and slaves (men and women). Members of the church played a role in perfecting the slave laws that become a model for other colonies. Some clergy resisted the establishment of slavery, but most did not. More of them did advocate that slave owners teach slaves about Christianity, but owners largely resisted until the law changed so slaves who converted could not claim their freedom.

Bishops condemned some of the more egregious treatment of slaves by slave owners, but were more outspoken in opposition to abolitionists. Up until slavery was abolished it is likely that every one of our bishops owned slaves.

When the Diocese of Southern Virginia was formed out of the Diocese of Virginia, several decades after the abolition of slavery, ownership of church schools was apportioned by membership. But the Diocese’s position was that blacks not be included – Southern Virginia had proportionately more blacks. Blacks were officially treated as second class members in the councils of the Church until the Diocese abolished all reference to race in its constitution and canons in 1949, but de facto discrimination and segregation continued. Church camps and conference centers integrated themselves in the late 1950s. But there were whites who spoke out against camp integration at diocesan council. A committee was appointed and it recommended our conference centers offer segregated and integrated camps. Following the court-ordered integration of public schools, church school enrollment grew. When the last all-white church school accepted its first black student in the late 1960s, it was after resistance by school officials and over the objections of white Episcopalians.

Subsequent decades have seen African Americans holding lay and clergy positions in the highest councils of the Diocese. Church schools have become more integrated. This is not the church of the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s or 1900s. But as in earlier decades it is a reflection of the society of which it is a part. Racism still plagues us. What we seek is to become a model for society to follow, a diocese that is an anti-racist organization.

We invite the people of the Diocese to stand with us in our mission. For more information, visit our newly-launched Web site, accessible through thediocese.net.
For many years, the forms required by the Office of Transition Ministry (formerly the Church Deployment Office) have presented a challenge to clergy and lay professionals. These forms are included in the church-wide databases for clergy and lay professionals.

The current Board for Transition Ministry, which oversees the Office for Transition Ministry, has made it a priority to replace and upgrade the database to allow for more flexibility and to incorporate today’s technologies into a user-friendly application. The database also provides a forum for those parishes and church institutions searching for clergy and lay professionals.

The new system will provide the same flexibility and ease of listing positions. Even in a tight budget triennium for the 2009 General Convention, this project received full funding, a mark of its importance.

For clergy and lay professionals, the new system, called the OTM Portfolio, will retain some of the features of the previous system, such as the presentation of work history, education and compensation. Among its exciting new features is the ability to provide links to personal or parish Web sites and links to sermons in print, audio or video media. Each registrant will have the opportunity to answer a set of questions about their ministry, theology and activities. Instead of pre-defined terms from which each user may select those most appropriate to describe his or her ministry, the new application uses technology that allows self-selected terms. The new portfolio will provide a closer look at each registrant to bishops, transition ministers or parish search committees who are reviewing candidates, while recognizing its space and capacity limitations by having much of the information referenced provided as electronic links to where the information is stored elsewhere. There is an underlying “green theme” in its design.

The former Parish/Institution CDO Profile will be replaced with an OTM Worshipping Community Portfolio, which will mirror the OTM Individual Portfolio and will include information on compensation, benefits and questions that will be answered to assist candidates in discerning if a particular position would be attractive or suitable for them. It will provide a more in-depth view of the parish or other community—diocesan office, school or chaplaincy opportunity.

The matching process will continue to exist as a tool for registrants and worshipping communities, based on key words and other discernment stage and statistical parameters.

Both the OTM Portfolio and Community Portfolio will be available in English, Spanish and French when it is launched this fall.

The Diocese of Virginia access date is scheduled for October 12, 2010. More information will be forthcoming to current registrants as the date approaches. Our diocese is represented on the Board for Transition Ministry by Lindsay Ryland, transition ministry officer, who also serves on its Executive Committee and was appointed in 2006 by the President of House of Deputies.

Back to School

Are you a college student who’s starting classes this fall and looking for an Episcopal campus ministry to connect with? Maybe you’re a clergy person who wants to put soon-to-be college students in touch with a church in their area?

A new form on the diocesan Web site will help the Diocese connect college students with campus ministries. Students, parents, clergy and youth leaders may fill out the College Student Information Form (available at www.thediocese.net, select Young Adult Ministries from the Ministries menu). The Office of Christian Formation will help identify campus ministries at students’ colleges and will pass along their contact information so students can start building on that connection when they start classes in the fall.

Questions? Contact Paris Ball (800-DIOCESE x29 or pball@thediocese.net).
Shrine Mont is a place apart for countless numbers of Virginia Episcopalians. For some, it’s where they had their first summer camp experience. For others, it’s the place their parish gathers every year for a weekend of fellowship and reflection. And for some it’s a place for personal retreat.

So when Clarke Parish, Berryville contacted Shrine Mont to see about the possibility of a mission trip to the retreat center, it was a natural partnership. Working with Kirk Gibson, development director for Shrine Mont, and Kevin Moomaw, executive director of Shrine Mont, the team planned 10 days’ worth of mission work.

Twenty-two members from St. Mary’s, Berryville and Grace Church, Berryville took part in the efforts, coordinated by Cathy Brown. Ms. Brown and her husband, the Rev. Dwight Brown, rector of the churches of Clarke Parish, had participated in similar mission trips to conference centers in other dioceses.

The Clarke Parish team brought with them some skilled volunteers plus youth. Thanks to their proximity to Shrine Mont, participants could come for all or just part of the 10-day trip. “Shrine Mont is deeply appreciative of the effort Clarke Parish gave for those 10 days in June,” said Mr. Moomaw. “They brought a group of hard working and talented adults and young people who served with focus and determination and also enjoyed times of rest and recreation.”

Bear Wallow, one of the oldest camp sites, was the scene of much of the group’s work. “The finished product – a much improved Bear Wallow camp – will serve the youth of the Diocese for years to come,” said Mr. Gibson. The team removed leaves and debris from the buildings, power washed the cabins, built and installed ceiling panels in the cabins and performed a variety of other repairs. Morning prayers, daily communion services and a side trip day of play to Bryce resort rounded out the trip.

“We were thrilled to hear that a church was willing to dedicate so much time and energy toward making Shrine Mont Camps a better place,” said Paris Ball, director of Christian Formation and Shrine Mont Camps. “In addition to completing some much needed-maintenance projects, Clarke Parish showed a level of support and dedication to our camps program that is truly appreciated.”

### What’s Happening at Shrine Mont this Fall?

- **September 12-13**: Tee with the Bishops Golf Classic
- **October 1-3**: Digital Photography Workshop
- **October 4-6**: Fall Clergy Retreat
- **October 8-10**: PYM 8th-Grade Weekend
- **October 25-28**: Committee on Aging’s Fall Camp
- **November 11-14**: PYM 8th- & 7th-Grade Weekend
Partnership Program
Building a relationship between a parish in the United States and a parish in Haiti is what the Rev. Kesner Ajax, coordinator of the Diocese of Haiti’s Partnership Program, calls “a situation of the heart.” It’s about coming together to grow in oneness with each other and with God. The Partnership Program helps parishes discern where they are being called and facilitates communication and accountability as the partnerships continue to develop. Several parishes in the Diocese of Virginia of all sizes and locations have already responded to this call, but the need for partners is great. To find out how to get involved, contact Cathy Gowen at cgowen@thediocese.net.

Haiti Micah Project
This inter-denominational Christian organization, strongly supported by several churches in the Diocese of Virginia, works with street children in Mirebalais meeting their most basic needs, including serving a hot meal each day. Since the earthquake, the number of children in the feeding program, housed at St. Peter’s Episcopal School, has grown to over 400. Founded by the Rev. Joseph Constant, director of ethnic ministries and student life and Virginia Theological Seminary, the Haiti Micah Project also provides a home and 24-hour care for 18 children, all of whom attend school at St. Peter’s. For more information, visit haiti-micah.org.

Bishop’s Visit
The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, bishop, will travel to Port-au-Prince in October to meet with the bishop of Haiti, the Rt. Rev. Jean Zaché Duracin. A report of his trip will be available in a future issue of The Virginia Episcopalian.

Young Adult Trip Update
The diocesan-wide young adult mission trip to Haiti, originally scheduled for February 2010, was postponed in the aftermath of the earthquake. There are spots available for the rescheduled trip, February 25 to March 4, 2011. The group will travel to Gonaïves, a city that has struggled to meet the needs of its increased population due to the large migration out

Tell us more
Are you interested in getting involved with our ministries in Haiti? Do you have an existing ministry or connection? Send your comments to Cathy Gowen at cgowen@thediocese.net or Buck Blanchard at bblanchard@thediocese.net.
Of our five priorities in ministry, the Christian formation of our youth and young adults proves to be the ranking concern by far. No surprise, I suspect. There is a lot of anxiety behind the often-voiced questions “What are we going to do?” and “How do we do this?” There is also a lot of worry about the future of the Church because of this issue. It is a truism that the Church is always one generation away from extinction and demographics tell us that we need to take this more seriously (perhaps literally?) than we have been. But I’m convinced that the answer does not come from looking toward the future. The faith of our youth and young adults is a matter of the present. They are the Church now. That’s the key. If we take care of their Christian formation now the future will take care of itself. If there is a crisis, then it’s not about something that might be later on. It’s about the here and now.

There are all sorts of programs that are marketed and ideas that are bantered about promising to be the answer. Most of these are just fine in themselves, but I’m very wary of the one-size-fits-all approach. I don’t think that there is some sort of hot formula out there that will turn things around with our youth if only we could hit on it. The way I see things, we have to go back to the fundamentals. For our youth (say, through high school) Christian formation begins with parenting. Of course, I can’t tell you parents what to do but I will say that one of the most important parts of parenting is the example you set. The bottom line is, simply, making a commitment to Christian life if they don’t show it themselves. And no, this isn’t happening. The numbers don’t lie. With an average 37 percent Sunday attendance rate of our “active” communicants across the Diocese, we shouldn’t wonder that our youth and young adults don’t put church very high on the list. Before writing this off as too simplistic, we would do well to remember the formative power of the basic things in life. Naturally, it’s different with respect to college students and twenty-somethings, who are conspicuously absent from many of our congregations. How can we attract them? Well worth noting is the strong consensus at the last Spring Conference for clergy, spouses and lay professionals that we should focus not so much on “attracting” young adults but rather to make much more of an effort to be where they actually are when away from the workaday world. For example, “theology on-tap,” groups that meet for social time and discussion over refreshments is a movement that is proving to be quite successful in many places all over the country (also really big in the UK: “pub theology”), and “popcorn theology” has long stood the test of time—watching movies and then exploring their spiritual themes and life issues.

We should not overlook how we might do better at getting young adults to come through our doors and finding a home, however. The studies are provocative here. Fighting yesterday’s battles over and over is a real turn-off, as are squabbles over power groups in congregations and the attendant church-politics. Over and over the responses have shown that young adults today have absolutely no time or respect for these institutional sinkholes. Something prompts me to say that I don’t think Jesus does either.

One obvious point to be emphasized, mainly because most of our places are still significantly challenged by it, is the use of up-to-date technology and media for our Christian education and communications. The old methods based on didactic presentations and printed materials may be tried-and-true but they are hardly “attractive” to the new generation. I think we really want to do this but often find that our staffs lack the skills or, more likely, the equipment (that one would be immediately solved by more money for the church budget!). No question here at all: cutting-edge hardware and software must be a priority for ministry nowadays.

Worship, too, is an obvious point as to whether or not and how young persons are attracted to church. Based on my own experience as a parish priest, I think it is a mistake to assume that youth and young adults will respond only to “contemporary” styles, but I also think that more places might benefit their ministries by exploring alternative styles. That must be done very carefully, however, not only because of the binding rubrics for Episcopal worship, but also because there is a real craft in being able to reach out without dumbing-down (to borrow from the title of Marva Dawn’s famous and important book). For me, the true point is to do whatever you do well, with the kind of energy, commitment and attention that is convincing of the edgy relevance of Christian worship for modern, young life.

The Priorities for Mission and Ministry: Youth & Young Adult Formation

Next in this series on our diocesan priorities: Strengthening Our Congregations.
September
12  Les Petits Chanteurs: The Boys Choir from Holy Trinity Music School, Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Grace & Holy Trinity, Richmond; 5 p.m.
13-14  Fresh Start Overnight Meeting: Shrine Mont. Contact Lindsay Ryland, 800-DIOCESE x13 or lryland@thediocese.net.
15  Planned Giving Workshop: Christ Church, Charlottesville; 7 p.m. Contact Frances Caldwell, 800-DIOCESE x35 or fcaldwell@thediocese.net.
18  Our Threatened Water Supply & Its Sustainability: A Stewardship of Creation Conference; St. James the Less, Ashland; 10 a.m. Contact Rocco Tricarico at norneck@hughes.net.
19  Benefit Concert with Singer-Songwriters Jack Williams and Ronny Cox; Christ Church, Spotsylvania; 4 p.m.
23  Standing Committee Meeting; St. George’s, Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.
24-25  Episcopal Village East; Baltimore; With keynote speaker Brian McLaren. www.episcopalvillage.org.
25  Planned Giving Workshop; Emmanuel, Harrisonburg; 2 p.m. Contact Frances Caldwell, 800-DIOCESE x35, fcaldwell@thediocese.net.

October
30  Executive Board Meeting; St. James’, Warrenton; 10 a.m.
4-7  Fall Clergy Retreat; Shrine Mont. Contact Kathlyn Jones, 800-DIOCESE x31, kjones@thediocese.net.
8-10  Parish Youth Ministries Eighth-Grade Weekend; Shrine Mont. Contact Kathlyn Jones, 800-DIOCESE x31, kjones@thediocese.net.
9  Mental Health and Our Faith Communities Workshop; Church of our Saviour, Charlottesville; 10 a.m. Contact Chepi DiCalogero at cdicalogero@verizon.net.
21  Fresh Start Meeting; Trinity, Fredericksburg. Contact Lindsay Ryland, 800-DIOCESE x13 or lryland@thediocese.net.
25-28  Fall Camp; Sponsored by the Tri-Diocesan Council on Aging; Shrine Mont; With keynote speaker the Rt. Rev. Joy Carol Gallagher, chaplain and storyteller the Rt. Rev. Neff Powell and Folk Theologian Ed Kilbourne. Contact Anna Moncure, 800-DIOCESE x25 or amoncure@thediocese.net.
28  Standing Committee Meeting; St. George’s, Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.
29-31  Diocesan Discernment Retreat; Richmond Hill. Contact Cathy Gowen, 800-DIOCESE x15 or cgowen@thediocese.net.
30  Parish Youth Ministries Fall Day of Service for Youth; St. Stephen’s, Culpeper. Contact Kathlyn Jones, 800-DIOCESE x31, kjones@thediocese.net.

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 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Organized 1789.
The Presiding Bishop The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
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 181 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; 119 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220-5095 804-643-8451, 800-DIOCESE, FAX 804-644-6928.
The Mayo Memorial Church House: The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, Orkney Springs.

How to Reach the Diocesan Staff
Call 800-DIOCESE (246-2373) or 804-643-8451.
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The Rev. Canon Susan Goff, Canon to the Ordinary sgoff@thediocese.net 11
Cathy Gowen, Administrative Assistant to Canon to the Ordinary cgowen@thediocese.net 15
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Kathlyn Jones, Administrative Assistant, Office of Christian Formation kjones@thediocese.net 31
Wilbert “Skeet” Jones, Sexton
Ed Keithly, Clerk clerkg@thediocese.net 38
Michael J. Kerr, Treasurer mkerr@thediocese.net 20
Mildred Lofton, Bookkeeper ml lofton@thediocese.net 23
Anna Moncure, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary amoncure@thediocese.net 25
Eugene Powell, Treasurer epowell@thediocese.net 27
Cathy Gowen, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Johnston cgowen@thediocese.net 15
Robert D. Halsey, Treasurer rhalsey@thediocese.net 20
Michael Wade, Assistant to the Director of Christian Formation mwa de@thediocese.net 27
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Kathlyn Jones, 800-DIOCESE x31, kjones@thediocese.net.
Dear Diocesan Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This letter of greeting is to thank you for the financial support of your congregations. Each and every one of you makes our common ministries as vital and meaningful as they are. Perhaps the healthiest thing about our operating budget is that almost 90 percent of it is provided from congregational pledges. “Healthy,” certainly, but this is also why the vision and management of our diocesan budget is, quite frankly, a surprisingly fragile process. It is up to all of us working together to make a stronger Episcopal Church for Virginia.

This year, I am asking each congregation not now following our Council’s Virginia Plan for Proportionate Giving to set a goal of giving a minimum of 10 percent of the average of your previous three years of unrestricted income. The bottom line is our capability for ministries. Adequate financial support will make it possible to expand what is working well while meeting new opportunities and ongoing challenges.

Your input and responses to the five priorities of mission and ministry described within have been very positive and committed. I encourage you to read about and pray for these aspects of our common life as the Church. The needs in our communities and throughout the world cry out to us. The Diocese of Virginia remains a “go-to” leader for mission and, to be sure, we are doing great things as we work together at home and beyond.

We have a deep sense of identity as a diocese. That identity is an essential part of our fellowship in the Body of Christ. As congregations, we can do more together than we can separately. That is an essential truth and witness in being Episcopalian.

Allow me to thank you—one and all—for your faithfulness in supporting ministry in the Diocese of Virginia. May you be blessed in your prayerful giving to your congregations and, in turn, to your diocese.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Bishop

Funding for the 2010 Diocesan Budget

- **88.8%** Pledges from our congregations
- **7.5%** Restricted income
- **2%** Health insurance administration reimbursement
- **1.1%** Contributions designated for The Virginia Episcopalian
- **.6%** Other income

The operating budget of your diocese determines the scope of the ministry we do in community together.

Mustard Seed, Human Need and World Mission grants awarded by the Diocese are NOT funded by the operating budget. They are possible through the generosity of individual Episcopalians and some of our Episcopal organizations above their pledges to the operating budget.

ICRIBINKI
I Can’t Remember It Because I Never Knew It.

This summer, 705 people aged 8 and above, 69 staff members and 32 volunteers took part in the Shrine Mont camps and the Family Conference.

During the 2010-2011 school year, your diocese will have 20 students in seminary.

This year, your diocese has submitted four foundation grant requests for special projects.

Bishop Johnston is a YouTube star.

Of the 181 congregations in your diocese, 17 are primarily multicultural or ethnic.

This year, missionaries from your diocese have traveled to five continents doing mission work.
17.2%

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

In addition to more established membership and leadership, younger Christians are essential to the Body of Christ today. Your diocese actively supports:

- Over 600 children who make friends and get closer to God at Shrine Mont Camps each summer;
- Dynamic young Church leaders from across your diocese who benefit from Parish Youth Ministries (PYM) fellowship and activities;
- Young adults who are involved in thriving campus ministry programs and diocesan sponsored mission trips, social networking, and innovative ministry.

29.8%

Strengthening Our Congregations

The collective strength of our individual congregations is crucial to our health as the Church. Your diocese supports congregational well-being and is committed to:

- Increasing average Sunday attendance;
- Raising up ordained and lay leaders for our churches;
- Assisting clergy in search of new ministries and congregations in search of new leaders;
- Offering business and investment management services to our congregations;
- Supporting churches in crisis situations;
- Helping congregations build healthy year-round stewardship and communication programs;
- Working to meet the faces of God where they are.
Evangelism and Proclamation
By sharing stories of our faith and everyday ministry and by setting forth the Episcopal Church’s witness to the general public, we grow in our own faith journeys while reaching out to others who are growing in theirs. We help to prepare individuals and congregations to live the Gospel by:

• Equipping congregations with the tools and ideas they need to be more effective communicators and evangelists, reaching out into their communities;
• Spreading the word of God through stories and examples of our faith and our ministry;
• Being inviting, accepting and welcoming Episcopalians;
• Looking for ways to help our churches become stronger presences in their communities.

Mission Beyond Ourselves
Ministry beyond ourselves is at the very heart of the Gospel. Together we support the larger body of Christ outside the walls of our individual churches. Your diocesan office is a resource center which:

• Helps your church plan a mission trip, near or far away;
• Provides resources and advice on mission opportunities;
• Points you in the right direction for funding possibilities;
• Administers the awarding of grant funds to support mission and outreach in our congregations and organizations;
• Builds and strengthens relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ at home, nearby, around the world and throughout the Anglican Communion.

Multicultural and Ethnic Ministries
The faces of our diocese reflect a diverse and culturally rich background. Over four percent of our congregations are non-English speaking and four percent are historically African American congregations. Our diocese shares a commitment to multicultural and ethnic inclusiveness and is dedicated to:

• Understanding and raising awareness of the diverse needs across our diocese;
• Offering financial and pastoral support;
• Building support for program needs;
• Including multicultural and ethnic speakers, foods, visual images and music into diocesan activities and worship.
**Bishops** – Offer pastoral assistance, lay and clergy support, ecclesiastical authority.
- The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop, x12
- Amy Williams, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Johnston, x12
- Ed Keithly, Clerk, x38
- The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Bishop Suffragan, 703-824-1325
- Tyler Fox, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Jones, 703-824-1325

**Christian Formation** – Works with youth and young adult formation, Shrine Mont camps, diocesan-wide workshops, retreats, Christian education programs.
- Paris Ball, Director, x24
- Michael Wade, Assistant to the Director, x27
- Kathlyn Jones, Administrative Assistant, x31

**Communications** – Offers assistance and consultation services to churches, *The Virginia Episcopalian* and the e-Communiqué publications, the diocesan Web site and social networking.
- Emily Cherry, Communications Officer, x21
- Karen Smith, Receptionist, x10

**Development & Stewardship** – Raises funds for the ministries we share as a diocese and offers assistance in planning year-round stewardship programs and preparing for capital giving.
- Frances Caldwell, Director, x35
- Allen Jamerson, Administrative Assistant, x29

**Episcopal Ministries** – Helps with raising up ordained and lay leaders for our congregations, transition ministries, prevention of and response to sexual misconduct, implementation of disciplinary canons, response to conflict in congregations.
- The Rev. Canon Susan Goff, Canon to the Ordinary, x11
- Cathy Gowen, Administrative Assistant to the Canon, x15
- Lindsay Ryland, Transition Ministry Officer, x13

**Mission & Outreach** – Offers assistance in planning mission trips, grants for mission and outreach, relationship building with partners in mission and support of social ministries.
- Buck Blanchard, Director, x17
- Mary Anne Bryant, Administrative Assistant, x16

**Secretary** – Works on crisis situation management, issues related to church governance, Annual Council and support of the Executive Board and Standing Committee.
- Henry Burt, Secretary and Chief of Staff, x30
- Anna Moncure, Administrative Assistant, x25

**Treasurer** – Administers collection disbursement and management of the funds of the Diocese; administration of insurance programs; a conduit to the Church Pension Group; assistance with accounting practices, payroll, clergy taxation, audits and more; and access to the diocesan risk manager.
- Mike Kerr, Treasurer, x20
- Joy Buzzard, Financial Administrator, x22
- Laura Cramer, Benefits Administrator, x40
- Millie Lofton, Bookkeeper, x23
Bishops’ Visitations

Bishop Johnston
September 26
a.m. St. Peter’s, New Kent
p.m. Westover Parish, Charles City

October 3
a.m. St. Mary’s, Arlington

October 10
a.m. St. James the Less, Ashland
p.m. Church of Our Saviour, Montpelier

October 17
a.m. Emmanuel, Woodstock
p.m. Cunningham Chapel Parish, Millwood

October 24
a.m. St. Mary’s, Goochland

October 31
a.m. St. Matthew’s, Sterling

Bishop Jones
September 5
a.m. St. Mary’s, Fleeton

September 12
a.m. Emmanuel, Harrisonburg

September 26
a.m. St. Stephen’s, Culpeper
p.m. Little Fork, Rixeyville

October 3
a.m. St. Stephen’s & Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Bar
a.m. Lynwood Parish, Port Republic
a.m. Grace, Port Republic at Lynwood Parish

October 10
a.m. Grace, Kilnarnock

October 17
a.m. St. Bartholomew’s, Richmond
p.m. St. Luke’s, Simeon

October 24
a.m. St. Dunstan’s, McLean
p.m. St. Thomas, McLean

Bishop Creighton
September 12
a.m. St. Francis’, Great Falls

October 3
a.m. St. James’, Mt. Vernon

Bishop Gulick
September 12
a.m. St. Luke’s, Remington
a.m. Christ Church, Brandy Station (at St. Luke’s)

October 24
p.m. St. John’s, Columbia

October 31
a.m. Church of the Messiah, Chancellor

Bishop Townsend
October 10
a.m. Christ Church, Lucketts

October 24
a.m. St. James’, Warrenton
p.m. Emmanuel, Middleburg

Bishop Ihloff
a.m. St. Andrew’s, Arlington

Visiting Bishops

Bishop Ihloff
a.m. St. Andrew’s, Arlington

Bishop Creighton
a.m. St. Francis’, Great Falls

Bishop Gulick
a.m. St. Luke’s, Remington
a.m. Christ Church, Brandy Station (at St. Luke’s)

Bishop Townsend
a.m. Christ Church, Lucketts

Bishop Ihloff
a.m. St. Andrew’s, Arlington

Clergy Changes

+ The Rev. Jared Cramer has completed his ministry as a clergy resident at Christ Church, Alexandria. He has been called as rector of St. John’s Church in Grand Haven, Mich.

+ The Rev. Andrew A. “Andy” Dunks has been called as chaplain of Christchurch School. He comes to the Diocese of Virginia after serving as chaplain at Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg.

+ The Rev. Kenneth N. “Nik” Forti has been called as assistant rector at St. Paul’s Memorial, Charlottesville. He is a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary out of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

+ The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves has been called as assistant rector of Emmanuel, Harrisonburg. She is a recent graduate of Sewanee out of the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

+ The Rev. Matthew Hanisian has joined the staff of St. Paul’s, Alexandria as director of communications. In addition, he will share liturgical duties with the clergy staff. He is a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary out of the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

+ The Rev. Paul “Peter” Hogg has been called as interim rector at Grace Church, The Plains, beginning September 7. He most recently served as interim rector of Christ Church in Raleigh, N.C.

+ The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey M. Price has been called as interim rector of Leeds Church, Markham. He has served as interim rector of Abingdon Church, White Marsh since 2006.

+ The Rev. Cecelia C. “C.C.” Schroeder has been called as vicar of St. Gabriel’s, Leesburg. She served as assistant rector of St. Luke’s Church in Salisbury, N.C. She began her ministry there on September 1.

+ The Rev. Kim Seidman has completed her ministry as a clergy resident at Christ Church, Alexandria. She is relocating to Denver, Colo. after continuing her training at the Shalem Institute.

Deaths

+ The Rev. Dale Brudvig, a retired priest of the Diocese of Virginia, died on Wednesday, July 28. Mr. Brudvig served as vicar of St. John the Baptist, Ivy from 1991-1995. He also served in the Diocese of East Carolina.

+ Jane Armstrong Sheeran, wife of the late Rev. Robert Sheeran, a retired priest of the Diocese of Virginia, died on Friday, July 23. Mrs. Sheeran served at Grace, Kilnarnock in the Diocese of Virginia from 1963-1982. Mrs. Sheeran was a member of Grace, Kilnarnock, where she served on the altar guild and as a vestry member.

+ The Rev. David H. Smith has been called as the chaplain of Woodberry Forest School in Orange County. He previously served as chaplain at Chatham Hall and vicar of Emmanuel Church in Chatham.

+ The Rev. Mary Stanley, assistant rector at Church of Our Savior, Charlottesville, has accepted a call to serve as priest-in-charge at St. Paul’s Church in Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

+ The Rev. Brian W. Turner has been called as assistant rector and Canterbury chaplain at Trinity, Fredericksburg. He is a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary out of the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

+ The Rev. Ruth D. Walsh has been called as interim rector at St. James, Mount Vernon, Alexandria.
Las prioridades para el ministerio y la misión: Juventud y la formación de adultos jóvenes

De nuestras cinco prioridades para el ministerio, la formación de jóvenes y adultos jóvenes por el momento ha recibido mucha atención. Esto no debería sorprendernos. Se presume mucha preocupación detrás de las preguntas más frecuentes: ¿qué vamos a hacer? ¿cómo lo haremos? También existe mucha preocupación sobre este tema en relación con el propio futuro de la iglesia. Es común decirse que la iglesia siempre vive a punto de extinguirse y la demografía nos indica que tenemos tomar este tema con más seriedad (¿tal vez literalmente?) que lo hecho hasta el momento. Pero estoy convencido que la respuesta no surgirá de contemplar el futuro. La fe de nuestros jóvenes y adultos jóvenes debe ser una preocupación del momento presente. Ellos están en la iglesia ahora. Esta es la clave. Si respondemos a la necesidad de su formación cristiana ahora, los problemas del futuro se solucionarán por sí mismos. Si existe una crisis, entonces no se trata de un problema que podría aparecer en el futuro. Es en el aquí y ahora.

Existe toda una variedad de programas que se preguntan e ideas que se anuncian como la garantía de una solución. Muchas son buenas en sí mismas, pero me preocupa una solución única para problemas muy diferentes. Yo no creo que exista una fórmula mágica que cambiará toda la problemática con la juventud si tan sólo pudiéramos encontrarla. En cambio, yo creo que tenemos que retornar a los aspectos fundamentales. Para nuestros jóvenes (por ejemplo hasta la escuela secundaria) la formación cristiana comienza en el hogar. Naturalmente, yo no puedo decirles a los padres lo que deben hacer pero sí puedo decirles que la parte más importante de su tarea es el ejemplo que ustedes les dan. Al fin de cuentas, simplemente es hacer prioritaria la asistencia a la iglesia y la educación cristiana. Estos aspectos no son optativos en la vida cristiana: son fundamentales. La realidad es que si los padres no pueden inspirar un compromiso con la vida Cristiana si no lo demuestran en su propia vida. Y esto no está pasando. Los números no mienten. Con un promedio de 35% de asistencia promedio de nuestros comulgantes “activos” en la iglesia no deberíamos sorprendernos que nuestros jóvenes y adultos jóvenes no le asignen mucha prioridad al tema. Antes de descartar el tema por ser simplista, todos debemos recordar el potencial formativo de las cosas básicas de la vida.

Naturalmente, la situación es diferente con los estudiantes universitarios y los veinteañeros, un grupo notablemente ausente en muchas de nuestras congregaciones. ¿Cómo podemos atraerlos? Vale la pena notar el importante consenso observado durante la última conferencia de primavera para el clero, sus cónyuges y profesionales laicos: no deberíamos tratar de concentrarnos tanto en “atraer” a los adultos jóvenes sino tratar de hacer un esfuerzo para estar presentes donde ellos están cuando están libres de sus tareas. Por ejemplo: los “theology-on-tap” (grupos de teología en el bar) son grupos que se reúnen socialmente y para conversar compartiendo un poco de comida es algo que está teniendo mucho éxito en varias partes del país (y también tiene mucho éxito en Inglaterra: “pub theology” [grupo teológico en un ambiente muy informal]) y grupos de “popcorn theology,” donde un grupo se reúne para ver una película y discute sus temas teológicos, son actividades que han sido bien probadas.

Por otra parte, no deberíamos dejar de lado lo que podríamos hacer para atraer a los adultos jóvenes a la iglesia y hacerlos sentir cómodos en ella. Las investigaciones sobre el tema son muy provocadoras. Seguir pateando las antiguas batallas los espanta, de la misma forma que las luchas de poder en las congregaciones y los problemas de política de la iglesia. Las respuestas constantemente demuestran que los adultos jóvenes no tienen ni la paciencia y ni tienen respeto por esta clase de conflictos institucionales. Y algo me dice que Jesús tiene esta misma clase de actitud.

Un punto que debe ser enfatizado, particularmente porque muchos de nuestras comunidades todavía tienen muchos problemas con el tema, es el uso de la tecnología y medios de comunicación de avanzada para nuestra educación cristiana y comunicaciones. Los antiguos métodos basados en presentaciones didácticas y materiales impresos son bien conocidos pero apenas son “atractivos” para las nuevas generaciones. Creo que realmente queremos hacerlos pero nuestra gente a veces carece de la preparación necesaria y los equipos (algo que podría resolverse inmediatamente con un poco de dinero en el presupuesto de la iglesia). Es imposible discutir este tema: Ahora es imprescindible contar los equipos y programas de computación más modernos.

El culto también es un punto que merece ser considerado si queremos que la gente joven se acerque a la iglesia. Teniendo en cuenta mi propia experiencia como pároco, creo que es un error asumir que los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes sólo se interesan en estilos “modernos”, pero creo que algunas congregaciones se podría beneficiar explorando estilos alternativos. Sin embargo, esto debe hacerse muy cuidadosamente, no sólo por las reglas obligatorias del cuto episcopal, porque es necesario tener la habilidad para saber hacerlo sin diluir o aguar el contenido (“dumbing down” [en inglés] es la palabra usada por el autor y basada en el título más famoso e importante del libro de la autor Marva Dawn). Para mí, lo importante es que cualquier cosa que se haga debe ser bien hecha, con la clase de energía, compromiso y atención que puede convencer la pertinencia activa del culto cristiano para la vida de la juventud moderna.

Próximamente en la serie sobre prioridades diocesanas: Fortalecimiento de las congregaciones

- Traducido por el Rev. Thomas G. Mansella
One Seed at a Time

Grants strengthen ministry, fund needs replenishing

From local outreach to international aid and from feeding projects to youth formation, the diocesan Mustard Seed Fund is strengthening the ministries of churches in the Diocese of Virginia. This year, the Diocese awarded $18,500 in Mustard Seed Grants to churches and ministries across the Diocese to help further good work and outreach opportunities. Mustard Seed Grants are made possible entirely by your donations.

**Aquia, Stafford**

Aquia Table Project

Since 2009, parishioners of Aquia have rallied around this innovative feeding ministry, which each week provides hot meals to approximately 35 adults and children in a secure and welcoming environment. Youth and local high school students have partnered with parishioners to support the program. Aquia’s vision for the future includes plans to expand to meals for 50 individuals each week. Aquia’s Table will benefit from a grant of $1,750.

**Buck Mountain, Earlysville**

Remodel of Parish Hall

The parish hall is a space that’s integral to the health of the congregation at Buck Mountain Church. The hall is the facility for annual meetings and fellowship dinners in addition to use by local community organizations. The expanding Food Pantry ministry of Buck Mountain also makes extensive use of the parish hall, which offers no insulation and inadequate storage space. They’ll use their $4,890 grant to insulate and upgrade the parish hall space to better support their ministries.

**Christ Church, Winchester**

Mission Trip to Dominican Republic

Christ Church seeks to reach beyond itself in service, and their relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic is one way they’re making this goal a reality. Past efforts have included sending mission teams to the city of Bani for medical aid and vacation Bible school programs. Christ Church will use this grant of $1,000 for an upcoming trip of youth and adults to lead vacation Bible school for two churches and children throughout the community.

**Church of the Messiah, Fredericksburg**

Habitat for Humanity Support

Together with members of the local chapter of the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Methodist Conference, Church of the Messiah has joined in a project with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for a working poor family in the community. The churches have banded together to provide the volunteer labor, and fundraisers have provided some financial support. They’ll use their grant of $3,000 to help complete the well and septic system for the housing.

**Grace Church, Casanova**

Come, Grow, Go Project

A small parish located in a relatively remote location, Grace Church is taking a fresh look at its ministries and seeking to provide a safe, drug-free, alcohol-free and violence-free environment where teenagers can come together and learn how to be good citizens. The Come, Grow, Go Project will invite high school students to gather at the parish hall for social events, movies, field trips and service days. Grace Church will use their $1,500 grant for supplies, including a projector, screen and dry erase board.

**St. George’s, Fredericksburg**

Mission Trip to Our Little Roses, Honduras

St. George’s seeks to reenergize its commitment to Our Little Roses, a home for girls in Honduras, a relationship they have supported for over 10 years. Natural disasters and political strife in Honduras combined with economic downturn in the United States have left Our Little Roses in a precarious situation – and one to which St. George’s hopes to respond. Members of St. George’s will use the $750 grant for painting and infrastructure supplies on a mission trip to Our Little Roses.

**St. James’s, Richmond**

Mission Trip to Alaska

For the past five years, St. James’s has enjoyed a unique relationship with the Diocese of Alaska. Youth and adults have joined together on a mission trip there to aid in the construction of a new camp and conference center. Five teams totaling 64 volunteers have traveled to the work site to help complete this center, a necessary space for visiting retreat and camp groups. St. James’s grant of $1,610 will go toward roof, door and window costs.

**St. John’s, Columbia**

Ecumenical Community Barbecue

St. John’s hopes to jumpstart community involvement by fostering relationships between the four local churches in Columbia, Va. The men’s fellowship group will sponsor a free community barbecue to bring together members of all of the churches. Such an event will help break down community barriers while building friendships and partnerships. St. John’s grant of $500 will go toward food and supplies for the barbecue.

**St. Paul’s, Alexandria**

Head Start Class

Part of St. Paul's five-year strategic plan to improve programs and services includes the creation of a Head Start Center to offer high-quality early childhood education. St. Paul’s will use their grant of $3,000 to help transform an existing space into a Head Start classroom, which will accommodate 20 three- and four-year old children. This project deepens the church's commitment to mission in its neighborhood by bringing new families to the church and connecting the church with the community.

**St. Thomas’, McLean**

Pumpkin Patch Project Funding

Each year, the parishioners of St. Thomas' coordinate a major undertaking of turning their parish lawn into a pumpkin patch. Over 500 volunteers are involved in the effort, which entails purchasing pumpkins from a Navajo reservation. For every pumpkin sold, a percentage benefits St. Thomas' and a percentage returns to the reservation. St. Thomas’ hopes to increase their community visibility through this effort while supporting their own ministries.

The grant of $500 will go toward advertising for this project.

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September brings with it a host of new beginnings: a new school year; the start of fall; and for many churches, a new program year. With new beginnings comes new energy, particularly in a church setting. Here, several diocesan staff members provide their suggestions on how to focus that energy, offering their personal recommendations for books that might strengthen your church work, make you think differently and improve your daily ministries.

From the Rev. Canon Susan Goff, Canon to the Ordinary


Next to the Bible and The Book of Common Prayer, the most frequently used book on my desk when I was a parish priest was *Grounded in God*. A basic premise of the authors is that most people yearn for spiritual growth and renewal even when they are taking care of seemingly secular business matters. Building on that premise, the brief, 102-page text lays out straightforward guidance for practicing spiritual discernment while doing the business of the Church. Its suggestions help vestries and other groups to root all they do in prayer and in listening to God and each other. This little book is used regularly in our diocesan discernment process by parish committees that help individuals discern the ministry to which God is calling them. The 10 discernment listening guidelines, when adapted and adopted by any group, can help transform the work of the group and shift its focus from completing tasks to seeking the mind of Christ.

From Emily Cherry, Communications Officer


This little book packs a big punch with a very important message: amidst today’s technology and communications overload, we don’t necessarily need to communicate more frequently – we just need to communicate more effectively. Kem Meyer takes a fresh look at how to do just that. She divides her book into “bite-sized” chapters that address common communications obstacles that churches encounter; then, she offers practical solutions for how to solve them. Ms. Meyer suggests that we start communications strategies by working backward, thinking about the end result we want before figuring out how to achieve it. She also values a less-is-more approach to communications, which is clear and appreciated in her plain and direct writing style. The “Back of the Book,” in particular, is a real treasure trove: there, you’ll find recommended books and Web sites and samples and examples of effective communications strategizing. *Less Clutter, Less Noise* is a pleasure to read and might just change the way you approach church communications.

From Lindsay Ryland, Transition Ministry Officer


Last spring, the Dioceses of Virginia and Southern Virginia invited the Rev. Molly Dale Smith to speak to the interim rectors and transition consultants that serve both dioceses. Ms. Smith is an experienced interim rector and is currently serving as the president of Transitional Ministries in the Episcopal Church. After hearing her speak, I knew that I must read this book. Her compilation of essays by 13 members of the clergy from several denominations showcases the unique ministries that are performed by trained interim clergy and how they relate to congregations. The perspectives from which each of these essays is written contribute to a deeper understanding of clergy and congregational dynamics in a variety of transitional ministry settings. According to the Rev. Dr. Loren Mead, the concept of interim ministry came to its beginnings in the 1970s and has proven to be a key to successful transitions in parishes.
Clergy who are new to a diocese can have a lot to learn: How does the bishop schedule visitations? Who’s the best person to contact for pastoral support? What type of resources does the diocesan finance office offer? Two newly instituted annual Clergy Orientation Sessions will try to help clergy answer some of those questions while giving them a glimpse at the culture and life of the Diocese.

Clergy new to the Diocese are invited to attend one of two annual Clergy Orientation Sessions at the diocesan offices at Mayo House. “These gatherings will be a great place not only for clergy but for diocesan staff members to start putting faces and names together,” said the Rev. Canon Susan Goff, canon to the ordinary. “We want to make sure that clergy who are entering this diocesan community feel welcomed and supported. Most importantly, we want them to know about the resources that are available to them and their congregations.”

These sessions will take place on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 and Tuesday, May 17, 2011 from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 110 West Franklin Street in Richmond. Clergy are invited to worship during the weekly Eucharist, join together in lunch, meet the diocesan staff and participate in a question and answer session. Members of diocesan staff will share information about their work and ministries, as well as different procedures and processes administered through their respective offices. “I am eager for clergy new to this diocese to learn of the tremendous talents and abilities of this staff and how they can support clergy in their ministries,” said Henry Burt, secretary and chief of staff.

All clergy who have started new ministries in the Diocese within the past 12-18 months – including newly ordained clergy and clergy who are transitioning from other dioceses – are encouraged to attend.

If you plan to attend the November 2 session, please RSVP to Cathy Gowen (cgowen@thediocese.net or 800-DIOCESE x15) by October 29.

Music + Leadership

A new season of the Leadership Program for Musicians is in session. This two-year program affords church musicians and others interested in increasing their knowledge with the opportunity to develop their skills. Each year consists of five Friday evening and Saturday sessions, with courses ranging from Leadership of Congregational Song to Philosophy of Church Music.

The Leadership Program for Musicians was founded as a joint ecumenical effort, developed by the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The program has expanded to include the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the United Church of Christ Musicians, and the courses are open to all denominations.

Graduates who complete the two-year program receive continuing education certification. Learn more online at lpm-va.org.

Feeling the Spirit

The women of St. George’s, Fredericksburg, will host the 119th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia and the 121st Ingathering of the United Thank Offering on Thursday, October 21, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting called to order at 10 a.m. Beblon G. Parks, diocesan ECW president, has announced that “Feeling the Spirit through God’s Glorious Grace” will be the theme for the meeting and that the keynote speaker will be the Rt. Rev. Edwin F. Gulick Jr., who is currently the bishop of Kentucky and who will become assistant bishop of the Diocese of Virginia on January 1, 2011. A Eucharist following lunch will conclude the day.

Cost for the day, which includes lunch and other materials, is $20. Registration deadline is October 7. Childcare will be provided if requested by October 7. Each church in the Diocese of Virginia will receive a registration packet. For more information, please contact Barbara Teal at 703-680-5538 (bbeal7@verizon.net) or Kathy Jimerson (ECW Diocesan VP for administration) at 804-651-2599 (katies2007@comcast.net).

Reason to Celebrate

Residents and guests at the Shenandoah Westminster-Canterbury gather to celebrate wedding anniversaries of 50+ years, an event sponsored by the diocesan Committee on Aging.
Two residential homes for youth in Virginia are using innovative programming to offer education and developmental support to at-risk youth – and they’re doing so with the support of a large number of Diocese of Virginia churches.

Both the Jackson-Feild Home for Girls in Jarratt, Va. and the Boys’ Home, Inc. in Covington, Va. have their roots in the Episcopal Church. Celebrating its 155th anniversary this year, Jackson-Feild started off as the Jackson Orphan Asylum when it was founded in 1855 by the Rev. William N. Jackson, rector of St. Paul’s, Norfolk. In 1923, the Asylum merged with the Episcopal Home for Girls to become the Jackson-Feild Episcopal Home for Girls, located on the site of the home of George Feild near Emporia, Va. The Home continued to grow, offering social service and schooling programs. Today, Jackson-Feild is a residential treatment center for at-risk girls who have experienced severe emotional psychological trauma. Their programming includes a Richmond location, Eleventh-House, which offers preparation for independent living and provides prenatal care for pregnant girls. “Throughout its 155-year history, Jackson-Feild has remained steadfast in providing a home and cutting-edge services for girls with special needs,” said Tod Balsbaugh, director of development, in a recent press release.

Boys Home, Inc. started small, as a school and Sunday school in a log cabin run by the Rev. George Floyd Rogers, rector of Emmanuel, Covington. From that log cabin grew the Industrial School and Farm for Mountain Children and Home for Homeless Boys. Thanks to decades of strong leadership, the Home grew and developed a sound financial system. Today, Boys’ Home offers innovative programming, including off-site and on-site education options as well as vocational training and socialization and recreational development. The Home works to live up to its mission: “To help each resident strive toward becoming a productive member of society by developing his potential, spiritually, mentally, physically and socially.”

Though neither is located in the Diocese of Virginia, both institutions receive financial support from Virginia churches, counting 55 parishes and Episcopal Church Women chapters on their list of supporters. Learn more about these two homes online at jacksonfeild.org and boyshomeinc.com.

Innovative Programming at Residential Homes

Jackson-Feild and Boys’ Home, Inc.

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Abundant Blessings in Mission Partnership
Fifteen years of ministry between Markham and Myanmar

By Emily Cherry

In the world of mission partnerships, 15+ years of ministry together is something to celebrate. And as the Rev. Linnea Turner retires from Leeds Church, Markham after 17 years as rector, the church’s relationship with the Diocese of Toungoo in the Anglican Province of Myanmar will be part of her legacy.

The partnership between Leeds Church and the Diocese of Toungoo is one that started slowly and gained momentum. And, like so many mission partnerships, it is one that grew out of a personal connection. The Rev. Linnea Turner and the Rt. Rev. John Wilme both graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1989. About six years later, after serving as principal of Holy Cross Theological College in Myanmar, Bishop Wilme was elected as bishop of Toungoo. In a country ruled by a military regime and plagued by poverty, Bishop Wilme’s diocese is one that functions as a social service agency, too.

A partnership soon grew out of Ms. Turner’s and Bishop Wilme’s friendship. “At first it seemed that there was little we here could do except correspond and pray for the diocese there,” explained Ms. Turner. But when she mentioned in a sermon the difficulties of sending money to Myanmar, a parishioner mentioned that he had a friend who made regular trips there and would be happy to carry Leeds’ financial contributions. “God has worked an amazing number of miracles over the years to allow us to support Bishop Wilme and his diocese financially,” said Ms. Turner.

Through the course of the 15-year relationship, Ms. Turner has made eight visits to Toungoo to lead clergy conferences, meet with diocesan organizations and preach. On one trip, she brought her daughter, the Rev. Anne Turner, and several of her seminarian classmates.

What sustains a mission partnership for over 15 years? “The people of Leeds are very mission-minded,” explains Ms. Turner. “They really have a heart for outreach.” Plus, she added, “In smaller churches, there’s a lot of personal connection, personal accountability – they felt a personal connection with John Wilme and his diocese. You don’t drop a friendship.”

Bishop Wilme has paid two visits to Leeds. In 1996, Virginia Theological Seminary honored him with an honorary doctorate, and he traveled to Virginia for the occasion. Most recently, in spring 2010 VTS brought him over for a program – and he scheduled a weekend with Leeds in to the visit.

The Rev. Linnea Turner and the Rt. Rev. John Wilme celebrate the Eucharist together during Bishop Wilme’s most recent visit to the United States and Leeds Church, Markham.

The people of Leeds have worked hard to sustain this commitment. The parish chapter of Episcopal Church Women hosts an annual spaghetti dinner to benefit the partnership. The ECW and the Leeds Crafts Group has also provided grants to benefit Toungoo. One parishioner spearheaded an effort to send books to the Holy Cross Theological College library in the wake of destruction left by Cyclone Nargis.

The financial support from Leeds has had far-reaching effects in Toungoo. Funds have helped support a group of church-run boarding houses where students may live while they attend secondary school in town. The diocese has also benefited from a clean water project, financial aid for the support of priests and a project to teach local women how to use sewing machines to give them a marketable skill. In total, Ms. Turner estimates that their small church of around 250 baptized members has donated $24,000 over the past 15 years.

“In my life and ministry I have often wondered what is truly God’s will,” said Ms. Turner. “I have a feeling I often mix up God’s will and Linnea’s will! But the one thing I am totally sure of is the companion relationship between Leeds and Toungoo is truly God’s will – and God has blessed it abundantly.”

The diocesan Stewardship of Creation Committee will present an exciting conference on a subject critical to all of us. Please send a representative from your church so they can share with your congregation the serious story of Our Threatened Water Supply
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Please register online at www.thediocese.net/forms.

Questions? Please contact:
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Church Pension Group's Investment Rebound
By Mary Frances Schjonberg

The amount of assets the Church Pension Fund has available for benefits “rebounded well” in the past fiscal year, according to the Church Pension Group’s 2010 annual report.

At the end of March 2010, the pension fund had $8.516 billion available for benefits, compared with $7.024 billion at the same time last year.

The annual report shows that the fund is required to have $6.683 billion in assets available for benefits. Thus, it has $1.833 billion more than required. That amount is up from the $576 million that the fund had in additional reserves as of March 31, 2009.

The Church Pension Group provides defined-benefit pension plans for clergy and lay employees, as well as a defined-contribution plan for lay employees and other investment options. It also offers health, disability, life, long-term care and property and casualty insurance.

CPG also owns Church Publishing Inc. and sponsors the CREDO Institute, designed to give Episcopal Church clergy and lay employees opportunities to examine their lives and vocations.

The Saints of God
Holy Women, Holy Men published for trial use

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true and one was a doctor and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green.

—Hymn 293, Hymnal 1982

Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints, the new book of commemorations on the Episcopal Church calendar (succeeding Lesser Feasts and Fasts), does include doctors and queens, as well as deacons, nuns, priests, bishops, writers, kings, apostles, missionaries, hymn-makers, soldiers, monks, artists, composers, mystics, jurists, liberators, prophets and even an Olympic champion.

Some 10 years ago, the Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold, then-presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, asked the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music “to undertake a review and revision of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, and to consider anew each entry in the existing Calendar of Saints, alongside any proposed new commemorations,” he wrote in the foreword to Holy Women, Holy Men. It is the first complete revision of Lesser Feasts and Fasts in more than 40 years. The book was published in 2010 by Church Publishing Inc.

Copies of Holy Women, Holy Men are available from Church Publishing or from Episcopal Books and Resources and other Episcopal bookstores.

The 2010 school year will mark a fresh start for St. Andrew’s, the K-5 school in Richmond’s Oregon Hill neighborhood whose mission is to educate children of limited resources through a balanced academic, social and spiritual experience shaped by the Episcopal tradition and inspired by Christian faith.

Cynthia Weldon-Lassiter started her work as the new head of school in July. Dr. Weldon-Lassiter comes to St. Andrew’s from Montclair Kimberly Academy in Montclair, N.J., where she served in different teaching and professional development roles. After receiving her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Weldon-Lassiter went on to complete her doctorate studies at Columbia University.

One of the first orders of business in her new role was to schedule home visits with the parents of all the incoming kindergarten students. “I think a huge part of St. Andrew’s is building relationships: with the faculty and staff in the school, with the community, with the families, with the donors,” she explained. It’s an invitation that Dr. Weldon-Lassiter plans to extend to parents of all students throughout the school year.

Partnerships such as these are part of what drew Dr. Weldon-Lassiter to St. Andrew’s. “We talk about educating the ‘whole child.’ It’s even more so at St. Andrew’s,” she said. “Spiritually, emotionally, intellectually…Everyone’s looking out for the best interest of the students.”

Dr. Weldon-Lassiter’s vision for the future includes working to enhance the school curriculum; investigating ways to keep the historic building up-to-date; growing the partnership between the school and adjacent St. Andrew’s Church; and raising community awareness about the mission of St. Andrew’s. “I see myself as a face for the school,” said Dr. Weldon-Lassiter. “Making the community aware of St. Andrew’s…and what our mission is, that is a huge piece” of this job.

And looking even further ahead, Dr. Weldon-Lassiter hopes to reexamine the school’s offerings, both in terms of the grade levels currently available and after-school programming.

Dr. Weldon-Lassiter succeeds Mary Wickham, who retired at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Wickham, who started her career at St. Andrew’s as a fifth-grade science teacher, served as head of school for five years. The new library at St. Andrew’s will bear Ms. Wickham’s name in her honor.

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End of the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Wickham, who started her career at St. Andrew’s as a fifth-grade science teacher, served as head of school for five years. The new library at St. Andrew’s will bear Ms. Wickham’s name in her honor.

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David Charlton, President of Church Schools

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