Twenty-Four Years and Counting
A sustainable ministry in east Africa

By Emily Cherry

Just how does a mission project thrive and sustain itself for 24 years and counting? Dedication, personal relationships and some hard work, to be sure. The African Development Project (ADP) is a network of supporters in the Charlottesville area who work towards mission that “promotes development and enables people to improve their lives,” explained Sue Rainey, a St. Paul’s Memorial, Charlottesville parishioner and one of the founding members of ADP. In 1985, a group of six or seven people gathered in Charlottesville to discuss how they could help victims of the drought and famine in Ethiopia. The ADP grew out of that meeting, and since that time, members of Trinity, Charlottesville and Christ Church, Charlottesville have also joined in the efforts.

Finding the Center at General Convention

As this newspaper lands in your mailbox, members of the Diocese of Virginia are on their way to Anaheim, Calif. for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Our bishops, clergy and lay deputies, diocesan staff members and volunteers will spend almost two weeks attending legislative sessions, worshipping together, meeting with other deputations and publishing our daily opinion journal, Center Aisle, gearing up for now its fourth General Convention of commentary on the issues before Convention.

We’re excited to introduce some new aspects of Center Aisle. As usual, paper copies will be available onsite in Anaheim, and an electronic version will be online at www.centeraisle.net. This year, we hope to publish exclusive Web content, too, including video reactions from our bishops as well as a Center Aisle blog with perspectives from different members of our Diocese of Virginia team. Be sure to visit www.centeraisle.net throughout General Convention for daily updates.

To learn more about what Center Aisle is and what it has to offer, please read on to hear perspectives from our editor Ed Jones, a St. George’s, Fredericksburg parishioner and editor of the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star. Feel free to contact us with your suggestions, comments and letters to the editor at centeraisle@thedioocese.net

Strengthening Faith, Finding Consensus

By Ed Jones

How can General Convention not be fun when Mickey Mouse and Goofy will be right across the street? Thousands of Episcopalians will converge next month on a convention center in Anaheim, Calif., next to Disneyland, with all its irresistible symbolism.

But General Convention can also test your faith. For 10 days every three

/ GC continued on page 3
FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

A Letter to Virginia Episcopalian Readers

Dear Readers,

Every other month, we prepare to send The Virginia Episcopalian to almost 23,000 households across the Diocese and beyond. We thought you might appreciate a glimpse into how and why our diocesan paper arrives in your mailbox.

It is our goal to send a paper copy of The Virginia Episcopalian to every communicant household in the Diocese. Because we do not have the staff available to manage individual subscriptions for our large mailing list, we coordinate directly with our 181 churches, instead. Each year, usually around March, the Diocese of Virginia sends an asking letter to your church. This letter describes the importance of receiving The Virginia Episcopalian, includes a list of that church’s parishioners currently receiving the paper and requests that the church make the appropriate updates to the mailing list and return it to the diocesan office. This helps us keep the most up-to-date records of diocesan membership, and also conserves resources by removing out-of-date addresses.

These annual letters also ask for financial support. In 1966, the Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia called for all churches to support The Virginia Episcopalian outside of the annual budget. That means that we rely on your church’s voluntary contributions to publish and mail this newspaper. In 2007, the Executive Board set the yearly asking rate at $5 per household.

This was the first rate increase in seven years. Individuals and non-communicants outside of the Diocese are welcome to subscribe at the yearly rate of $6 per household.

Please keep in mind that the per-communicant contribution is entirely voluntary. While we strongly encourage all churches to financially support this important ministry, we will continue to mail paper copies to all communicant households on our mailing list even without a financial contribution. If your church is unable to make a contribution on your behalf, we certainly welcome individual donations, as well. The ministry of communications is a crucial one to support, and we urge you to discuss this matter with your clergy and vestry.

We hope this information gives you some more insight into why you receive The Virginia Episcopalian and how the subscription process works. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Emily Cherry
Managing Editor,
The Virginia Episcopalian

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A Little Seed, A Lot of Support: Give to the Mustard Seed Fund

Support youth and college ministries, outreach, world mission and local churches through donations to the Mustard Seed Fund. Send your contributions to:
The Diocese of Virginia
Attn. Stewardship & Development
110 W. Franklin St.
Richmond, VA 23220
years, the beauty and compassion of the Episcopal Church are on display. But so are the anger and dissonance. As passions grow, it’s easy to wonder if we are indeed one Church.

As I prepare for my fourth General Convention as editor of Center Aisle, the Diocese of Virginia’s daily opinion journal, I remain optimistic that my faith will be strengthened by the discussions, prayers and pageantry. I owe that optimism to Center Aisle.

From its first days at the 2000 General Convention in Denver, Center Aisle has argued that the impassioned debates, occasionally arcane amendments and shrill position papers should be viewed in the context of the larger truths that unite our Church.

Don’t misunderstand. We are not mushy moderates searching for unity at all costs. We are not guilty of employing what columnist Paul Greenberg has called “the power of the platitudinous” to evade tough issues. We are radical centrists who believe that our common faith at the foot of the cross trumps resolutions and canonical amendments.

The secular press will waste no time searching out the hot-button issues that relate to human sexuality. Center Aisle will cover these topics as well. But we also will be focusing on what you won’t read in the mainstream media—ecumenical outreach, church plantings, enriched liturgies and issues of economic justice.

Indeed, this year’s General Convention, in the midst of recession, offers a wonderful opportunity for the Episcopal Church to make its mark on issues of social justice. There are mouths to be fed and lessons to be learned from the economic collapse of the past few months.

Our coverage will seek to capture the rich liturgies, international flavors and fun moments of General Convention as well. On our pages and Web site, you will find editorial cartoons, humor columns, restaurant reviews, feature photographs, blogs and cultural commentary. We’ll make sure to take note of our “Goofy” moments.

Center Aisle also will not shirk from our responsibility to take issue with those who would turn this triennial meeting into a divisive shouting match. Those who insist on confrontation will gain no support from us. There are times when righteous anger is appropriate. But fundamentally we are a church whose spiritual lives are enriched by listening and learning from one another, not by insisting on up-or-down votes.

You can be part of General Convention with regular visits to www.centeraisle.net, and by writing us with your opinions at centeraisle@thediocese.net.

So buckle your seatbelts and get ready for an interesting few days. General Convention always seems to find a way to reach more consensus than the doomsayers predict. I have a feeling Anaheim will be no exception.
Solo Flight 2009 Takes Flight in Virginia

After nearly 20 years of effective outreach and evangelism to singles in the Episcopal Church, the popular Solo Flight has been transported to Virginia in a move of renewal. Solo Flight #19 will be held at Roslyn Retreat Center September 4-7.

“Our goal has always been to live out the familiar slogan - the Episcopal Church welcomes you - for adults who are single, regardless of their age or type of singleness,” explained Dr. Kay Collier McLaughlin, founder of Solo Flight Ministries With Single Adults and Solo Flight Conferences. “Now, we are excited about spreading our wings in several areas.”

Improving on the Original

“How do you improve on an original?” Dr. McLaughlin posed. “That’s the question that the staff of the Solo Flight National Conference for Single Adults has been considering as they approach a transition after two decades of ongoing ministry in the name of the Episcopal Church.”

First, she cited, is location. “This year, we will be at Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Virginia - a city that in itself includes two Dioceses - Virginia and Southern Virginia. That truly is symbolic of how we see ourselves, spanning geography, age groups and types of singleness. It is also convenient to two major airports and interstates, so we feel that some people who have not previously had the opportunity to attend the conference will be able to consider it.”

Next are fees. “In a difficult economic time, we are able to offer the full-service conference at a lower fee this year, which also should be encouraging to those who want to attend.” The conference fee is $475 for the long holiday weekend event, and includes room, board and conference materials.

Dr. McLaughlin said another key component is the young adult. “We have always been aware that our research on the issues and developmental tasks of single adult life is highly relevant to the lives of post-formal education through mid-30s men and women are living, and have always provided sessions to speak to those issues. We are moving very intentionally to provide resources on such relevant young adult issues as relationship issues, including relationships in the digital age; dealing with break-ups of relationships which were super-important but did not end in marriage, so their ending is not recognized by society; lifestyle concerns; and many others.”

To assist in developing the young adult and total ministry components of the conference, Solo Flight is welcoming Canon Sam McDonald, a well-known leader in young adult ministry who now serves as canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Lexington.

Ongoing Ministry

Formalizing leadership development and ongoing ministry for single adults will be a key focus. “We have worked to sustain the conferences as a network for fellowship and support for single adults and a statement that the Episcopal Church does welcome single adults,” she noted. “Now it is time to formalize these two activities for the future.”

Dr. McLaughlin is in discussion with a major seminary about developing a video conferencing course in leadership for ministry with single adults, which would make the training more widely available. The goal is to have at least two trainers in each province, and eventually, two in each diocese.

“If we do not train professionals to assist in starting and maintaining this ministry, utilizing our structure to reach our smaller churches, we are leaving ministry with single adults to the protestant mega-churches—and our people will go where they find their needs met,” she pointed out.

Future Expansion

While the effort has been slowed by the economic downturn, it is the intention of Solo Flight Conferences to work with Episcopal bishops to match the $50,000 grant and, in its third decade of ministry, to make the opportunity for single adults to have the benefit of this ministry available in five locations.

To register or to join the Solo Flight Yahoo e-mail group, contact the Rev. David Perkins, vicar of All Souls’, Atlee, at Davidwperk@aol.com. The registration deadline is August 15.

Web Design Services Available

Does your parish need a Web presence or a Web site redesign? Experienced Web designer available. Reasonable rates. Outstanding references.

Carrie Wendell
cwendell@gmail.com
Shrine Mont, the diocesan conference and retreat center in Orkney Springs, Va., is known by many as “a place apart,” away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, free from the noise of traffic, phones and TVs. And because it is a place apart, Shrine Mont is the ideal location for a place of togetherness for churches from across the Diocese. Each year, dozens of parishes make an annual pilgrimage to Shrine Mont for a time of retreat, marked by contemplation, worship, relaxation and fun.

A Different Kind of “marching band”

Perhaps the most curious part of the Shrine Mont Marching Band is that they don’t, in fact, march. “We sit on those wonderful rockers at Shrine Mont and rock,” joked Randy Cabell, one of the founders of the band that meets at Shrine Mont every year as part of the Langley Parish retreat. “We marched one time back in 19-whenever-it-was,” recalled Mr. Cabell. “We marched up the road, and that was enough to convince us that the Shrine Mont Marching Band would remain ‘marching’ in name only.”

The Marching Band started 31 years ago when St. John’s, McLean and its then-mission-church, St. Francis’, Great Falls (the two churches that make up Langley Parish) gathered at Shrine Mont for a retreat, and someone suggested that the musicians in the group take along their horns. What started as an informal jam session soon morphed into the official Shrine Mont Marching Band when Mr. Cabell and his friend, Paul Ward, decided to form the nucleus of the group. Each year, the number of participants varies, but the idea’s the same: musicians of any experience level from any churches gather at Shrine Mont during the Langley Parish retreat to have fun and play some good music. Mr. Cabell brings his Bennett Band easy-learner books and provides a few arrangement, and whoever shows up, plays. One year, members from the National Symphony Orchestra decided to join in the fun. As Mr. Cabell says, “If you’ve got a trumpet or you’ve got a tuba, you can play.”

The members that make up the Marching Band are a diverse group, ranging in ages from 12 to 76. And since the tradition has continued for over 30 years, they’ve seen a lot of their early members grow up. The band recently welcomed back one of their members, Andrew Ashley, Major, U.S. Army, from deployment in Afghanistan. Mr. Cabell attended his christening at St. John’s, McLean, and Major Ashley even played in the band himself when he was younger. Mr. Cabell, who creates most of the band’s arrangements, composed a special piece in Major Ashley’s honor. (If you’d like to receive a copy of the arrangement, please contact Mr. Cabell at rcabell@dhova.com.)

Over the years, the Marching Band has integrated new traditions into their retreat schedule. One afternoon during the course of the weekend, the band loads onto a hay wagon and rides up the hill to play a song or two for the parishioners from Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria, who holds their Shrine Mont retreat during the same weekend. The Resurrection folks return the favor with a heart-felt serenade, which Mr. Cabell describes as “a wonderful sharing.” It is traditions such as these that make up the heart of Shrine Mont retreats.

Getting Creative

At Pohick, Lorton’s annual Shrine Mont retreat each June, around 130 parishioners gather around a theme. Past retreats have focused on Celtic spirituality, for example, or contemplative prayer. This year, attendees will explore how to strike a spiritual balance in their lives. The theme is “usually not anything heavy duty,” explained the Very Rev. Dr. Don Binder, rector. “A lot of times, [the retreat] revolves around nature themes or relaxation themes or creativity themes.”

At their Creative Christianity retreat, for example, parishioners took charge of leading different workshop areas, including music, art, photography, and even flower arranging. After spending the weekend focusing

/ Retreats continued on page 6
on these individual areas, the parishioners joined together for a group Eucharist, with the art and photography from those workshops decorating the Shrine, songs and lyrics provided by the music group, and arrangements provided by the flower group.

The worship portion of the weekend is also an integral aspect of their time together. “We keep the daily office on Friday and Saturday, and conclude with a celebratory Eucharist on Sunday, offering thanks to God for our time together,” wrote Dr. Binder in a recent parish newsletter. “Sessions throughout the weekend provide a component of study, allowing old and young alike to drink more deeply from the thirst-quenching springs of our Christian faith.”

But fellowship itself plays a key role, too. “This is the one time of the year that a significant portion of our parish gathers for an extended period,” wrote Dr. Binder. “As such, it has always been an occasion for friendship and memories to be made.”

Spiritual Refreshment

Old-fashioned fun is the name of the game for All Saints’, Richmond’s August weekend retreat. Saturday night typically revolves around group entertainment—square dancing or a talent show, for example. An ice cream social, watermelon seed spitting contests, hayrides and bonfires also play prominent roles in the weekend’s events.

To introduce newcomers to Shrine Mont, in past years All Saints’ has sponsored a photographic scavenger hunt. Teams of parishioners dispatch themselves across Shrine Mont and around Orkney Springs in search of particular landmarks and armed with digital photographs. “We try to have fun, as well as to learn something about ourselves and our own faith,” explained Barbara Dawson, an All Saints’ parishioner and retreat coordinator for the past two years.

But ultimately, noted Ms. Dawson, the retreat “started with the idea that the weekend would be spent in a very spiritual mode.” And even though the weekend has grown to include more fun and fellowship, spirituality is still at the heart of the retreat. The two highlights of their time together,
Grant Fuels Music Education

By Emily Cherry

While the Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM) is a certification program, designed to provide continuing education for musicians, clergy and lay leaders, the program goes beyond those basic goals. It also fosters a sense of collegiality with fellow musicians, as well as a partnership with church colleagues, explains the Rev. Eric Moehring, pastor of Christ Church Lutheran, Richmond and an LPM faculty member.

The focus of LPM is on churches that might not otherwise have access to these continuing education resources. LPM “helps musicians in middle size and smaller congregations who may not have had extensive training to be able to work with their pastor or rector to provide strong leadership,” said Mr. Moehring. But LPM’s courses are not just for musicians. An important part of LPM is its inclusivity. The program encourages church musicians, choir members, worship/liturgy committee members, vestry members, clergy and parishioners to attend. Mr. Moehring urges that “clergy support and vestry support are really important” to the collaborative nature of LPM.

Courses in the two-year program vary in format and structure—some are lectures, some are more hands-on—and range from studying the philosophy behind church music to how to teach new music to a congregation. “Hymnody of the Christian Church” offers a study of the schools and styles of hymns, while “Principles of Choral Leadership” focuses on choral conducting and voice training. “Liturgy and Music” explores the foundations of the Christian Church by examining the church year, the lectionary and theology. “Resources for an Effective Music Ministry” emphasizes the nuts-and-bolts approach to finding tools and ministry to facilitate your job.

Although LPM started in the Episcopal Church, it’s grown to be an ecumenical program, including members of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church. But overcoming differences between the denominations, said Mr. Moehring, is not an obstacle: “We find... that our theology and biblical basis for worship is all the same.”

Thanks to a 2008 grant from the diocesan Mustard Seed Fund, LPM will become available to more people financially in 2009. The grant provides for partial scholarships for 24 participants from small- to medium-sized churches. After completing two years’ worth of sessions, participants earn a certificate. But they also earn increased musical, pastoral and leadership skills, as well as a better understanding of how music and liturgy interact in the church setting.

Learn more about LPM at www.lpm-va.org.

How to Apply for a Scholarship

Each year of the LPM program costs $600 per person. Under the Mustard Seed grant, $100 of the annual tuition must be covered by the local church or individual. The church can then apply for a $500 scholarship on behalf of the individual or individuals it wishes to participate in the LPM program. Grants will be given to churches, not to individuals. All regions are invited to participate. A total of 24 scholarships will be available in 2009.

Request a scholarship application by contacting Marjorie Claybrook at the Diocese of Virginia: 800-DIOCESE x17 or mclaybrook@thedioce.net.
College for Bishops Strengthens Episcopacy

By Carol E. Barnwell

More than three dozen new bishops gathered May 18-22 in North Carolina for a special residency program sponsored by the College for Bishops. Living Our Vows is a three-year program designed to support spiritual health and personal development of new bishops and to equip them for transformative leadership. The two main elements of Living Our Vows are a series of three residential retreats and an ongoing peer coaching relationship with an experienced bishop.

“The episcopacy is a unique and demanding vocation with a steep learning curve,” said the Rev. Margaret Ann Faeth, associate professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, rector at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria and outside speaker at the retreat. “Over the past two years, I have been impressed with the commitment of the new bishops and their eagerness and receptivity to the program,” she said, noting the diverse and exceptional faculty who assist in the professional and personal development of those called to the vocation of bishop.

Thirty-seven bishops, including five Canadians, one from Scotland and one from Ireland, joined six Episcopal faculty members and 10 guest instructors at Lake Logan Conference Center in Canton to consider a wide range of topics.

“The College for Bishops is changing the culture of the House of Bishops,” participants noted in their evaluations. They said that the “substantial learning opportunities and honest friendships help equip us to be more effective leaders together for the whole Church.”

Worship and Bible study framed the bishops’ time and small group discussions on individual cases studies helped develop deeper working relationships.

The retreat covered a holistic approach to communications strategies for the upcoming General Convention in Anaheim, July 7-18, as well as provided an in-depth look at the bishop and the Book of Common Prayer.

The bishops, in three classes according to their consecration date, attended sessions in media training and considered their new, more public roles. They studied the polity of the Episcopal Church with David Beers, Esq., chancellor to the presiding bishop, and were brought up to date by Sally Johnson, Esq., on Title IV, the Church's disciplinary Canons. The bishops also considered their unique role as a visionary for their dioceses and how to support that with effective organizations. Third year bishops studied implementation of transformational leadership.

Newly consecrated bishops who attended for the first time said: “We can't imagine that there was a time without Living Our Vows. The topics and timing, with the focus on learning and fellowship, were perfect for us as we struggle with our new roles, identity and authority.”

Other attendees called their time “invaluable” and said their deepening relationships allowed them to “learn from one another.” They said, “What we learn, the relationships we build, the formation we [experience] cannot help but make us better bishops, which in turn builds a better and healthier Church.”

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Virginia, has been an active participant in the College of Bishops since his consecration in spring 2007.

Spring Ordination at Christ Church, Alexandria

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee (left) and the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones (far right) stand with newly ordained transitional deacons (from left to right) the Rev. Beth Magill, the Rev. Cherian Pulimootil, the Rev. Beth Reed and the Rev. Mary Thorpe.
Bill Gates Comes to Winchester

by Emily Cherry

Bill Gates in Winchester, Va.? Well, sort of. Global Technology Services, a Microsoft “Gold Partner,” recently hosted a series of Small Business Server Technology Makeover Events in the mid-Atlantic area. To qualify for the technology makeover contest, potential awardees had to attend a free informational workshop, hosted by Global Technology Services and the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber. All attendees were automatically entered in a contest to receive technology upgrades valued at $50,000. And the winner of the event held in Winchester was none other than Christ Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Webster Gibson, rector, didn’t immediately believe that they had won the contest with no strings attached. Global Technology Services provided a consultant to Christ Church to help them determine how to allocate the funds. The church can look forward to larger computer monitors that will improve desktop publishing capabilities; 20 new computer towers to replace old, outdated ones; a printer for every desk; a server; a free year of Internet service from Comcast; and up to 50 hours of training.

“It will give us greater capability” for technologies to enhance church life, said Mr. Gibson. “The nature of the church is both its gift and its challenge: we can jerry-rig anything and work to make it happen.” This technology makeover, though, “gives us the ability to look ahead.”

Learning to Dream

On April 25, St. Andrew’s School in Richmond celebrated its 115th Anniversary with a “Learn to Dream” celebration, featuring a silent art auction and cocktail reception at the NewMarket Corporation Pavilion. St. Andrew’s is an independent, Episcopal, tuition-free elementary school dedicated to educating children of limited economic means through a balanced academic, social and spiritual experience. Above, St. Andrew’s School Choir performs for the celebration attendees.
Attendees of the May 6 Stewardship of Creation meeting at Buck Mountain, Earlysville learned about some exciting developments in the world of energy conservation. Jerry Lawson, national director of the ENERGY STAR Program at the Environmental Protection Agency, announced that the long-awaited House of Worship Portfolio Manager Software will be launched in July 2009.

The Portfolio Manager is a free, Web-based tool which will help houses of worship track their energy use for lighting, heating, cooling and office equipment. ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager provides a platform for identifying and tracking energy and water-related costs, allowing churches to reclaim money that could be spent on other worthwhile programs. The software program will be available at www.energystar.gov.

On September 12, 2009, members of the Stewardship of Creation Committee will join with other ENERGY STAR partners to present a workshop at the diocesan Stewardship Conference at St. John’s, Richmond. Participants should bring their church's monthly energy costs for 2008 to set up a profile in the program.

The Stewardship of Creation committee has met five times a year since 1992 in response to a resolution passed at the 1991 General Convention, where members of Convention voted on a resolution that declared environmental stewardship to be a matter of “highest urgency” and encouraged churches to develop programs that address threats to God’s creation. The mission of the Committee is to provide guidance, support, speakers, newsletters and teaching materials to:

- Help parishes identify and implement ways to become better Stewards of God’s Creation.
- Offer ideas for action to help restore and protect the earth.
- Provide theological and scientific materials on environmental matters and spirituality.
- Encourage dialogue on the environment and our faith.

Churches in Action

Ware Church, Gloucester recently began implementing their own “go green” efforts with an educational program involving students in the Christian education classes. Through the guidance of the teachers and volunteers, the children constructed bird feeders and joined together as “Youth Daffodil Growers.” The blessing of a new butterfly garden was the perfect means to restore the habitat for God’s creatures. The school year ended with a program on the preservation of the Chesapeake Bay presented by Lisa Lawrence of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and a canoe trip down the Dragon Run stream.

Emma James proudly displays a cultivar she planted as part of the Stewardship of Creation program at Ware Church, Gloucester.
Dear Friends,

This spring and summer have included many occasions of thanksgiving for me. With my resignation as diocesan bishop effective on October 1, 2009, I am very conscious that most events in which I participate are my “last time” as diocesan bishop.

So, the annual spring Clergy, Lay Professional and Spouse Conference at Shrine Mont, commencement at Virginia Seminary and ordinations of deacons at Christ Church, Alexandria, were all “last times,” and each included some very welcome recognition of the ministries we have shared.

“Last times” are present in the lives of all of us, especially in the spring and summer, as parents see their children complete particular levels of education. (We saw our oldest grandson graduate from elementary school.)

“Last times” are important occasions to thank God for what has been, for patience for our role in what should not have been and for confident hope in the future that God is unfolding for us.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church meets from July 8-17 in Anaheim, California. This is my last convention as a diocesan bishop. The Diocese of Virginia is again publishing Center Aisle, a daily journal distributed at Convention and available online, offering our perspective on what we think are those actions that can unite the Church around its central focus of the mission of Christ.

I am writing this letter prior to the 20th Annual Bishop’s Bluegrass Festival on July 4th at Shrine Mont, a celebration of our diocesan family as well as of our national independence.

To focus on “last times” might be sad and painful, but our times together these last 25 years, in spite of disappointments, have been largely happy and exciting opportunities for mission and building the Body of Christ. And I am confident for the future of the Diocese of Virginia. In Bishop Shannon Johnston, you have chosen an articulate, committed servant of Christ whose youthfulness and energy will open new opportunities for this venerable diocese.

My “last time” to preach as your bishop will be at St. Paul’s Church, Richmond, on Saturday, September 19, at the service marking our silver jubilee of ministry together and our taking leave of one another.

I thank God for you and look forward to these last events together

Faithfully yours,

Peter James Lee

Silver Jubilee and Service of Leave Taking

On Saturday, September 19, members of the Diocese will join together at St. Paul’s, Richmond for a liturgy marking the silver jubilee of the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee’s ministry in Virginia and commemorating his leave-taking. All members of the Diocese are invited to join in this 10:30 a.m. celebration. Look to future issues of the e-Communiqué for more details on the event.
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 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. Peter James Lee
The Bishop Coadjutor
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

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Anna Moncure, Program Coordinator 31
Lindsay Ryland, Transition Ministry Officer 13
Karen Smith, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant 10

July

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First Thursdays Evensong; St. Stephen’s, Richmond; 6:45 p.m. Features Virginia Girls’ Choir.

4
20th Annual Bishop’s Bluegrass Festival; Shrine Mont; 3-7 p.m.

5
Bishop Lee Celebrates at Cathedral Shrine; 11 a.m.

5-11
57th Annual Family Conference; Shrine Mont.

8-17
General Convention; Anaheim, Calif.

19-23
4th Annual Art & Soul Retreat; Shrine Mont.

27-29
Education for Ministry Training; Roslyn.

August

17-20
Clergy Respite; Roslyn. No cost to clergy. Contact info@roslyncenter.org.
Bishops’ Visitations

Bishop Lee
July 5
a.m. Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration

Bishop Johnston
July 26
a.m. Christ the King, Harrisonburg
August 2
a.m. Church of the Spirit, Kingstowne
August 9
a.m. St. Mark’s, Alexandria
August 16
a.m. Cople Parish, Hague
p.m. St. Mary’s, Fleeton
August 23
a.m. Abingdon, White Marsh
p.m. Kingston Parish, Mathews
August 30
a.m. St. Matthew’s, Richmond
p.m. Church of the Messiah, Chancellor

Bishop Jones
July 5
a.m. St. John’s, Centreville
July 26
a.m. Christ Church, Middlesex
a.m. Immanuel, King & Queen
p.m. St. David’s, Aylett
August 2
a.m. Wicomico, Wicomico Church
August 30
a.m. St. John’s, Tappahannock
a.m. St. Paul’s, Hanover

Clergy Changes

+ The Rev. Betsy Baumgardner has resigned as assistant rector at St. Thomas’, McLean to relocate to Mississippi.
+ The Rev. R. Bruce Birdsey is serving as part-time priest-in-charge at Christ Church, Luray.
+ The Rev. Peter Carey, chaplain at St. Catherine’s School, Richmond, has been called as assistant rector of Emmanuel, Greenwood.
+ The Rev. Dana Colley Corsello has been called as rector of St. Luke’s Church in San Francisco. She has been associate rector of St. James’s, Richmond since 2001.
+ The Rev. Matthew Cowden has accepted a call to St. Michael and All Angels in South Bend, Ind., as their rector, beginning at the end of June. He has been assistant rector at Christ Church, Alexandria since 2006.
+ The Rev. Sarah Kinney Gaventa will be associate rector at Trinity Church, Princeton, N.J. beginning in July. She has served as assistant rector at Emmanuel, Greenwood since 2005.
+ The Rev. Laura D. Inscoe is the new rector at St. John’s, Richmond. She has served as associate rector at St. Mary’s, Goochland since 2003. She will begin her new ministry in July.
+ The Rev. Daniel Lennox, clergy resident at Christ Church, Alexandria, has accepted the call of St. Matthew’s Bedford, N.Y. to be their assistant rector.
+ The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna, assistant rector at St. Mary’s, Arlington, has accepted the call of St. Alban’s, Davidson, N.C. to be their assistant rector and Episcopal chaplain at Davidson College. She will leave St. Mary’s at the end of July.
+ The Rev. Nick Myers will join the Christ Church, Alexandria clergy resident program in July 2009. He is a graduate of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.
+ The Rev. Rebecca Justice “Justi” Schunior will join the Christ Church, Alexandria clergy resident program in July 2009. She is a graduate of the Candler School of Divinity at Emory University in Atlanta.
+ The Rev. John “Eric” Thompson has been called as associate rector of St. James’, Warrenton, beginning September 1, 2009. He is currently serving as a U.S. Army chaplain.
+ The Rev. John Wall has announced his retirement from St. Peter’s, Fort Royal as of September 30, 2009.

Deaths

Jean Baden, widow of the Rt. Rev. Dr. John Alfred Baden, died at her home in Winchester on Thursday, May 9, 2009, at a daughter’s home in Dayton, Va. After graduation from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1956, Mr. Pendleton was ordained deacon and priest and served churches in the Diocese of Virginia, including St. John’s, Centreville; Emmanuel, Woodstock; and St. Andrew’s, Mt. Jackson. He was the widower of Julia Pendleton and leaves three daughters and three granddaughters. Services were held at the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration.

The Rev. William Pendleton, 93, a retired priest of the Diocese of Virginia, died Saturday, May 9, 2009, at his home in Dayton, Va. After graduation from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1956, Mr. Pendleton was ordained deacon and priest and served churches in the Diocese of Virginia, including St. John’s, Centreville; Emmanuel, Woodstock; and St. Andrew’s, Mt. Jackson. He was the widower of Julia Pendleton and leaves three daughters and three granddaughters. Services were held at the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration.

Ellen Townsend, widow of the Rev. Morton Townsend and a longtime member of Trinity, Lancaster, died on Friday, May 22, 2009, at Rappahannock Westminster Canterbury in Irvington, Virginia. She was 94 years old. As per her wishes, there will be a private burial in Rocky Mount, North Carolina this summer for family members.

Addendum

In the May 2009 article, “Reaching out through Music,” the Rev. Rod Caulkins and the Rev. John D. Lane should also be included in the list of clergy who participate in the “Nursing Homes Swing” program.
La “última vez” se está acercando

Estimados amigos:

Esta primavera y el verano tienen muchas ocasiones para estar agradecido. Junto con mi renuncia al cargo de Obispo Diocesano a partir del 1 de octubre de 2009, estoy muy consciente de que muchos eventos en los que estoy participando serán la “última vez” en que lo hago como su obispo de Virginia.

La reciente Conferencia de Primavera para Clérigos, Profesionales Laicos y sus cónyuges en Shrine Mont, la ceremonia de graduación del Seminario de Virginia y la ordenación de diáconos en Christ Church, Alexandria, fueron esta clase de “última vez” y cada una de ellas incluyó el debido reconocimiento de los ministerios que hemos compartido.

En nuestras vidas siempre hay una “última vez” especialmente durante la primavera y el verano cuando los padres ven a sus hijos completar un nivel de educación. (Nosotros vimos a nuestro nieto mayor graduarse de la escuela primaria.)

Una “última vez” es una ocasión importante para agradecer a Dios por todo lo pasado, hacer penitencia por nuestra responsabilidad en lo que no ha sido logrado y por la confiada esperanza en el futuro que Dios está preparando para nosotros.

La Convención General de la Iglesia Episcopal se reunirá del 8 al 17 de julio en Anaheim, California. Está será mi última convención a la que asistiré como obispo diocesano. La Diócesis de Virginia nuevamente publicará Center Aisle, un boletín diario distribuido en la Convención y disponible también en la Internet para ofrecer nuestro punto de vista sobre aquellas determinaciones que nosotros creemos que podrán unir a la Iglesia alrededor del núcleo central de la misión de Cristo.

Les estoy escribiendo antes del próximo 20º Festival Anual de Bluegrass del 4 de julio en Shrine Mont, una celebración para toda la familia diocesana y también nuestra independencia nacional. Pensar solamente en la “última vez” puede ser triste y doloroso, pero el tiempo pasado durante estos 25 años, a pesar de los desencantos, en su mayoría ha sido feliz y pleno de muchas oportunidades para la misión y la edificación del Cuerpo de Cristo.

Tengo mucha confianza en el futuro de la Diócesis de Virginia. En el Obispo Shannon Johnston ustedes han encontrado un siervo comprometido y capaz cuya juventud y energía crearán nuevas oportunidades para esta venerable diócesis.

La “última vez” en que predicaré como su obispo será en St. Paul’s Church, Richmond, el sábado 19 de septiembre durante una celebración litúrgica de nuestras bodas de plata en el ministerio junto con ustedes y para despedirnos unos de otros.

Doy gracias a Dios por ustedes y espero estar con ustedes en estas oportunidades, aunque sean la “última vez.”

Cordialmente,

Peter James Lee

Acto litúrgico de celebración del aniversario de plata y despedida

El sábado 19 de septiembre a las 10:30 am, los miembros de la Diócesis de Virginia se reunirán en la Iglesia St. Paul’s, Richmond, para asistir a un acto litúrgico en celebración de los 25 años de servicio como Obispo de Virginia del Rvmo. Peter James Lee y para darle la despedida. Se invita a todos los miembros de la diócesis a asistir a este acto. Se ofrecerán más informaciones en las ediciones futuras del boletín electrónico e-Communiqué.

Traducido por el Rev. Thomas Mansella
ADP continued from page 1 / ADP continued on page 16

The goal of the ADP is to foster mission work with a unique purpose: “We were going to support sustainable, generative, non-dependency generating projects,” said Bev Wann, a St. Paul’s Memorial parishioner and ADP co-founder who recently returned from a trip to Kenya. “We would receive an understanding, an education, of life in Kenya, and also develop close relationships.”

Relationships were actually what enabled ADP to form in the first place. Ms. Rainey was able to put ADP in touch with World Neighbors, an organization that works towards self-sustaining mission efforts. And fellow parishioner Anne McGuire knew of a priest, the Rev. Peter Indalo, who had started a development project in rural Kenya. ADP built on these relationships to create a support system for their network.

Communication, too, is key to ADP’s success. “Now we communicate with the Kenyan leaders and our supporters and interested people via e-mail,” said Ms. Rainey, “so when we hear from one of the leaders in Kenya, we can relay the needs and/or progress and the thanks to the whole list.” This set-up was particularly effective during a period of post-election violence in Kenya, when ADP was able to send immediate emergency funds thanks to their communications network.

ADP borrowed their fundraising technique from a Kenyan notion. Harambee, in Swahili, means “all pull together.” At their annual harambee gatherings, ADP will host guest speakers and a meal in return for donations. And, because ADP is a network of volunteers and not an organization with an office, 100 percent of donations can go directly to support their ministries in Africa. Their fundraising goal for this year is $20,000, and they have already exceeded the half-way mark.

Today, those funds help support five projects in east Africa. The projects reach different groups in different ways, but all with the same goal: to provide aid while fostering self-dependence and building strong relationships.

World Neighbors Program

One of the first connections made by ADP, World Neighbors helps communities organize to support basic needs by teaching soil and crop improvement, goat and poultry management, or better nutrition for children and those with HIV/AIDS. World Neighbors focuses on short-term projects to foster independence, and ADP has helped support several of these programs throughout the years. World Neighbors leaders have also visited Charlottesville. The key is “to get to know these people, to feel like we know what the money is going for,” explained Ms. Rainey. “We trust these leaders.”

Oyani Christian Rural Services

This community development center, founded by the Rev. Peter Indalo, is another one of the charter projects of the ADP, and they have financially supported the organization since 1985. Mr. Indalo has a vision for Oyani “to become the place where people come to learn skills, where people come to get support,” explained Ms. Wann, but he also has a larger vision for “people from the different tribes in Kenya to come to conferences and workshops and really do some deep reconciliation,” added Ms. Wann. Some of the development projects at the center include agricultural training, water projects, reforestation education, building cook stoves,
Diocesan Town Hall Meetings

Building a new vision for our diocesan ministry

by Emily Cherry

This fall, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, bishop coadjutor, will host a series of Town Hall Meetings designed to allow all members of the Diocese to contribute to a vision for the priorities in our new ministry together. The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, bishop suffragan, will also be present at all of these meetings. In addition, members of the diocesan staff will be present and available for questions and to provide an additional resource for the meetings. Clergy, lay leaders and parishioners are all invited to take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen our relationships as a Diocese as we look toward growing and enhancing our vision for diocesan ministries.

“Seven Town Hall Meetings will take place at different times and locations throughout the Diocese in order to allow as many people as possible to attend. These gatherings will be a chance for you to engage in conversation with fellow members of the Diocese; to brainstorm ideas on your perspectives and priorities regarding the future of the Diocese; and to have your voices heard by the bishops. Bishop Johnston plans to report back on his findings from these Town Hall Meetings at the 2010 Annual Council in Richmond and set forth a vision for the Diocese’s common life and mission over the next several years.

Two of these sessions will be dedicated to attendance by youth only (ages 14 and older). Youth ministers and others who work with youth are encouraged to attend these meetings, as well. These meetings will have the same agenda as all other meetings, but they will give the bishops the benefit of the unique perspectives, energies and voices of our younger communicants.

The Town Hall Meetings will take place at the following dates and times and will last no more than two hours. Please make every effort to attend one of these meetings.

**All-Diocesan Town Hall Meetings**

**Saturday, October 24**
Grace, Kilmarnock, 2 p.m.

**Monday, November 2**
Christ Church, Glen Allen, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, November 7**
Holy Comforter, Vienna, 10 a.m.

**Saturday, November 21**
St. Paul’s, Ivy, 10 a.m.

**Saturday, November 21**
St. Stephen’s, Culpeper, 2 p.m.

**Youth Town Hall Meetings**

**Saturday, October 24**
Christ Church, Glen Allen, 10 a.m.

**Saturday, November 7**
Holy Comforter, Vienna, 2 p.m.

ADP continued from page 15 / and facilitating women’s groups. Mr. Indalo “is a voracious learner,” said Ms. Wann, “and he studies development projects from around the world and then he tries them out in his community.” ADP’s funds support the building of the training center, as well as tuition for orphans.

**Watoto Village**

Founded by Jackie Wambui Chege, Watoto Village is a family home for orphans. Ms. Chege grew up in the slums surrounding Nairobi, dedicating her teenage years to sharing her food and clothes with the children who lived in the slums. She then turned her childhood passion into her life’s mission. Watoto Village supports 17 children who Ms. Chege took in off the street. “There are a million orphans” in Kenya, explained Ms. Wann, “and these children at Watoto Village don’t identify as orphans anymore.” ADP’s funds go to support schooling for the Watoto children because, as she explained, “without school there is no hope.” Ms. Chege’s hope is that, by making a difference in the lives of these orphans, they may one day take care of their own communities.

**Nyalwodep Project for Orphans**

This home, founded by the Rev. James Ouma, welcomes not just orphans but widows as well. “These two groups of people are working together, making a new home for them all,” explained Ms. Wann. ADP’s funds help pay for meals and school uniforms for the children, many of whom are orphans of the AIDS epidemic.

ADP’s overriding theme is sustainability, and in more ways than one. They’ve sustained their mission-oriented momentum for over 24 years. But they’ve worked, too, to support self-sustaining organizations that promote self-dependence. ADP’s partners “are looking at the healing and the self-sufficiency of their people,” explained Ms. Wann, “and they see us as more than a handout.” Their partners see ADP as just that: partners. And one aspect of that partnership is raising awareness to help stifle the sense of disenfranchisement which can be so debilitating. “They count on us for money… but they count on us to be known,” said Ms. Wann. “They know us by name, they know about ADP, and their mantra is ‘Bev, don’t forget us,’ Make sure you tell the people in Charlottesville not to forget us.” ADP is working to do just that. 
When Nell Crawford was 12 years old, she was confirmed at Grace & Holy Trinity, Richmond on Trinity Sunday. The next day, her mother insisted that Nell to “do what I could do to help the church along.” And so Miss Crawford signed up for the altar guild. Now, almost 79 years later, Miss Crawford is still going strong as a member of the altar guild at the parish where she’s been a lifelong member.

Her dedication to the parish certainly grew out of family involvement. Her father served as treasurer of Grace & Holy, and her mother was an active participant in parish life. After attending St. Catherine’s Episcopal School in Richmond, Miss Crawford went on to study at a school for medical secretaries before becoming a lab technician. All the while, her church involvement didn’t wane.

Miss Crawford’s earlier days on the altar guild included polishing the silver and brass and mending altar linens. She was responsible for the service on the third Sunday of each month, set aside as Litany Sunday. Today, her volunteer group in the altar guild is responsible for a full week’s worth of services, from Saturday morning through Friday evening. Through the years, as Grace & Holy gradually shifted away from a “low church” style, the altar guild’s responsibilities shifted, too, and grew. But it was a change that suited Miss Crawford: “I, personally, have gotten more out of it,” she noted. These days, the volunteer altar guild members typically dedicate an entire Saturday morning to prepare for Sunday.

Miss Crawford is involved in Grace & Holy life outside of the altar guild, too. Each Friday finds her cooking up a storm in the soup kitchen, where she and other volunteers typically feed about 80 hungry people. Once a month, she helps with the parish newsletter mailing. She also sang in the Grace & Holy Choir for 35 years and taught Sunday School. Some of the only lay church positions she hasn’t held, in fact, include chalice bearer and vestry member. “I don’t believe in being a one track mind,” said Miss Crawford.

Today, Miss Crawford lives in Richmond’s historic Fan district. When she’s not at Grace & Holy, she enjoys gardening, cooking and entertaining. But the majority of her free time is dedicated to her church, where she’s something of an institution. Each Christmas finds her baking plum puddings for the church’s annual sale. For church receptions, she’s known as the “Cookie Queen” for her baking abilities. And last July, when Miss Crawford turned 90 years old, the church celebrated with not one, not two but three birthday parties in honor of a lifelong parishioner.

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In Holy Faces, Holy Places, the Rev. Dr. Vienna Cobb Anderson, a priest in the Diocese of Virginia, shares with her readers a series of photographs and poems depicting her own spiritual journey. Here, Dr. Cobb Anderson shares how this book came to fruition.

Q: In your introduction, you write, “I began writing this book as a new path on my pilgrimage toward that sacred place from which I hoped to return renewed, enriched, and sanctified; seeking a way to name the holy within our lives, along unnamed paths to encounter God, and to share the experience with others.” Looking back, do you think you achieved your hopes for the pilgrimage?

A: I believe the search for naming the holy is a lifelong process and that everyone is involved in this search all the time. I learned a lot in this process. I broke out of former molds of expression in classical prayer and opened a door on the non-verbal expression of encountering the holy. The conclusion of the book, Holy Faces, Holy Places, brought me to what I regard as the “first chapter” of an ongoing process. Yes, I have been renewed enriched, and sanctified by all the people I met and photographed, and by the places wherein I experienced the presence of God.

I have walked many unnamed paths in this journey and been blessed by all of them, some more than others. I believe it was the surprises along the way that I found most breathtaking and life-giving. On a small street with plumbing running down the gutter in West Africa in the fall of 2008, I met three women who did not wish their photograph taken. They spoke very little English; however their first word to me was “Obama.” They smiled, I smiled and danced for joy, and they in turn joined me in dancing and celebrating. It turned out that they had been following our election on TV. Here we were, women from two very different worlds sharing a celebration of hope and the possibility of dreams fulfilled. Such experiences are not rare; the possibilities are all around us all the time, requiring only that we take the time and make the risk to engage the encounter.

Q: Do any photos or poems stand out to you as particularly memorable or sentimental?

A: They all do. At different times, I remember different ones, for different reasons. I laugh when I think of the pigeon drinking from the fountain; I am in awe when I recall the fish in the pond (used on the cover); I have great memories when I see the photo of my nephew as a two year old sitting on the steps of my mother’s home; it’s hard to chose. There are four photographs that I’ve had hanging on my wall longer than most: “the Beggar Man,” whom I saw in Beijing at the Imperial Palace; another is near the end of the book taken in Venice, “Unseen Boatsman”; there is the early photo taken in 1970 of the South African dancer, “the Shaman”; then there are the terraced fields in China. The unexpected discovery of what light does on water—you see before you click the camera is not what you get—that’s always a surprise, and frequently a delight. How can I choose? Every photo is filled with memories and a story; they’re all a part of my heart and soul.

Q: How did you become interested in photography and writing as means of spiritual expression and exploration?

A: Photography is something I’ve done since I went to the Near East with my dad for eight and a half weeks in 1963 when I left seminary.
I'm a very visually oriented person; I think in images more than in words, so photography has always been natural to me as a means of exploration and expression. Poetry is another thing that seems to be instinctive to me, although I didn't know that until now. (When I took the General Board of Examining Chaplains' exam, I wrote my first answer in verse; the readers were delighted when I switched to prose for the rest of the exam.) I guess I think in verse more than in prose, as I've always found it hard to write in paragraph form and used to sweat out every sermon. As a matter of fact, when I think about it, I never wrote out a sermon in prose - I only made an outline, a poem of sorts, and spoke extemporaneously.

Whatever medium touches one's heart and soul is a valid means. When I was in the theatre as a professional actress, I often experienced that which is holy on stage when in communication with the other actors and with the audience. When I create something with my hands, I have that sense of exploration and engagement with what is holy. Everyone has the capacity to discover many roads to explore and express their spiritual journey. As Shakespeare wrote, "We are such stuff as dreams are made of." We all dream and that is the beginning of our connection to all that is holy.

Q: It looks like many of your photos were taken while traveling. How did traveling shape your thought process and world view in creating this book? Do any trips stand out as particularly noteworthy?

A: It's easiest to answer the second question first. Many people ask whether I have a favorite place or trip. The answer is no, not really; I've loved every place I've ever been. There is one trip that was different from all the others, the trip to Antarctica. It was one place that was untouched by human civilization; it was ice, wind and sea. It was magical and pure.

I've been blessed to have been traveling since I was three years old so that from my earliest years I've always wanted to explore what lies beyond the immediate boundaries of the world in which I live. That's true emotionally, spiritually and intellectually. I've never been content with the status quo. I've always loved the possibilities of diversity. I guess having a grandfather who was born in Ireland, being raised in a segregated culture where I lived separated from people whose skin color or whose economic circumstances were different from those of my family, and going to a school that valued conformity, all of these nurtured a soul that longed for connection with God's creation in all its manifestations.

In this journey I've read several books about physics (I'm not smart enough to study the subject); however, I am fascinated with its connection to theology. For me, the language and concepts of physics have the ability to excite me as a way of speaking about what is holy in a contemporary way. The mysteries of physics have helped me to understand the interconnectedness of all things and how we, on this planet, with all our differing belief systems, are one people seeking a way to live in the light and love of the divine. I'd say the world has changed and shaped me, but most of all I have been blessed.
St. Paul’s, Richmond and St. John’s, Richmond, were among the 24 stops on the first-ever Anthem Stride Through Time history walk on Saturday, May 30. The 10K walk drew over 2,000 health and history enthusiasts to downtown Richmond, giving these two historic churches an opportunity to tout their past while also promoting their lively present.

Set up in Darden Gardens, between Capitol Square and the General Assembly building, St. Paul’s greeters were readily accessible to every participant in the walk. As walkers exited the Capitol Grounds towards St. Paul’s table, a number of folks took time to chat with church members over iced tea and cookies, listen to the music and visit the church for a look around.

St. Paul’s, consecrated in 1845, is listed in both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. From its history during the Civil War to their modern-day role as a proponent of the social gospel, St. Paul’s has been integral to downtown Richmond since its inception. The church interior features over 25 stained glass windows, ten of which are from the studios of Louis Comfort Tiffany, and a famous altarpiece replica of Leonardo Da Vinci’s “The Last Supper,” executed by Tiffany Studios and installed in 1896. The building is a masterpiece of the Greek Revival style.

St. John’s was the first church built in the city of Richmond, completed in 1741. The building became one of the most well-known churches in American history when, in 1775, over 100 Virginia colonial leaders, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, gathered in the worship space. It was on this site that Patrick Henry gave his “Give me Liberty or Give me Death” speech.

In addition to the two churches, other sites on the tour included the Edgar Allan Poe Museum, the Maggie Walker House and the American Civil War Center.

Shrine Mont is home to many thousands of books that provide windows into human creativity and spirit. Every conceivable topic and type of writing is included in these collections: sermons, missionaries, inspiration; adventure, romance, mysteries; poetry, autobiography, science; and much more. The books record the collecting and reading of many visitors and residents at Shrine Mont over the past century and more. These books reveal aesthetic, intellectual and spiritual sources that inspired many key figures in the history of Shrine Mont and the Diocese of Virginia including members of the Woodward and Gibson families. A project is underway to inventory and catalog every book shelved in 25 locations. Items are being cleaned, labeled and selected for special treatment. Some are fragile and require repair, and some are valuable and are being secured in a Special Collection. Significant progress has been made on the items in Dudley Reading Room and the Writing Room in Virginia House, Art Hall and Tucker Dining Room. Books in all other locations will be processed in the near future. Books may be signed out for use at home for up to 12 months. Sign-out forms are available at the Brown Hall and Virginia House service desks. We ask that Shrine Mont books be returned by mail or in person at your next visit.

You can browse and search the collection online at www.librarything.com/catalog/ShrineMontBooks.

If you have suggestions or comments about the Shrine Mont Books Project, please e-mail us at shrine@shentel.net.
**Church Ruins Being Transformed into Museum and Park**

By Lisa B. Hamilton, Episcopal News Service

The remains of the Elk Run Anglican Church, which dates from the 1750s, are being transformed into a museum and park in Fauquier County.

St. Stephen’s, Catlett, about 15 miles to the northeast, owns the property and is overseeing the site’s preservation. When excavation on the site began a decade ago, about the only known facts were that its first rector, the Rev. James Keith, was the grandfather of Chief Justice John Marshall and that it was the first Anglican church in Fauquier County. (The Episcopal Church was not organized until after the American revolution.) Archeological work uncovered a stone foundation in the form of a Greek cross, along with arrowheads, handmade nails, ceramic fragments, early coins, brick and glass. A burial ground was also discovered.

Volunteers hope to raise funds to complete the museum this summer. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for September 12.

**Ecumenical Organization Honors Bishop Lee, Governor Kaine**

By Emily Cherry

On Monday, May 18, the Virginia Council of Churches (VCC) honored the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, bishop of Virginia; the Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, governor of Virginia; and Trinity Ecumenical Parish at their annual Faith in Action Award Luncheon. VCC is an ecumenical community representing 37 governing bodies of 18 Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant denominations in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

VCC awarded the lifetime ecumenist award to Bishop Lee at the luncheon, held at St. James’s, Richmond. The VCC established the award in 2003 to recognize those who exemplify personal faith commitment and who build bridges that make community possible. Governor Kaine shared the honor with Trinity Ecumenical Parish, a faith community comprised of Episcopalians, Lutherans and Presbyterians in Smith Mountain Lake, Va. Governor Kaine noted that he was honored to share the day’s awards with Trinity Parish and with Bishop Lee, whose “service before you as bishop has been so remarkable.”

Mr. Raymond H. Boone, editor and publisher of the Richmond Free Press, served as keynote speaker for the day’s event. Learn more about the VCC online at www.vacouncilofchurches.org.
Supporting the Body of Christ Through DMS

By Karen Grane

In 1829, the Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia established the Diocesan Missionary Society (DMS) to address the “destitute condition of many of our parishes, and the utter inadequacy of any existing means of relief.” Despite a rather inauspicious beginning, DMS succeeded in supporting the mountain mission churches of the Diocese and was the organization that parishes went to for financial help.

Over the years, DMS has evolved into an organization that holds title to land and buildings in the Diocese. DMS also provides financing to parishes and mission churches for purchasing land, building churches and making improvements to church property. In other words, DMS supports the body of Christ by strengthening existing parishes, supporting mission churches and enhancing campus ministries. DMS has only been able to continue its mission for these 180 years because of the faith and investment of the parishes of the Diocese.

Parishes can invest in DMS in a way that’s similar to a certificate of deposit with a bank. A parish can earn interest by investing in DMS for five, 10 or 15 years and receive interest semiannually. The interest rate for a five-year investment is 5 percent, for a 10-year investment is 5.25 percent and for a 15-year investment is 5.5 percent. In addition, a parish’s investment in DMS brings much to the Diocese.

DMS has provided financing to parishes to fix roofs, renovate outdated buildings by providing access for those with mobility issues, and buy adjacent property that can provide additional room for a parish’s growth. DMS owns the house for Canterbury Campus ministry at James Madison University and the University of Mary Washington. It is financing efforts such as these that cement the word “missionary” in DMS’ name.

In support of mission churches, DMS purchased acreage in Hanover County to support All Souls’, Atlee, and is currently working with All Souls’ and St. Francis’, Goochland regarding construction of a church building for each. One of DMS’s best moments was providing the funding to the Diocese, at below market rates, to purchase what was once Boulevard Baptist and what is now La Iglesia de Santa Maria, Falls Church, a free-standing Latino mission church.

DMS does not only loan money. The loan payments we receive circulate back into the mission of DMS. The income that DMS earns on the loans and investments circulates back into the Diocese. From DMS income, the Trustees make grants to the Office of the Bishop – these grants have helped fund outreach efforts and the position of diocesan world missioner.

The work of DMS does not happen in a vacuum. It happens because of the investment that parishes and related organizations make in DMS. Currently about 20 parishes and one related organization invest in DMS. An investment in DMS supports the communal mission and ministry of the Diocese.

Recession or Renewal?

Explore the challenges the Church faces today at the Annual Stewardship Conference, Saturday, September 12 at 9 a.m. at St. John’s, Richmond. The conference will feature keynote speakers the Rev. Kath Rogers, senior resources officer for the Diocese of Liverpool, and Dr. Stephen B. McSwain, author of The Giving Myths: Giving then Getting the Life You’ve Always Wanted. Attendees will have the chance to participate in workshop sessions on such topics as stewardship for hard times, leadership challenges and capital campaigns. For the second time, the Stewardship Conference will also feature a workshop focused on the stewardship of creation and energy conservation. After the conference, participants will enjoy a reenactment in the historic St. John’s worship space, site of Patrick Henry’s “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech.

Questions? Please contact Marjorie Claybrook at 800-DIOCESE x17 or mclaybrook@thediocese.net. Registration forms will be available at www.thediocese.net.

Jackson-Feild Graduates Record Number

Jackson-Feild Homes, a residential treatment facility for at-risk girls in need of care, recently celebrated a record graduation. The Gwaltney School on its Jarratt, Va. campus had 15 graduates earn their GED or high school diploma, and six other graduates were recognized as certified nursing students.

Jackson-Feild offers clinical services, a spiritual program, an accredited school and a mother and infants program to females ages 13 up to 21 who are “at risk” for mental health problems, delinquent behaviors or failure to complete their basic education. The nonprofit organization, which has existed for over 150 years, operates two campuses in Virginia, in Jarratt and Richmond.

Jackson-Feild receives support from many diocesan organizations. Most recently, two young ladies from Jackson-
Classifieds

A Full-Time Parish Administrator is needed for the Church of the Resurrection. Located in the west end of the City of Alexandria, our parish is looking for a self-initiating, people-loving person to manage the parish office in a collaborative and friendly environment. The Parish Administrator is responsible for producing the weekly orders of service and monthly newsletter, coordinating the parish schedule, maintaining church records, and monitoring and ordering supplies. This person must display independent judgment and be able to prioritize workload and manage multiple simultaneous projects in a deadline-oriented environment. Most importantly, our Parish Administrator serves as the voice of the parish and is often the first person to respond to urgent pastoral needs in addition to providing routine information or assistance. She or he must consider interaction with parishioners a privilege. As in many detail-oriented positions, a sense of humor is essential. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, Publisher and Excel or similar software is required, as well as the ability to update our website. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Rector, the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin. Rector@welcometoresurrection.org. 703-998-0888 or e-mailing her at jamanard@gmail.com.


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 Bed & Breakfast, 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.

Virginia Vacation or Short Term – Those old memories are stored in your closets and you haven’t seen them for 571-243-8371 or morris21942@yahoo.com.

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

Hilton Head Oceanfront – Extraordinary townhouse on Seapines Goldcoast, sleeps 6-9 four full baths, msnwb@yahoo.com; 804-934-1148.

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.

The Shenandoah Valley awaits! Vacation or retirement homes in Shenandoah County offer a variety of quiet settings with easy access to golf, fishing, hiking, and skiing. Contact Kemp Miller, Coldwell Banker Four Seasons Realty, 540-856-8492 or kmiller@shentel.net.

Tell you personal story – in an audio or video documentary. Include pictures, videos and memorabilia. A gift to be cherished for generations. Call Sound Advice at 540-856-8492 or kmiller@shentel.net.

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Home Movies and Still Photos on DVD – Those old memories are stored in your closets and you haven’t seen them for 571-243-8371 or morris21942@yahoo.com.

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Stable-Hopping for 50 Years

For 50 years, Trinity, Upperville has drawn over 3,000 visitors to the Middleburg countryside each year for its Hunt Country Stable Tour. This self-driven tour invites participants to visit over a dozen premier thoroughbred breeding farms in the surrounding area each Memorial Day weekend, and is an exercise in hospitality for the congregation and the facility owners. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit Trinity’s outreach ministries, which include summer camp scholarships for children, the So Others Might Eat organization, the Piedmont Child Care Center and the Anglican Diocese of North Malawi. Funds from other church-sponsored programs, including a church thrift shop and an annual Christmas auction, also help support Trinity’s outreach ministry.

Pictured, above, is the Rev. Robert L. Banse, rector of Trinity, with tour co-chair Nicky Perry. At left, visitors tour the Middleburg Training Track, one of the 18 stops on the tour. This facility features an all-weather 7/8 mile track, 11 barns containing 20 stalls each, tack rooms, bunk rooms, a kitchen and a veterinarian’s office. The facility was built in 1956 by Mr. Paul Mellon who, with his wife, also helped build Trinity Church.