

VIRGINIA EPISCOPALIAN

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Twenty-Five Years Later

Bishop Lee reflects on a legacy full of proud moments, disappointments, memories

By Alberta Lindsey

In a way, the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee grew up in the Diocese of Virginia.

When he was elected bishop coadjutor in 1984, he was only 46 years old, which is young for an Episcopal bishop. He was not only the youngest of the six nominees for the post, he had the least priesthood experience. And he had only little more than a year to learn about leading a diocese, before he became Virginia's 12th bishop.

Ministry wasn't even his first career choice. Before settling on the ministry, Bishop Lee racked up time as an Army intelligence officer; pulled stints as a newspaper reporter and copy editor in Memphis, Tenn., Pensacola, Fla., and at the *Times-Dispatch* in Richmond; and tried law school.

He made the right choice.

His election as a bishop in one of the oldest and largest dioceses in the Episcopal Church "came as a surprise because I was the youngest nominee," Bishop Lee recalled. When he traveled around the Diocese to meet with various groups before his 1984 election, someone pointed out if he were elected, most of the clergy would be older than he. Bishop Lee responded: "I know what that's like. I was a second lieutenant in the army and had people older than me under my command. That helped prepare me for this ministry," he said.

Bishop Lee, who steps down

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Photo courtesy of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.
Photographer: Dean Hoffmeyer

Every Maundy Thursday, Bishop Lee participates in the washing of the feet at a liturgy for the renewal of ordination vows and the blessing of the oil of chrism.



Silver Jubilee and Service of Leave-Taking

On October 1, after 25 years of service, the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee will resign as bishop of the Diocese of Virginia. On September 19, the Diocese will gather to celebrate those 25 years of common mission with Bishop Lee. The Silver Jubilee and Service of Leave-Taking will be a chance not only to honor Bishop Lee, but to join together to celebrate and commemorate our ministry together.

The liturgy starts at 10:30 a.m. on September 19 at St. Paul's, Richmond. Visit www.stpauls-episcopal.org for directions and parking information. Tickets are not required and all are welcome to attend.

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TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Building a New Vision

Town hall meetings invite participation from whole Diocese

By Emily Cherry

This fall's Town Hall Meetings will provide an opportunity for all communicants of the Diocese to take part in a conversation that will help form the Diocese's future ministry priorities. The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, who will become the 13th bishop of Virginia on October 1, will host this series of meetings, designed to give parishioners a chance to provide both vision and feedback at the beginning of a new episcopate. The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones and members of the diocesan staff will also be present at all of the meetings.

These gatherings will be different from previous years' diocesan leadership gatherings. In addition to hearing from our bishops, attendees will work in small groups to discuss perspectives and goals for the Diocese. These groups will then be invited to submit their feedback and suggestions to the bishops. Bishop Johnston plans to report his findings from these Town Hall Meetings at the 2010 Annual Council in Richmond. "I hope to use the feedback gathered at

these meetings to provide a tangible vision for our continued ministry together," said Bishop Johnston. "This is a chance to share your concerns and hopes. Bishop Jones, the staff and I plan to listen carefully at these meetings to pinpoint emerging trends in mission and ministry. These priorities will shape how we grow and live together in the coming years. I hope this process will be energizing, because this is an exciting time."

In addition to the five meetings scheduled at different times and locations for all members of the Diocese, there will also be two meetings designed for youth (ages 14 and older) and youth ministers. These meetings will have a similar agenda but a slightly different format that will best allow younger voices of our Diocese to be heard.

If you have questions, please contact Emily Cherry regarding the all-Diocese meetings (echerry@thediocese.net) or Anna Moncure regarding the youth meetings (amoncure@thediocese.net). In the meantime, please note the following dates, and consider urging your fellow parishioners to attend one of these important gatherings. +

Mental Health Committee Poster Competition

The diocesan Mental Health Committee will sponsor a competition to create a poster for the committee with a picture or logo representative of awareness of mental health issues. The winning poster will be revealed at the 2010 Annual Council.

All entries should be submitted by November 1 to the Rev. Cathy Tibbetts, PO Box 273, Sperryville, VA 22740, cathytibbetts@gmail.com. Suggested size is 18"x24". All submissions will become property of the Diocese of Virginia and the Mental Health Committee.

All-Diocese 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.

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The Heartbeat of General Convention

By the Rev. Lauren R. Stanley

With Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori declaring that “mission is the heartbeat” of the Church, and a theme of *Ubuntu* – “I in You and You in Me” – deputies and bishops at the 76th General Convention acted on a record number of resolutions in what many called both a “spirit of generosity” and “messiness.”

“We did not all agree 100 percent. We have been struggling. We have heard each other. We have been so careful to make sure that we have listened to and responded to the needs of our Church,” House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson said at the end of Convention.

Numerous deputies and bishops said they felt there was more listening at this Convention than in previous years, combined with a great sense of graciousness, that helped them focus more on mission and less on arguing.

Among the big-ticket resolutions approved:

- A severely reduced budget for the next three years that moves mission to the diocesan and local levels while simultaneously cutting Church Center staff by nearly 20 percent, or 37 positions;
- The collection and development of theological and liturgical resources for same-gender-blessings;
- A reaffirmation of the Church’s commitment to the Anglican Communion;
- A statement affirming the realities of where the Church is on gay and lesbian participation in the Church, including the fact that the process of discernment for ordination is open to all baptized Christians;
- A renewed commitment to funding the Millennium Development Goals, which had been dropped from the proposed draft budget but was returned after passionate entreaties;
- A complete revision of the



Photo: Emily Cherry

Members of the Virginia deputation and friends gather on the floor of the House of Deputies. (Front, left to right) The Rev. Susan Goff, the Rev. Lynne Washington, Cindi Bartol, the Rev. Sue Eaves, the Rev. Linda Wofford Hawkins. (Middle, left to right) Russell Palmore, the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Russell Randle. (Back, left to right) the Rev. Robert Prichard, J.P. Causey, Col. Jean Reed, the Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews. Not pictured, the Rev. Marian Windel, the Rev. Jim Papile, Mr. Rodney Page, Mr. Paul Brockman, Dr. Lissa Power-deFur.

disciplinary canons that shifted the emphasis from punitive to aspirational;

- A major evangelism proposal on Latino ministry;
- Trial use for *Holy Women, Holy Men*, a revision and addition to *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*;
- Adoption of a denominational health plan, to go into effect in 2011; and
- A resolution making lay pensions mandatory.

The 10-day meeting in Anaheim included visitations by international visitors, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams, who called the Church to “truthfulness” about the economy and the world at the Global Economic Forum. During Eucharist on July 9, Archbishop Williams also assured Convention that the members of the

Anglican Communion appreciated the Episcopal Church “because of a profound sense of what the Episcopal Church has given and can give to our fellowship worldwide. If we – if I – had felt that we could do perfectly well without you, there wouldn’t be a problem. But the bonds of relationship are deep.”

Several times, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori called Convention to stay focused on mission.

In her sermon at the concluding day’s Eucharist, she said that all of the words spoken at Convention add up to mission, if the people follow through. “Our words,” she said, “have gone to build up and to plant, in compassion for human beings within and beyond this Church. Our words have also focused on plucking up and pulling down injustice, destroying and overthrowing systems that oppress.”

“The job,” she said, “is to feed the sheep. Nothing else matters a whole lot. And Jesus is clear that it’s not just the flock right in front of us. There are other hungry sheep that we don’t see every day ...

“How will the work that’s been done (here) feed the sheep that you see week by week? These resolutions only have life as they’re implemented around this Church ... Your job is to go home and help this work we’ve done become food in your context.

“This,” she said, “is an act of love.”

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More information on what happened at General Convention can be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/ens.

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Lee continued from page 1 | Oct. 1, sat in his office at the Mayo Memorial Church House recently and looked back over his 42 years in the ministry, 25 of which were in the Diocese of Virginia. He talked about his journey to the priesthood, the things he is most proud of, his disappointments, how he has changed over the years, and his future.

At 71, the bishop is not ready to just sit in a rocking chair on the front porch. In late September, he will move to California, where he will be interim dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco on Oct. 1, the same day his resignation is effective here. Grace Cathedral is the third largest Episcopal cathedral in the United States. Once the cathedral finds a new dean, Bishop Lee and his wife, Kristy, plan to retire in Chapel Hill, N.C., where they have long-time friends.

"My wife says she wants to live

somewhere that people don't think my first name is 'bishop,'" he said and smiled.

A native of Greenville, Miss., and raised in Pensacola, Fla., Bishop Lee graduated from Washington and Lee University and studied law for a year at Duke University. "The best thing that came out of law school was meeting my wife." Then he went to Virginia Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1967 and to the priesthood the following year.

His ministry began in an urban cathedral and will end in an urban cathedral. He was a deacon at St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, Fla., and then assistant rector at St. John's Church in Washington D.C.'s Lafayette Square. In 1971, he became rector of the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he served until he was elected bishop.

He led his Chapel Hill congregation through the Church's controversy over ordination of women. In 1976, he invited Dr. Pauli Murray of Greensboro, N.C., an African American woman who was an Episcopal deacon, to celebrate Eucharist at Chapel of the Cross, where her slave grandmother had been baptized years earlier. She read the gospel from her grandmother's Bible that day. The service was filmed by Charles Kuralt.

"You could sense the barriers of race falling in that chapel," Bishop Lee said.

When asked what he's most proud of, Bishop Lee begins his list with the Diocese's six prep schools. "They are all thriving and have very good leadership. I weigh into that leadership. The church schools and I have to agree on that," he said.

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'Just Follow the Rubrics'

I graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1984 and was ordained deacon. By the next year when I was preparing for ordination to the priesthood, I had begun working with St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf (Diocese of Washington) as a missionary in training. I was learning a new culture as well as a new language. When Bishop Lee met with me to plan for my ordination I hesitantly told him that I was having to translate the Gospel into language that I could sign - translating from an

approved translation into one of my (beginning) skill level. He was quiet for a few moments and then in a very supportive way said, "Just follow the rubrics." I was grateful for his understanding my awkwardness and promised I would. And I have.

The Rev. Kate Chipps was one of the first priests ordained by Bishop Lee. She continues to serve in the Diocese of Virginia today as priest-in-charge at St. Margaret's, Woodbridge

A Helpful Response

As bishop coadjutor and in the beginning of his ministry as the 12th bishop of Virginia, Bishop Lee had spent a lot of time visiting his seminarians and getting to know us individually.

It was a bright, sunny day when Bishop Lee ordained 11 deacons at Truro Church on June 13, 1987. Earlier that year, after the General Ordination Examinations and during the Annual Council in which we had paraded to the head table to let everyone know we were looking for jobs, we decided to form a colleague group. Our strategy was to share everything we heard, read and experienced in interviews. We prayed and talked, convinced that somehow through the rather clunky process of applying and interviewing, we would each receive a call to ministry, rather than simply land a job. Call us naïve, if you will—we really believed (and still do) that our way was better than the usual and customary "Every Seminarian For Him/Herself" approach to finding a position. The miracle of it all was that not only did we each receive calls to ministry, we also found that we wanted to keep our little community going. For the last 22 years our colleague group has survived and thrived through the many and wearied chances of this world.

For our first Shrine Mont conference of clergy, lay professionals and spouses in 1988, we reserved

Lexington House for our group and other simpático friends of ours. We had an embarrassing moment when we had to tell a rather annoyed priest that all the spots in Lexington were taken. The moment passed, but it troubled us. Later after the program that evening, Bishop Lee stopped by for a few minutes—word on the street was we had excellent choices of single malt scotch, but we liked to think he came because he liked us. Of course, we spilled the beans and told him what had happened. "Bishop Lee," we asked, "Were we wrong, were we being exclusive to turn her away?" Untroubled, Bishop Lee's response was, "No, you were just being intentional about your community."

Fast-forward to the next year's Shrine Mont conference. For the second time, we reserved Lexington. Once more, Bishop Lee stopped by. Again, one of us reminded him about the incident of the previous year, and we heartily thanked him for helping us reframe the event. "Your words to us were so helpful," we said, "telling us that we were not being exclusive but intentional."

Without missing a beat, Bishop Lee deadpanned, "Nah! You guys are just a clique!"

The Rev. Daniel D. Robayo is rector of Emmanuel Church, Harrisonburg and current president of the Standing Committee.



Photo: Emily Cherry



(Top) (Left to right) Bishop Jones and Bishop Johnston join Bishop Lee in the groundbreaking of the Bishop's Chapel at Roslyn in 2008.
(Top Right) The Rev. Peter James Lee addresses a special Annual Council meeting in February 1984 after he was elected bishop coadjutor in 1984.
(Right) Bishop Lee presents his son, Jamie, with some "very important papers."

From the View of a Clerk

Bishop Lee keeps stamps and stationery in the glove compartment of the car. He is beyond prompt in answering mail and e-mail. Anyone who has ever written the bishop knows this. What many do not know is how much mail a bishop gets, and how wacky some of those letters can be. My greatest memories of my year with Bishop Lee cannot be told because they deal with how such letters were to be handled. But I will never forget that Bishop Lee responded respectfully, articulately and promptly to every single one.

The Rev. John T. Thomas is a former clerk to Bishop Lee and is now head of school at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School in Sewanee, Tenn.



(Above) Bishop Lee addresses the students at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in 1994.
(Above Right) Flanked by (left) the Rt. Rev. F. Clayton Matthews and (right) Patrick Getlein, Bishop Lee receives a standing ovation at the 1998 Annual Council.
(Right) A former newspaperman, Bishop Lee takes to the typewriter in his role as a briefing officer at the 69th General Convention in Detroit, Mich. in July 1988.

Photo: Neale Morgan

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He also is proud of the two conference centers. "Roslyn, which has had major capital improvements since I've been bishop, and Shrine Mont and our camps. We have a specialized camp for children with disabilities, and to see those children thriving in spite of disabilities is wonderful," Bishop Lee added.

The diocese's overseas connections also are on the bishop's "proud of" list.

"Many of our congregations have personal friends and relationships with dioceses in Africa, South and Central America and the Caribbean. That shows churches in the Diocese of Virginia are not isolated. They have a place in their heart for the Church across the world.

"I'm very proud of our Triangle of Hope, a relationship between the Diocese of Virginia, the Diocese

of Liverpool and West Africa," Bishop Lee continued. In his 2007 pastoral address, he described it as "a symbolic and positive affirmation of the faith we have in common that overcomes some of the oppressive traditions that we have inherited." Hundreds of years ago, merchant ships from Liverpool brought manufactured goods to West Africa, traded them for slaves, brought the slaves to Virginia and took cotton and tobacco back to Liverpool.

Since 2002, when young people are confirmed, they receive a \$200 voucher to apply to a mission trip before they turn 19. "When we confirm 40 or 50 young people at a whack, it tends to be very expensive," Bishop Lee said laughingly, but added the experience for the young people is worth the money.

One of the joys of his job has been ordaining more than 200 people as

priests. "I really enjoyed watching people go through seminary and then ordaining them," he said.

And there has been what Bishop Lee calls "international highlights." These include meeting people like Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu and being presented to Queen Elizabeth of England.

When Doug Wilder was governor, he had a dinner for Bishop Tutu and Bishop Lee was invited. "I was the only white male at the table. It was wonderful," Bishop Lee said.

Three times at meetings of the Lambeth Conference, Bishop Lee attended garden parties with Queen Elizabeth. "In 1988, I was presented to the queen. The other two times, I just saw her from a distance."

There also have been disappointments.

"The single largest

/ Lee continued on page 8

A Hands-on Ministry

Gratitude is a simple word and yet it only begins to give expression to the feelings evoked when I think of the joy of being a deacon and priest in the Diocese of Virginia for over 22 years with Bishop Lee. Ordained to the diaconate by the then very new bishop of Virginia, I still remember his sermon to us when he asked "What do you do with your hands?" Pray, serve, clean, hold ... Bishop Lee challenged us to be servants in the most practical ways. We soon learned that Bishop Lee would lead us by example. He would pick up the phone in his hands and call us if we were ill. My family still remembers answering the phone and hearing the deep tones on the other side say "This is Bishop Lee. How is your mother?" A little minor surgery had not escaped his attention

and prayers. Bishop Lee responded to any letter with lightening speed. He congratulated, encouraged and from time to time cautioned us. Of course, there are Shrine Mont stories, Standing Committee stories and Council memories. All of these evoke the same feeling of deep gratitude to one who has helped us by his presence and witness "seek and serve Christ in all persons." Thank you, Bishop Lee!

The Rev. Canon Rosemari G. Sullivan, one of the first deacons ordained by Bishop Lee, is now rector of St. Paul's, Rock Creek Parish in Washington, D.C.

A Study in Patience

Among the many brilliant and pastoral qualities that characterize Peter James Lee, I am often reminded of his unconditional patience. Throughout my tenure of service to Bishop Lee and the Diocese of Virginia, I watched as this virtue was tested through many trials ranging from the mundane to the seemingly unbearable. There were times when I inadvertently contributed to those tests of patience.

When Bishop Lee had meetings in Richmond, I would often drop him off and return to the Mayo House to assist with day-to-day administrative duties. One such day when I had taken the bishop to a meeting downtown and returned to the office to do some filing, I got carried away and forgot to pick him up. Upon remembering, I raced in panic to the site where I had left him to find ... no bishop. I made a call back to the office to learn my boss had walked back in the extreme heat. On the drive back to the office I contemplated many things, including abandoning the car in the James River. However, I decided to face the person whom I had "stood up." As I walked into the bishop's office, my

colleagues looked at me wide-eyed, not saying a word. After hearing me feebly own up to the fact that I had forgotten him, Bishop Lee asked me to give him back his keys. Ashamed of what I'd done and fearing the worst, I hung my head to receive my sentencing. At which point Bishop Lee said, "I probably needed the exercise." Through his unconditional patience, he had forgiven me.

As clerk during a trying year for the Diocese and the Church at large, I observed the bishop endure criticism at town hall gatherings, pastoral conferences, in his car during difficult phone calls and in his office as he read personal letters about heresy and betrayal. During each of these experiences, Bishop Lee was clearly moved by deep sadness and heartfelt empathy for his detractors. However, he always took the critiques with dignity and patiently responded with a message of hope to keep everyone at the table.

Kempton Presley is a former clerk to Bishop Lee and is now a senior health information adviser at WellPoint and undertaking graduate studies at Northwestern University.

'Living a Life Faithful'

I came to work for Bishop Lee in 1993. I was 27 years old. For 14 years—more than half his episcopate—I had the privilege to serve the Diocese and get to know our story through the prism of one of our longest-serving bishops. I have seen him held in high esteem by Virginia Episcopalians; and I have seen him as the object of great derision. Neither the great affection nor the scorn rests easily on him. As with each of us, some is earned but much is simply the byproduct of daily striving to live a life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we're lucky; sometimes we're skilled; sometimes we drink from wells we didn't dig; and sometimes we get it wrong. But the Church's decision in 2003 to consecrate the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson changed things for me. That year, I witnessed an object lesson in leadership. It wasn't Bishop Lee's vote. It wasn't the Church's

action. And it wasn't the angry mobs. Or, rather, it was all of those contrasted by Bishop Lee's faithful response to rise each morning, pray for the state of the Church and the world, and marshal on. Because in the end it isn't about Bishop Lee, or Bishop Robinson, or one vote, one year at one General Convention. In the end, it's about us. I saw the Jerusalem mob that year. I saw groups of people calling for crucifixion. I saw great anger. I saw great sin. And I saw one leader say, again and again: here I am, Lord, send me.

Patrick Getlein served as secretary of the Diocese and chief of staff, director of communications and editor of *The Virginia Episcopalian* under Bishop Lee. Today, he is the communications director for the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

A Private and Unheralded Aspect

Our Diocese will long remember Peter James Lee for his many accomplishments during his 25-year-tenure as the 12th bishop of Virginia. His influence will be felt for generations, especially among the clergy he has attracted to Virginia, those he has led to ordination, the congregations he has served as bishop and the institutions he has so ably led. But the quality that has endeared him to me goes beyond his superb leadership. It is a sense of personal holiness that I have experienced as I have worked closely with him as his suffragan. To know Peter Lee in private is to know one with a deep and abiding faith who is committed to doing what is right even if the cost may mean unpopularity or rejection. His sense of conviction is founded on a deep commitment to Christ and a consistent pattern

of consultation, prayer and theological reflection. Another endearing quality of Peter Lee is his practice of pastoral ministry. When a priest is dying, Peter has had a long standing practice of going to a priest's bedside to express gratitude on behalf of the Church for his or her ministry. Those visits have been numerous and are often unknown. He has been a pastor to my family and to those of many, many others. I will always appreciate the private and unheralded ministry of Peter James Lee, bishop, pastor and priest.

The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones has served alongside Bishop Lee as suffragan bishop since 1995.

Calm, Clear, Decisive

My first recollection of Bishop Lee was at the rehearsal for his consecration at the National Cathedral. His calm, clear, decisive manner impressed me as we rehearsed the liturgy, and I believe has been a hallmark of his leadership and his personality over these last 25 years. His ability to listen, weigh issues, reflect and offer his reasoned opinion has enabled the Diocese of Virginia to grow in size and in depth of spirit, and I am grateful to have counted him as my bishop for most of my ministry. So many events stand out over the years: I was part of his first class of ordinands, and his wisdom and guidance during my seminary years (and his Ember Day Letter replies) are things that I treasure. I had the privilege of serving as his clerk at the General Convention in Anaheim in 1985, and daily worked with him on correspondence from Virginians because of his commitment that nothing should fall behind while he was away.

At the anniversary of 10 years of ordination, Bishop Lee met with my colleague group (we've been together for support and encouragement since we were deacons) for prayer and reflection on our vocations and then shared a wonderful evening

of fellowship. During my time on "missionary duty" across the Potomac in Washington, D.C. he never missed an opportunity to remind me and the congregation I served that I was still part of THE Diocese. His calm, clear manner came through not only in crisis situations (of which there have been a few) but also in some a bit more humorous. I remember accompanying him on a visitation to a parish situated near a lake. After the service, Bishop Lee asked the rector what was to be done with the leftover, consecrated communion bread. The reply came, "We feed it to the ducks." The bishop's calm manner spoke volumes, and assisted in altering some of the liturgical practices in Virginia.

His standing in the councils of the larger Church is well-known, but those of us who have had the honor of serving in ministry with him give thanks for his integrity, his foresight, his willingness to take risks and his commitment to an expansive understanding of God's working in the world.

The Very Rev. Douglas Wm McCaleb was a member of one of the first classes of ordinands ordained by Bishop Lee. He is now dean of Trinity Cathedral in Miami, Fla.

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disappointment is one that isn't over – the 11 churches that have left the Episcopal Church," he said. "We are waiting for court action [over a property dispute]. I'm very saddened that they didn't think they could remain in a diocese with people with whom they disagree. The [controversy was set off in 2003] by the agreement of the Episcopal Church to ordain a gay bishop."

Added Bishop Lee, who voted to confirm the election of the denomination's first openly gay bishop: "The arch of the Church bends toward including all people in the life of the church... In dealing with people in their 20s, gay people

are simply not on their screen." He believes people will be attracted to an inclusive church.

His yes vote to the confirmation of Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire brought Virginia's bishop a lot of grief. He received many e-mails and letters, which he described as nasty. In 2005 after undergoing bypass heart surgery, someone wrote asking: "'Why didn't Bishop Lee die when he had a chance,'" Bishop Lee recalled.

In the next 25 years, Bishop Lee would like to see "us increase our capacity to speak on the matters of justice. I hope we will continue our emphasis on developing new congregations. Christ Church in

Glen Allen was started in 1993. Now it has among the largest memberships in the diocese."

Returning to his "international highlights," the bishop chuckled when he recalled Queen Elizabeth's 2007 visit to Richmond.

"She spoke to the General Assembly, and I was invited to pray over the House. I had this fantasy of her coming up to me and saying: 'Oh Bishop Lee, it's so good to see you again.' That didn't happen." +

A Living Presence of Servanthood

During the 14 years that I have lived in Virginia, my admiration for Bishop Lee has grown and deepened. Because of the depth of my respect, I was very nervous the first time I met with him on January 29, 2008. I had no reason to be. He instantly put me at ease. During our discussion he told me that our meeting was the making of a small bit of history as he was accepting me as the first postulant for the vocational diaconate in the Diocese of Virginia.

Among the things I most admire about Bishop Lee are his commitment to supporting ministry

for all baptized persons, and his grace and actions in responding to the divisions within the Anglican Communion and the Diocese of Virginia.

Thank you, Bishop Lee, for raising me up, for being a living presence of servanthood and for setting the cornerstone for this new era in ministry of service.

May God continue to bless you.

Linda Murphy, a parishioner at St. Christopher's, Springfield, is a postulant in the new Diaconal Formation Institute.

Graciousness Itself

I began to take note of the episcopal ministry of Peter James Lee very early in my own ministry as a priest in Alabama and Mississippi. What struck me was my sense that whenever the House of Bishops needed something to be pulled together in the midst of contention Bishop Lee was always among those they counted on to make it work.

That example influenced me deeply. It spoke of the vision of a generous, broad center for the Church's life and witness. That vision became a foundational value for me. Many times over the years I saw this at work in Bishop Lee's ministry for the wider Church. And now, through nearly two and one-half years as bishop coadjutor, I have been privileged to encounter that very same vision and wisdom in simple day-to-day conversations. I now know that this is the true Peter Lee, because this breadth of vision, that insight of mind, the incisiveness of articulation and his generosity of spirit are not just the stuff of national and international ministry but rather are the markers of his every day life.

The gifts and accomplishments of Bishop Lee's extraordinary episcopate will be remembered and commented upon countless times now as he prepares to leave office and in the years to come as well. For all of that, it is something else that is now making the deepest impression on me, a quality that comes from that "everyday" experience of Peter James Lee.

I've never known anyone more personally gracious. To put it bluntly, this man is a class act.

The point was proved over and over when he hosted a table and when he saw to the arrangements for guests. Nothing was overlooked and nothing was spared. Hospitality is sacred for Peter James Lee. But it is not just for the big-names-and-big-things that his graciousness shows. It happens hour by hour. It is something about his easy manner, level temperament and good humor. It has to do with how he takes so very personally the luncheons he holds for retired clergy and the clergy widows. It's about how he remembers personal details and little things about people and their families. That may not sound like much, but that is part of my point. Little things count in real graciousness. I think this is how Peter Lee connects in his relationships.

I have seen this exceptional graciousness time and time again in a variety of situations and I have been personally touched and moved by it. I'll never forget those occasions. I hope I'll never forget that I should look more like that graciousness myself. Thank you, Peter Lee.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston will succeed Bishop Lee on October 1, 2009.

Thanksgiving for 25 Years of Communal Ministry

Dear Friends,

"I will disappoint you," I promised to clergy in each of our 15 geographical regions following my 1984 consecration as bishop coadjutor. I have kept that promise. The disappointments I have delivered have not been intentional. The expectations of a bishop were then—and still are—so varied, often conflicted and so wide ranging that disappointment was inevitable.

In my first letter for the then *Virginia Churchman* in the summer of 1985 shortly after becoming diocesan bishop upon the death of Bishop Robert Hall, I wrote "...we are called to witness to the Gospel in circumstances we wish were otherwise. We did not choose the time and manner of the transition to this new episcopate, but the unwelcome circumstance provides its own way to testifying to the presence of the Risen Christ. Families grieving, marriages under stress, parents and children at odds with each other, congregations with strongly held conflicting views on their directions for the future—all are circumstances we might wish to change. Sometimes change is possible and necessary. Always, there is the opportunity within those circumstances for reconciling love..."

"...Our mission, as Christians, is not to create a world to our liking, but rather to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world as it is..."

A quarter century later, we proclaim the Gospel not in the world we have made, but in the world as it is. My memories are filled with people like you, clergy and lay people who are serving faithfully in our 180 congregations. I think of you in small congregations in the Northern Neck and the Shenandoah Valley, in venerable, large colonial churches and in bustling suburban churches in Northern Virginia and the Richmond area. I can name names and remember faces in every congregation and do so with gratitude. So much has been done to strengthen our institutions these last 25 years: Roslyn and Shrine Mont, our conference centers, our six church schools, our continuing care communities where older citizens flourish. The commitment to mission by our people is stronger than ever—in overseas partnerships, in housing and feeding ministries at home. To every one of those ministries, I can also attach more than one name and face.

I am aware also of the sadness caused in our life by the departure of those former Episcopalians who felt they could no longer walk together with us. Our faith takes a long view and I pray our differences may one day be seen as insufficient to continue the separation.

When I resign as diocesan bishop on October 1, 2009, I will have been the third longest serving diocesan bishop in Virginia. When he died in 1841, Richard C. Moore, our second bishop, had served for 27 years. Our



fifth bishop, Francis Whittle, had served for 26 years as diocesan bishop when he died in 1902. In those days before retirement plans and limits, bishops served until they died. My 24 years as diocesan bishop end more happily.

That sort of tenure means I have worked with most congregations several times in the turnover of their clergy. I have rich memories of working with clergy and vestries and some funny stories to tell one day.

A special joy of this ministry has been the friendship and support of the other bishops and the diocesan staff. Bishop David Lewis, Bishop Robert Atkinson, Bishop Clay Matthews, Bishop Francis Gray and Bishop David Jones were invaluable colleagues. The diocesan staff serves the Diocese and its bishops with grace and strength.

You have in Virginia's 13th bishop, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, a gifted, intelligent, articulate and energetic leader. As he learns to serve you, I hope you will support him, especially in overcoming the chronically low level of parish giving to diocesan support that has for too long hampered our mission.

So I leave you with a grateful heart for the privilege of serving you. I will not miss the traffic on I-95 or I-81, but I will miss you as I begin an interim year of ministry at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. The motto of our diocese, engraved on the diocesan seal, is the Latin title of Psalm 118, "*Confitemini Domino*," "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good."

May that sense of thanksgiving that fills my heart continue to sustain the Diocese of Virginia.

Faithfully yours,

Peter James Lee





CALENDAR

September

12

Annual Stewardship Conference; St. John's, Richmond; 9 a.m. Contact Emily Cherry, echerry@thediocese.net.

Stewardship of Creation Committee Meeting; St. John's, Richmond; follows Stewardship Conference.

19

Silver Jubilee and Service of Leave-Taking, St. Paul's, Richmond; 10:30 a.m.

21

Diocesan Missionary Society Meeting; Trinity, Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.

21-22

Fresh Start Overnight; Roslyn, Richmond.

24

Executive Board Meeting; St. Stephen's, Culpeper; 10 a.m.

24-27

Diocesan Discernment Retreat, Richmond Hill, Richmond. Contact Peggy Hombs, phombs@thediocese.net.

October

8

Fresh Start; Trinity, Fredericksburg; 9 a.m.

10

St. James', Louisa Annual Fall Festival's 30-Year Anniversary; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Crafters, artisans. Proceeds benefit parish and programs. Contact Lin Kogle at 540-894-0239.

9-11

PYM Eighth Grade Weekend; Shrine Mont. Contact Anna Moncure, amoncure@thediocese.net.

12-14

Fall Clergy Retreat at Shrine Mont. Contact Anna Moncure, amoncure@thediocese.net.

18

Diocese of Virginia Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians presents the Columbia Pike Community Chorus of Trinity, Arlington, performing the Changed My Name cantata; St. Philip's, Richmond; 4 p.m. Contact Gladys Lewis at 804-329-8089.

The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace Concert; St. Francis, Great Falls and other choirs at St. Luke Catholic Church, McLean; 4 p.m.

21

Christian Educators Lunch and Forum; St. Christopher's, Springfield; 12 p.m. Hosted by Committee on Education. Register with Vicky Koch, vkoch@trinity-fredericksburg.org.

22

118th Annual ECW Meeting & 120th United Thank Offering Ingathering; Christ Church, Winchester. Keynote speaker the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston.

24

A Day for Musicians from Small Churches: Leeds, Markham; 9:30 a.m. Conversation, teaching, songs and prayer, with Ellen Johnston; www.leedschurch.org.

Diocesan Youth Town Hall Meeting; Christ Church, Glen Allen; 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Anna Moncure at amoncure@thediocese.net.

Diocesan Town Hall Meeting; Grace, Kilmarnock; 2-4 p.m. Contact Emily Cherry at echerry@thediocese.net.

26-29

Fall Camp for Seniors; Shrine Mont; Sponsored by tri-diocesan Committees on Aging. Contact Anna Moncure, amoncure@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 110 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Organized 1789.

The Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Episcopal Seat: The Washington National Cathedral

In the Diocese of Virginia

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

The Bishop

The Rt. Rev. 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

How to reach the Diocesan Staff

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

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

ABUNDANT

Building a Culture of Generosity + + + + + + + +
through Stewardship

GIFTS

SEPTEMBER 2009

What Are Our Assets?

By the Rev. April Trew Greenwood

One of my family's favorite movies is the fairy tale story of "The Princess Bride."

Directed by Rob Reiner, it is a movie that delights all ages. There is a fair maiden, Buttercup and her true love, the dashing Westley. Along the way there are plenty of villains like the evil Prince Humperdink who captures Buttercup and locks her in his castle. Towards the end of the movie, Westley sits outside the castle with his two friends wondering how they will ever be able to get past all the guards and rescue Buttercup. "What are our assets?" Westley asks. "Well," says his friend the slow witted giant, "We have your brains, my strength and his sword of steel." "The task is impossible," says Westley. "If I had several months, I might be able to come up with a plan." After a few more moments of reflecting on their assets, the unlikely group storms the castle and successfully accomplishes their impossible mission.

"What are our assets?" When we hear this question, we usually contemplate the first image that comes to mind: writing a check. We may speak of pledging our time, talents and treasure, but something inside us simply says, "Just show me the money!" In an age of depleted portfolios, drained savings and a bleak economic future, it is not as easy as it once was to just show the money.

But Scripture leads us to a different picture of God's Kingdom: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world and all who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1) God is not subject to the ups and downs of our earthly markets. God is not confined to our short-sighted economic forecasts. God has no limitations and is never in short supply. Furthermore, God is a generous giver who, we

are told, "freely bestows on us the riches of His grace which he lavishes upon us." (Ephesians 1:7) The picture we see of Jesus in the Gospels is one of such generosity that He almost seems profligate! From an endless supply of abundance, gifts are poured out upon us. When we view our gifts from the standpoint of scarcity, then it is easy to see how we can become fearful and can be tempted to hoard our assets. But when we see ourselves as "children of God and heirs of the King," then we are assured that there are more than enough gifts to accomplish the task before us. No matter the size of your congregation, there will always be enough gifts to accomplish the work of the Kingdom.

*Glory to God
whose power,
working in us, can
do infinitely more
than we can ask or
even imagine.*

Ephesians 3:20

"What are our assets?" What is it that God wants us to accomplish with the gifts that we have been given for the increase of the Kingdom? When we approach stewardship from the perspective of God as a generous giver, then the paradigm shifts. Because there will always be enough gifts distributed throughout the community of faith to do "the work we have been given to do," we can move forward in assurance that "God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply" (Hudson Taylor).

We can then join with Saint Paul and the early church in their doxology with confidence, "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or even imagine: Glory to Him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20) +

The Rev. April Trew Greenwood is interim rector at Varina Church, Richmond, and is chair of the diocesan Committee on Stewardship.

Recession or Renewal: Diocesan Stewardship Conference

Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m., St. John's, Richmond

This year's annual Stewardship Conference is more than a lesson in the nuts-and-bolts of stewardship campaigns. The conference will be a chance for communicants of the Diocese to share stewardship stories; to learn about the leadership challenges of stewardship, and how to handle them in their own parishes; and to explore your own stewardship of gifts in your daily lives. Workshop

sessions will also be devoted to the "why, when and how" of capital campaigns; effective stewardship strategies for difficult financial times; strengthening stewardship through energy efficiency; and how to lead annual pledge campaigns.

"Recession or Renewal" is the theme of this year's campaign, offering attendees the opportunity to take a look at how they view and

approach the financial challenges that face our churches today. Keynote speakers the Rev. Kath Rogers and Dr. Stephen B. McSwain will share their wealth of knowledge on stewardship practices.

Download a registration form online at www.thediocese.net. Questions? Please contact Emily Cherry at 800-DIOCESE x21 or echerry@thediocese.net. +

Loaves and Fishes

Mission and stewardship in the Diocese of Virginia

By Buck Blanchard

If there is one story we all know, it's this one. Jesus, faced with a large and hungry crowd, takes five loaves and two fishes and feeds the multitude, with plenty of leftovers. Priests love the story – it's a fat softball for a good sermon. It's also a wonderful story in the world of mission: that through God's grace and without fear, we can feed the world.

It's interesting, though, to look at what Jesus started with: five loaves and two fish, supplied by regular human folks. In this case at least, Jesus didn't start from scratch; he started with something. Not a lot of food, but some. The miracle was the multiplication of that initial contribution by mankind into God's radical abundance.

We endeavor to do similar work throughout the Diocese of Virginia in the world of mission and outreach. A small percentage of your contributions to the Diocese of Virginia goes to world mission. But look at what is done with those funds! In roughly the past year, those contributions have:

- Funded 177 youth mission vouchers totaling \$35,400 for young people to take mission trips
- Provided 21 grants of \$800 each for churches to take mission trips



- around the world
- Helped support Carpenter's Kids in Tanzania
- Supported relief efforts in Mississippi and New Orleans
- Funded solar lights for the all-girls Episcopal Bromley School in Liberia
- Established a ministry to the Pamunkey tribe here in the Diocese of Virginia
- Provided support for Lauren Stanley, our missionary in Sudan and now in Haiti
- Helped fund a major peace and reconciliation conference in Sudan
- Sponsored "mid-term"

- missionaries in Tanzania, Liberia and the Dominican Republic
- Supported our South Africa partnership with the Diocese of Christ the King
- Helped realize a youth mission trip to Appalachia
- Facilitated micro-enterprise work in Madagascar and Ghana

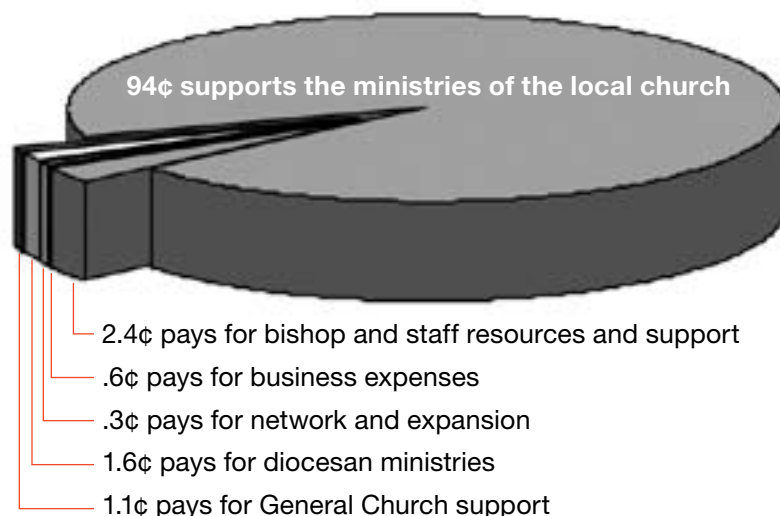
And all that is just in the field of mission work outside of our own back yards. Your contributions have also helped a myriad of local outreach projects, prison ministry, refugee resettlement programs and racial reconciliation efforts.

Your contributions represent the loaves and fishes of what become the radically abundant world mission ministries of the Diocese of Virginia. Your support of these diocesan wide programs is multiplied many times over by God's grace and the vision and hard work of parishes throughout the Diocese of Virginia. We will continue to strive to be good stewards of the funds we receive from you and look for creative ways to facilitate the impact of those funds on a variety of mission efforts across the diocese and around the world. Thanks so much for your support. +

Where a Parishioner's Dollar Goes

By Mike Kerr

Based on parochial report statistics for 2005-2007, the average amount given by a church of this diocese is 6% of the church operating revenue. Translated into a dollar, this means that 94 cents of each dollar stays at the local level to support the church budget and six cents is given to the Diocese. Of this six cents, 4.9 cents is allocated to our common diocesan ministry together: 1.6 cents is used for diocesan ministries such as Shrine Mont camps, prison chaplains, campus and youth ministries, church planting and raising ordained and lay leadership for the Church; 0.3 cents is used for communications, church planting preparation and other network and expansion such as *The Virginia Episcopalian* and real



estate taxes for church plants not yet built; and 2.4 cents provides you the resources of the bishops and staff of the diocese; 0.6 cents is used for business expenses such as utilities and travel. The remaining

1.1 cents is sent on to the General Church for the support of the General Church budget. +

Diocese Welcomes Director of Development & Stewardship

By Emily Cherry

The Diocese of Virginia is pleased to announce that Frances Caldwell has accepted the position of director of development and stewardship. Ms. Caldwell succeeds Patricia Bjorling, who left the Diocese this spring to pursue a new ministry in the United Church of Christ in Connecticut.

Ms. Caldwell comes to the diocesan offices from St. James's, Richmond, where she served as director of stewardship and development since 2001. Prior to her work at St. James's, Ms. Caldwell worked at St. Catherine's School, Richmond as assistant to the director of admissions; at Managed Care Innovations; and as an elementary classroom teacher. Ms. Caldwell received her BA in economics from Mary Washington College. Ms. Caldwell headed the Stewardship Committee for the Consortium



Ms. Caldwell

of Endowed Episcopal Parishes and sat on the Consortium's Annual Conference Committee. She is a past member of the Diocese of Virginia's Stewardship Committee. "Anyone who knows me will tell you that I love the word stewardship and dislike the way it is often used," said Ms. Caldwell. "It has nothing to do with a campaign to raise money and everything about our journey and how we use all of the gifts God has entrusted to us. Giving of our wisdom, our work and our wealth is critical for each parish and person in the Episcopal Church – as important for our spiritual health as

it is for those who benefit from these gifts." She added, "The compelling ministries of the Diocese of Virginia change lives in many ways. When we come together to do God's work we not only transform lives of others, we also transform ourselves. I look forward to working with you and your parish, sharing this amazing bond we all have as Episcopalians."

"We're very excited to add Frances Caldwell's considerable talents to the diocesan staff," said the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston. "Her familiarity with the Episcopal Church and her inspiring track record at St. James's, highlighting the vast spectrum of Christian stewardship, will be huge assets to the churches in our Diocese." Ms. Caldwell will begin her new work on September 8. +

Of Thine Own Have We Given Thee

Reflections on the 20th anniversary of the Fund For Human Need

By Scott M. Broetzmann

A man walking on the beach saw that it was littered with thousands of starfish. A little boy was picking up the starfish one by one and throwing them into the ocean. He asked the boy, "What are you doing?" The boy replied, "I'm throwing starfish back into the water. If I leave them here they'll dry up and die." The man said, "But look how many starfish there are. What you're doing can't possibly make a difference." As the boy picked up another starfish and threw it into the ocean he said, "Well, it makes a difference to this one!"

Human need is limitless and has been magnified by the unfolding economic and crises of our age.

How are we called to embrace and respond to the ever-increasing need surrounding us in our daily life?

I often can't discern an answer or an agenda. But it's easy to express a feeling. Emotions like sadness, fear, panic and uncertainty often come to mind.

As we consider our diocesan response to human need, perhaps it's worthwhile to frame it in terms of those choices made when we encounter it – much like the boy and the starfish. From this perspective, human need has less to do with the circumstances of others (it's something that "happens" to someone else over "there") than it does our prayerful acts of compassion and outreach in the presence of need

(it's something we do joyfully).

Acknowledging human need as selfless acts of kindness and humility rather than another's circumstance, I have been humbled by the examples presented in Scripture and lived out in our communities in the Diocese.

In Jesus' journey to the cross, we are given inspiring accounts of His unwavering recognition of and ministry to those in need. They are in His path; they chase Him, press in on Him, touch Him and beg Him. Jesus—sometimes weary, always challenged by the theological and political pressures of His time, and full knowing the sacrifice he will make—unfailingly offers compassionate ministry.

In our own era, we also have examples in abundance of meeting need in its moment.

As we celebrate 200 years of discipleship in my own parish, St. Paul's, Alexandria, I draw strength for service in the legacy of those who have prepared the way for the work that we do today. The heart of our parish life is the treasure we find in preparing meals for the hungry, rebuilding homes in West Virginia, building schools and churches in Sudan and reaching out to Alexandria's homeless through the Lazarus Ministry.

The joy of meeting human need is also found throughout our Diocese. As we celebrate Bishop

Lee's time among us, we do so with a debt of gratitude for calling us to serve through the Diocesan Fund for Human Need. In his 1990 letter to the Diocese, Bishop Lee notes that the Fund "is an attempt to bring our people of all ages into a realization that to give beyond ourselves to those in special need is a sign that all of us are in need of the wholeness that only God can bring."

Twenty years later, the Fund has disbursed grants totaling nearly \$750,000 to parishes across the Diocese. Together we have offered Bibles to the imprisoned, fresh water to villages in Africa, food to the hungry, skills training to the homeless, ESL programs, homes to the homeless through Habitat for Humanity projects, assistance to single mothers, help to those suffering from domestic abuse and respite to the deaf, the aged and those with AIDS.

As we prayerfully consider our collective response to those in need today, I invite you to give thanks as well for the Diocesan Fund for Human Need. +

Scott M. Broetzmann of St. Paul's, Alexandria is chair of the Commission on Human Need. The Commission meets twice yearly, considering grant requests for the Fund for Human Need and the Mustard Seed Grants. If you would like to learn more about the work of the Commission or are interested in contributing, please contact Mr. Broetzmann at scott@customeraremc.com.

Planting Seeds, Growing Mission

This year, 17 churches in the Diocese of Virginia will benefit from over \$65,000 in Mustard Seed Grants. These grants will plant seeds of mission and ministry across the Diocese. The Mustard Seed Fund relies on your donations for its success. Read on to learn how your dollars make a difference.

St. Mark's, Richmond

Program for Out-of-Work Individuals, Awarded \$2,500

"When the Bow Breaks: Surviving the Economic Downturn" is a program for those in the Richmond area who have been affected by the current economy and need information and support. St. Mark's program will help individuals and families navigate and manage the consequences of job loss. With the help of St. Andrew's, Richmond and Holy Comforter, Richmond, St. Mark's has already secured a handful of professional speakers.

La Iglesia de San Jose, Arlington

Small Business Development Classes and Training, Awarded \$5,000

San Jose has planned "Empowerment through Textiles, Education, and Support" to help the large number of unemployed Latino men and women face the financial and emotional stress of the current economic situation by teaching participants various textile crafts and basic business and computer skills and computer skills. The Mustard Seed grant will help purchase the durable goods necessary to the long-term functioning of the program.

Grace Church, Berryville

Youth Mission Trip to Alaska, Awarded \$4,000

Grace Church seeks to establish a relationship with St. David's Episcopal Church in Wasilla, Alaska through fellowship, worship and a joint work project. The youth of Grace Church will help St. David's with their parish hall expansion and sustainable community garden, strengthening that congregation and providing opportunities for community engagement.

Grace Church, Alexandria

Flood Relief Project with the Diocese of Iowa, Awarded \$1,500

Grace Church is answering the call of the "If I had a Hammer Project" to help the Diocese of Iowa. In the wake of the disastrous flooding of the Cedar River in June 2008, efforts to rebuild were hampered by lack of funding, materials and labor. The Hammer Project focuses on supplying durable tools to stock a relief trailer. Grace Church will provide tools and volunteers this summer to aid in this effort.

St. David's, Aylett

Sunday School Classroom Upgrades, Awarded \$5,000

St. David's is a small congregation with a strong presence through its Community Development Center programs. The church's reputation for community action and fellowship has attracted a number of young families. Volunteer teachers conduct Sunday school, where children sit around one table in the church basement. Average attendance has risen from just one child in 2007 to 12 in 2008. Needed upgrades to the basement will include carpet and lighting, dividers, furniture and materials for the Sunday school curriculum.

St. Paul's, Owens

Day School Library Renovation, Awarded \$2,345

In response to the population growth in King George County, St. Paul's started a preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds. With the help of the vestry and parishioners, the preschool space is ready for students. The church now needs to upgrade the Sunday school library to fill gaps in the inventory to meet the needs of the preschool. The Mustard Seed grant will help with the purchase of books and furniture.

Trinity, Highland Springs

Summer Reading Program, Awarded \$2,500

The Reading Star Summer Reading Program provides an opportunity for young, at-risk students to begin the next school year on par with fellow classmates. An additional benefit of the program is the community outreach opportunity it creates for the elderly in the congregation, who will provide volunteer support for running the program. The program includes breakfast and lunch, as well as games to provide exercise and fun.

St. Luke's, Remington

Computer Literacy Class, Awarded \$2,500 plus \$500 in escrow

St. Luke's will provide free computer literacy classes in a non-intimidating, community-building environment with a low student-teacher format. Less than 11 percent of adults in the Remington area have an education beyond high school. The Mustard Seed grant will purchase the five computers planned for use in these classes, which will teach work-related skills to empower participants in the job market.

St. Christopher's, Springfield

Hypothermia Prevention Program, Awarded \$5,000

St. Christopher's supports the Hypothermia Prevention Program, which provides shelter during the cold season for the homeless. The church provides a warm place for sleep, breakfast, portable lunches, dinners and a place to unwind and communicate with others. With money from the Mustard Seed Grant, St. Christopher's will purchase air mattresses and blankets, duffle bags, socks and food.

St. Paul's Memorial Church, Charlottesville

Community Garden Project, Awarded \$5,000

St. Paul's Memorial has identified the need to provide a healthy source of food for the poor in Charlottesville. A 2007 report revealed that 40 percent of the city's population lived below the poverty line. St. Paul's Memorial's community garden will provide an opportunity for outreach as well as teaching locals and elementary schoolchildren the benefits of nutritious diet habits. The produce will go to the Emergency Food Bank. The Mustard Seed Grant will provide initial monetary support to establish the garden.

The Falls Church, Falls Church

Technology Improvements for Community Service Council, Awarded \$5,000

The Falls Church has developed a partnership with the Falls Church Community Service Council (FCCSC), a coalition of churches that provide essential human services to the needy of the Falls Church area. With the help of a Mustard Seed grant, the Falls Church plans to establish a centralized and computerized office space for FCCSC, using space donated by Knox Presbyterian (another partner congregation and host of the FCCSC Food Pantry).

Christ Church, Glen Allen

Lunch Program for Hope & Resurrection Secondary School, Awarded \$4,500

Christ Church has had a strong relationship with Hope & Resurrection Secondary School since 2005. This new endeavor is planned to provide a daily meal for the school lunch program. The grant will help feed 100 students lunch each day for approximately five months. The school needs assistance to fund the lunch program in order to provide adequate nutrition to otherwise poorly-fed students.

Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna

Haiti Micah Project, Awarded \$2,000

Holy Comforter will assist the Haiti Micah Project (HMP) as it expands its mission from feeding, clothing and educating street children in Mirebalais to housing the children as well. HMP was established in 2005 as a nonprofit Christian organization committed to addressing the needs of impoverished and uneducated children. This year, HMP signed a lease for residential property to house about 20 children. With help from the Mustard Seed fund, Holy Comforter will make this new property more habitable.

St. Mary's Whitechapel, Lancaster

Madagascar Agricultural Cooperative, Awarded \$4,800

St. Mary's Whitechapel plans to create a women's agricultural cooperative in southern Madagascar in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Antananarivo. The goal is to acquire approximately 8-15 acres, purchase farming tools and supplies, and teach the women financial literacy and biblically-based business management. St. John's, McLean will fund the land purchase and the congregation of St. Mary's Whitechapel is the project sponsor and director.

St. Thomas', Richmond

Kitchen Renovation, Awarded \$5,000

St. Thomas' mission is one of simple hospitality. With an eye to improving how the church currently serves itself and the community, St. Thomas' has determined to renovate the much-used parish hall kitchen. The kitchen supports all aspects of St. Thomas' operations and life. The Mustard Seed Grant will help cover some of the many expenses.

St. Mary's, Colonial Beach

Fire Safety Project, Awarded \$4,694

St. Mary's has actively sought ways to improve their ministry, including capital improvements to their buildings to provide facilities to expand outreach programs. As a result, there is a need to replace the fire escape and fire exit doors for the safety of people accessing St. Mary's buildings. The Mustard Seed Grant will make these renovations possible.

St. Asaph's, Bowling Green

Handicap Accessibility, Awarded \$5,000

St. Asaph's is a small, family parish with 34 percent of the congregation over 50. The building was completed in 1953, before building codes required ramps and elevators for handicap accessibility. The undercroft serves as the center of St. Asaph's social life, and access to the undercroft involves many steps. With vestry approval and funds from the Mustard Seed Grant, St. Asaph's will enable and strengthen the mission of the church by addressing these problems. +

Bishops' Visitations

Bishop Johnston

September 27

a.m. St. John's, West Point

October 4

a.m. St. Francis', Goochland

p.m. Grace, Cismont, Keswick

October 11

a.m. St. James', Mt. Vernon

p.m. Good Shepherd, Bluemont

October 18

a.m. Emmanuel, Middleburg

p.m. Christ Church, Lucketts

October 25

a.m. St. James', Warrenton

October 28

p.m. Our Redeemer, Aldie

Bishop Jones

September 6

a.m. Westover, Charles City

September 13

a.m. St. Andrew's, Mt. Jackson

p.m. Emmanuel, Woodstock

September 20

a.m. Holy Cross, Batesville

a.m. St. John the Baptist, Ivy

September 27

a.m. St. Mary's, Berryville

a.m. Grace, Berryville

p.m. St. Thomas', Orange

October 4

a.m. Calvary, Hanover

p.m. St. James', Louisa

October 11

a.m. St. James the Less, Ashland

p.m. Grace, Stanardsville

October 18

a.m. St. Clement's, Alexandria

p.m. St. Paul's, Bailey's

Crossroads

October 25

a.m. St. Mary's, Arlington

p.m. Santa Maria, Falls Church

Visiting Bishops

Bishop Creighton

November 8

a.m. St. Paul's, Owens,

King George

a.m. St. John's, King George

Bishop Dixon

October 4

a.m. St. Philip's, Richmond

Bishop Eastman

November 1

a.m. St. Thomas', McLean

Bishop Gray

September 20

a.m. St. Matthew's, Richmond

Bishop Ihloff

September 20

a.m. Immanuel, Old Church,

Mechanicsville

Bishop Townsend

October 11

a.m. St. Paul's-on-the-Hill,

Winchester

October 25

a.m. Emmanuel, Piedmont

Parish, Delaplane

Roslyn Calendar of Events

Blessing of the Animals

- Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 11 a.m.
- Catered picnic lunch available for \$10 per person.

Clergy Retreat

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

Christmas Open House

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

Bed and Breakfast

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

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Clergy Retreat

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



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Clergy Changes

+ The Rev. Charles A. Joy has finished his interim ministry at St. Anne's, Scottsville as of July 31.

+ The Rev. Timothy Malone, a transitional deacon from the Diocese of Washington, has been called as an assistant at St. Mary's, Arlington.

+ The Rev. Suzannah L. Rohman has been called as rector of St. Paul's Church in Southington, Conn. She has been assistant rector of St. George's, Arlington since 2003, where she completed her ministry at the end of June.

+ The Rev. Jennifer Strawbridge has resigned her position as assistant rector at St. Mary's, Arlington, to

pursue a Ph.D. at Oxford. She will serve as assistant chaplain at Keble College while in Oxford.

+ The Rev. Sherry Hardwick Thomas is moving to Connecticut in August and left her position as interim at Trinity, Charlottesville on August 16.

+ The Rev. Anne M. Turner has been called as an assistant at St. Mary's, Arlington. She is returning to the Diocese of Virginia from Grace Church, Amherst, Mass., where she served as an assistant rector.

+ The Rev. Shelby Owen has been called as assistant rector of Trinity Church in Staunton, Va. She had served as an assistant at St. Paul's, Ivy.

Deaths

+ **The Rev. Stewart Bryan West** died on Sunday, July 12. Mr. West was a World War II veteran who went on to enter Virginia Theological Seminary. In the Diocese of Virginia, he served churches in Goochland, Franconia and the Northern Neck. He also served churches in West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Georgia Robair. A funeral for Mr. West took place on July 16 at St. Thomas, Abingdon in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

+ **The Rev. Richard Earl Hayes**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Easton and resident of Bridgewater, Va., died on Friday, June 12 at his home. Mr. Hayes served in the Diocese of Wyoming, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and the Diocese of Easton. He was also a Mountain Missioner for McIlhaney Parish in the Diocese of Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Mikey, a daughter and two sons. A funeral for Mr. Hayes took place on June 17 at Emmanuel, Harrisonburg.

Tengo gratitud por los 25 años de servicio junto con ustedes

Estimados amigos:

“Yo los voy a decepcionar.” Esto prometí al clero de cada una de las 15 regiones geográficas después de haber sido consagrado obispo coadjutor en 1984. He cumplido la promesa. Sin embargo, las decepciones no han sido intencionales. Las expectativas sobre un obispo eran – y todavía siguen siendo – tan diferentes, a veces contradictorias y tan variadas que una decepción se hace inevitable.

En mi primera carta para el periódico diocesano entonces llamado *Virginia Churchman* en 1985, escrita poco después de haber asumido el cargo de obispo diocesano después del fallecimiento del Obispo Robert Hall, les decía: “somos llamados a ser testigos del Evangelio en circunstancias que quisiéramos que fueran diferentes. No escogimos ni la hora ni la forma de transición al nuevo episcopado, pero, en su propia forma, las desafortunadas circunstancias sirvieron para testificar de la presencia del Cristo Resucitado. “Familias acongojadas, matrimonios atribulados, padres e hijos enfrentados, congregaciones con opiniones muy firmes sobre el camino hacia el futuro: todas estas son circunstancias que quisiéramos cambiar. A veces el cambio es posible y necesario. Siempre existe la oportunidad dentro de estas circunstancias para el amor reconciliador...” “Nuestra misión como cristianos no es crear un mundo como queremos, sino proclamar el Evangelio de Jesucristo en el mundo tal cual es...”

Un cuarto de siglo más tarde, no proclamamos el Evangelio en el mundo que hemos creado, pero en el mundo tal cual es. Tengo muchos recuerdos de personas como ustedes, clérigos y laicos, que están sirviendo fielmente en nuestras 180 congregaciones. Pienso en los que están en congregaciones pequeñas en el Northern Neck y en Valle de Shenandoa, en iglesias venerables y coloniales y en las dinámicas iglesias suburbanas del norte de Virginia y del área de Richmond. Yo puedo recordar nombres y rostros en cada congregación y lo hago con gratitud. Se ha hecho mucho para consolidar nuestras instituciones en estos últimos 25 años. Roslyn y Shrine Mont, nuestros centros de conferencias, nuestras seis escuelas diocesanas y nuestras comunidades para la atención a las personas muy mayores continúan floreciendo. El compromiso con la misión que tiene nuestro pueblo nunca ha sido tan fuerte, ya sea en ministerios en otros países o en programas de vivienda o alimentación cerca de nosotros. Yo también puedo asociar un nombre y un rostro con cada uno de estos ministerios.

Soy consciente del pesar que ha causado en nuestra vida la salida de antiguos episcopales que sintieron que no podían seguir peregrinando con nosotros. Nuestra fe es paciente y ruego que algún día nuestras diferencias no sean consideradas suficientes para continuar nuestra separación.

Cuando mi renuncia se haga efectiva el 1 de octubre de 2009 seré el tercer obispo en la lista de permanencia en el episcopado diocesano de Virginia. Cuando Richard C. Moore falleció en 1841, nuestro Segundo obispo había servido durante 27 años. Nuestro quinto obispo, Francis Whittle, cuando falleció en 1902 había servido como



obispo diocesano durante 26 años. En aquellos tiempos antes de que existieran jubilaciones y términos de oficio los obispos servían hasta que fallecían. Mis 24 años de obispo diocesano están finalizando con más felicidad.

Este largo periodo ha significado que he trabajado con la mayoría de las congregaciones varias veces cuando ha habido cambios de sus clérigos. Tengo muy buenos recuerdos del trabajo con juntas parroquiales y clérigos y muchas historias divertidas para contarles algún día.

Un gozo especial de este ministerio ha sido la amistad y el apoyo de otros obispos y del personal diocesano. Los obispos David Lewis, Robert Atkinson, Clay Matthews, Francis Gray y David Jones han sido colegas muy valiosos. El personal diocesano sirve a la diócesis y a sus obispos con cordialidad y eficiencia.

En su 13er Obispo de Virginia, el Rvmo. Shannon Johnston, ustedes tienen a un líder muy talentoso, inteligente, expresivo y muy activo. A medida que el aprende a servir entre ustedes, yo espero que le apoyen, especialmente superando el crónicamente limitado apoyo financiero de las parroquias a la diócesis y que durante tanto tiempo ha limitado nuestra misión.

Los dejo con un corazón agradecido por el privilegio de haberles servido. No voy a extrañar el tráfico de la rutas 95 o la ruta 81, pero les extrañaré cuando comience a servir interinamente en la Catedral de la Gracia, San Francisco, California, durante un año. El lema en latín de nuestra diócesis, incorporado en el escudo diocesano es el título en latín del Salmo 118 “Confitemini Domino”: “Demos gracias a Dios porque él es bueno.”

Que este sentido de gratitud que embarga mi corazón les ayude a continuar sosteniendo a la Diócesis de Virginia.

Cordialmente,

Peter James Lee



Traducido por el Rev. Thomas Mansella.

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Letters from Our Bishops Regarding General Convention

A Letter from Bishop Lee

Dear Friends,

The most lasting impact of the 76th General Convention is likely to be an increase of initiative and energy in local congregations and dioceses. The sharp budget cuts in the three-year budget of the General Church will have a painful impact on some faithful staff members, but will shift the focus for mission to the local church, rather than the local church waiting for initiatives from the General Church.

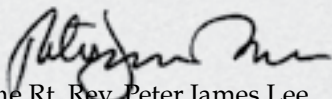
The emphasis on local ministry is a proper expression of the principle of subsidiarity, whereby mission should occur at the level closest to the people who are called to engage in that mission.

Local mission is also enhanced by resolutions which the secular press has incorrectly interpreted as necessarily damaging our worldwide relationship and as following the agenda of a gay and lesbian lobby. Instead, what the Convention did is to reaffirm that the ordination process is under the control of local bishops and dioceses, while stressing that access to that process is open to all baptized persons.

The Convention also invited local churches and dioceses (as well as churches elsewhere in the Communion) to collect liturgical and theological resources regarding same-gender blessings. Recognizing the unique pastoral needs of those dioceses in jurisdictions where same-gender marriage or civil partnerships are legal, the Convention affirmed that a generous pastoral response is needed.

The emphasis on the local did not deter the Convention from adopting both a denominational health plan for the whole Church and a mandatory lay employee pension plan, both of which, in the long run, will strengthen the local church.

Faithfully yours,



The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee
Bishop

A Letter from Bishop Johnston

Dear Diocesan Family,

With the conclusion of General Convention, the beginning of my time as your diocesan bishop fast approaches. Having just returned to the Diocese from the Convention, I want to express to you my thoughts on the two resolutions from the Convention which are garnering the most attention in the media. The first speaks to the current state of our Church's relationship to the Anglican Communion (D025) and the second addresses same-gender unions (C056 substitute).

Resolution D025 strongly affirms not only the Episcopal Church's commitment to its relationship with the Anglican Communion but also our Church's appreciation and support of the roles that gay and lesbian people have in the ministry of our Church—including all levels of ordination. This resolution passed with a 2-1 majority. I voted against it. As I said during the floor debate, I absolutely agree with every word of the resolution itself. Even so, I was convinced that the actual effect of D025 across the Anglican world would be to weaken the bonds of our worldwide Church and, more importantly, to compromise our international mission and ministry in the very places that need us so very badly—and we so need them. The problem for me with D025 was how it would be seen in its implications rather than being understood for what it actually says. Such is the nature of legislative reality, and this is the very reason why I do not believe the legislative process is the best process to address these issues. Still, I have great hopes that the Communion will recognize the resolution as it stands—a statement of where we really are as a Church at this time, all the while hoping to build upon and strengthen our ties with the larger Communion.

Resolution C056 calls for gathering theological and liturgical resources with respect to offering the Church's blessing for same-gender unions, which will be brought to the next General Convention in 2012 for study and consideration. The fact is that several states have legalized gay and lesbian unions, and others will likely follow suit. This resolution responds to that reality. It also allows bishops the exercise of personal discretion in providing for a "generous pastoral response" for gay and lesbian persons in the Church. I voted in favor of this resolution because I am convinced that it is both realistic and right. Monogamous same-gender unions are now a reality, and we should provide for the Church's response, with blessing or without. The resolution allows for either. Bishops must also have the ability to respond to what is actually true in all the various locales and contexts in which this Church ministers. It is important to remember, however, that no official rites of blessing that wholly sanction same-gender unions have been approved for the Church. In fact, it would take years to develop such rites.

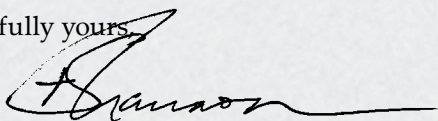
It is not so much the actual content of these two resolutions that may be problematic. The potential for difficulty follows from interpretation of the resolutions. The plain reality is that very little is actually changed by either one of the resolutions in themselves. Both statements address what is already true in

Letters continued from page 13 /

the life and witness of the Episcopal Church. The Convention is overwhelmingly of the mind that the Episcopal Church will be the stronger for the realistic and clear perspective of these resolutions.

Just how that will be so is now put to each diocese. Together, you and I will explore what these resolutions mean more precisely for the Diocese of Virginia. I look forward to the way ahead, and I welcome your input. Most importantly, I treasure your company in the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ. I remain,

Faithfully yours,



The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Bishop Coadjutor

A Letter from Bishop Jones

Dear Friends,

It might appear that the Episcopal Church has radically changed course with various interpretations of General Convention actions. I do not think so.

From my perspective, the Episcopal Church has remained on the same course it has followed for at least 40 years - one that has "stretched every nerve" as we have sought to live into the Baptismal Covenant.

What has not changed is a significant commitment to making the Church a safe place for all people all of the time. A major shift in our disciplinary canons (Title IV) was adopted by a voice vote in the House of Bishops with little or no debate. This new canon significantly raises the bar of conduct expected of clergy.

What has not changed is a genuine desire to live into the meaning of our baptism. Throughout my ministry in the Episcopal Church, I have seen the Church push the edges at Convention regarding who is to be included. The General Convention of 1970 opened reception of Holy Communion to all baptized persons. In 1973, a significant change in the marriage canon made possible, with the bishop's permission, the remarriage of divorced persons. In 1976, we approved the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate and then in 1979, we adopted a new Book of Common Prayer with the Baptismal Covenant. Through all this time, we have addressed issues of racism and encouraged racism training. And from the 1970s until the present day, we have been hearing the call of our own members who are gay and lesbian to recognize committed relationships and to fully include them in the life of the Church.

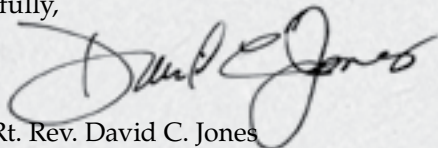
What has not changed is a passion for mission. In fact, our world view has significantly expanded over these 40 years. Our eyes have been opened to human need at home and abroad and our congregations have responded in significant ways. Convention approved a strategic plan for Latino/Hispanic ministry that focuses on opportunities for mission in changing neighborhoods with declining populations. The Millennium Development Goals were emphasized as goals for mission. And the presence of primates from around the Communion reminded us of our worldwide connections. The mission of Christ was at the heart of Convention.

Another aspect of Convention that was central to who we are as a Church was the gracious and generous concern I witnessed during a conversation with fellow bishops to discuss C056, which initially called for the development of liturgies for the blessing of same gender unions to be included in the Book of Occasional Services. The House of Bishops postponed consideration of that resolution to allow for a period of voluntary conversation, in which I participated. Twenty-seven bishops, including myself, gathered using the Indaba process of discussion and sharing learned at Lambeth. Together, we drafted a substitute resolution that could enjoy broad acceptance. I participated in the writing group. The substitute did not call for rites to be presented for approval or for use. It did request the collection and development of liturgical resources.

In the House of Bishops discussion on the substitute, we recognized constitutional problems with approval of liturgical rites of blessing. The rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer have the force of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church and they clearly say that marriage is intended for a man and a woman. We did not reject B033 (2006 Convention) which called for restraint in the confirmation as bishops of individuals whose manner of life would be problematic to the wider Church.

In light of all this, have we changed or are we trying to be faithful to a changing landscape in a rapidly changing world? Having fully participated in this process, I sense that we are striving to be faithful.

Faithfully,



The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones
Bishop Suffragan

A View from the Center

By Ed Jones, Center Aisle Editor

The hot-button issues triggered another round of passionate debate. The lumbering legislative process produced familiar moments of frustration. Once again, there was too much coffee and not enough sleep. But there was something fundamentally different about this summer's General Convention from those of the past few years.

Though deputies and bishops acknowledged that the Church is still "not of one mind" on matters relating to human sexuality, there was more of an effort to focus on the common bonds that unite us. These moments of generosity and grace appeared not only in the high-profile discussions, but throughout the Convention's deliberations.

Bishops experienced a moment of grace when they worked to build consensus on same-gender blessings through the *Indaba* process—discussions and reflections that emphasize our oneness. Even debates on more mundane matters, from the budget to the Church's communications strategy, reflected an effort to find common ground.

The search for commonality filled this Convention with nuance,



Center Aisle is the Diocese of Virginia's General Convention opinion journal.

as demonstrated by the fact that our own Diocese's bishops could vote differently on key resolutions while still sharing the same general approach. We have witnessed again the delicate balance to being a fully inclusive Church while remaining loyal to the Anglican Communion. We've relearned how difficult it can be to temper our passion with humility.

One resulting resolution, D025, honestly states that God has called and may continue to call gay and lesbian people to the ordination process. On the issue of blessing same-gender unions, Resolution C056 authorizes the collection and development of materials for "consideration" by the next General Convention. In both cases, a close reading indicates that the Church moved forward without explicitly breaking from our Communion partners.

Of course, you know it's an

Episcopal meeting when the most important discussions occur, not during the proceedings, but when the meeting is over. That's when the debate really begins on what it all means.

Center Aisle's take is that our Church is saying that:

- We are an inclusive community of faith where all are welcomed and loved.
- We continue to have an "abiding commitment" to the Anglican Communion.
- We are concerned about falling revenues and membership, but committed to finding creative ways to carry out mission work.
- We glory in the fact that we don't have all the answers, and that we are still searching and discerning.

That's a rich reflection of a Church steadfastly striving for unity amid diversity. +

Growing in Grace at ECW Triennial

By Beblon G. Parks, ECW President

THE 46TH TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN TOOK PLACE CONCURRENTLY WITH THE 76TH GENERAL CONVENTION IN ANAHEIM. BEBLON PARKS, ANNA LOU FLYNN, ANNE GORDON CURRAN, JEANELLE MORITZ AND PAT HARDY REPRESENTED VIRGINIA. HERE, MS. PARKS REPORTS BACK.

"Go...Grow in Grace!" These two messages blended to create a memorable experience at the 46th ECW Triennial.

"Go!" was the message delivered by the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, bishop of North Carolina, at a dinner for the United Thank Offering. "As my father has sent me, go!" Bishop Curry reminded us, urging us to go to places of ministry that need our help. Our delegation listened intently as we made the connection between his words and our Triennial theme, "Grow in Grace." That growth

took many forms during our 10-day experience. We grew in grace during daily Eucharist. We grew in grace as we attended plenary sessions conducting business, passing resolutions and electing new officers. (Anne Gordon Curran took a seat as the UTO coordinator for Province III and I was appointed parliamentarian for Province III.)

We grew in grace as we heard a homily on Mary's Grace by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, and a message on the grace of little known women in the Bible delivered by Phyllis Tickle. We grew in grace as we heard from representatives of the youth delegation. We grew in grace while attending various workshops to gain new skills and expand our knowledge.

The "House of Joy," as the ECW Triennial is affectionately termed, was not without several moments of sadness and despair as we heard of the illness of delegation members

and general convention guests. But, as is true of the ECW, when faced with adversity and trauma, we draw on the strength that comes from faith, love and caring. Yes, we grew in grace and we are ready to go! +

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Great Journeys Begin at the River

Christchurch School explores exciting new curriculum

By Tyler Fox

Walking up the gravel road from the riverside boathouse into the setting of octogenary brick buildings and magnolias that make up Christchurch School's campus, "new" is not exactly the first thought that comes to mind. Yet "new" only begins to describe the exciting changes happening at Christchurch School (CCS) as it implements its Great Journeys program, a unique and utterly modern educational model.

At CCS, they say that "Great Journeys begin at the river." Much as the Rappahannock River has cradled the township of Christ Church through its history, the river now encompasses the curriculum of CCS, a Diocesan Church School for students in grades 9-12, located on the waterfront in the Northern Neck region of Virginia. "We are using this unique and beautiful place to make a skills-based curriculum," says Headmaster John E. Byers.

Headmaster Byers contrasts the term "skills-based" with "content-based"; the latter is a large component of the traditional educational model. In a March letter published in the *New York Times*, CCS English teacher Peter Kempe concisely laid out the need for such a revision: "As we enter the 21st century, a time when the amount of knowledge available is both far more vast and far more easily found than ever before, we do not need a knowledge-based curriculum derived from a set of state or national standards. There's a good chance that the content we teach today will be laughably antiquated by the time students are in college or the workplace." Echoing the sentiment, science teacher and Great Journeys Watershed Coordinator Dave Cola says the new curriculum is "preparing kids to function in a world that doesn't even exist yet."

Mr. Cola's role at the school exemplifies how courses and co-curricular activities are now horizontally integrated. He designs meaningful outdoor experiences that give students a sense of place, history and connection to the land. "When you note that the Chesapeake Bay is among the most productive ecosystems on the planet, they get curious." And when students are encouraged to investigate on their own, the curriculum connects the place "to politics, history, social issues - the learning is infinite. And it's all based on experience."

In Mr. Cola's signature of experiential learning, a series of adventure trips, starts close to Middlesex and progresses in distance and intensity. On a bookended trip last year, the students went paddling

in the Rappahannock, stopping for an anatomy (and cooking) lesson when they caught fish. They went on to learn about the culture and history of Appalachia. "When we reached the top, you could see in everyone's eyes the pure beauty of nature that is indescribable unless you see it for yourself," wrote Luke Marzaloes, class of 2010, of the hike. Classmate Justin Ashby reported that "nothing can cap off a long hard day of school like getting out into nature." Mr. Cola hopes that by the end of four years, the students will be able to become productive members in any place they may wind up.

"It's all about that wow moment," says Mr. Cola. "It is at this point when people realize that everything they have seen, tasted, touched, smelled, heard and learned during the unique experience was done with purpose and now has cohesiveness and personal significance."

That personal experience is also sought by the Rev. Simon Mainwaring, Christchurch School's chaplain. "We don't just tick off

the religious component like traditional boarding schools," says Mr. Mainwaring. "Everything is encouraged to be questioned." As remarkable as this departure from educational tradition may sound, CCS is still soundly ensconced in the Episcopal tradition. Just as the Episcopal Church recognizes its place in a postmodern world, the students here also realize that they have a choice about how to engage in their spirituality.

Mr. Mainwaring is fond of the oyster as a metaphor: the oysters do not simply sit on the floor of a river; they change the world around them as they filter water and build reefs. Fittingly, church is also integrated at CCS. There is an altar down by the river made of oyster shells and driftwood. Service projects stand side-by-side with sports and arts as co-curricular activities. Teachers at Christchurch School are excited because they know that students here will learn to care about their neighbors, their environment and their education +

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“What Not to Wear,” Church Edition

By Lindsay Ryland

TEN DUMB THINGS THAT CHURCHES DO (AND HOW TO AVOID THEM); THE REV. PHILIP WIEHE; MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING 2001.

MORE DUMB THINGS THAT CHURCHES DO (AND NEW STRATEGIES FOR AVOIDING THEM); THE REV. PHILIP WIEHE AND THE REV. LINDA MCFADDEN; MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING, 2009.

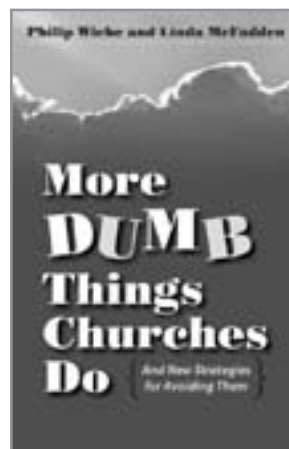
If there were a “What Not to Wear” reality TV show for church communities, *Ten Dumb Things That Churches Do* and *More Dumb Things That Churches Do (And Strategies for Avoiding Them)* could provide the script for “What Not to Do in Your Congregation.” For the uninitiated, “What Not to Wear” is the TLC television network’s reality fashion advice program. Authors Philip Wiehe and Linda McFadden would outshine fashion mavens Stacy and Clinton as they target potential parish problem areas with simple and creative outcomes, never losing sight of the fact that we are building up the Body of Christ by our words and actions. They offer practical, relevant and, most importantly, positive solutions for the situations they describe.

While reading these books, you might find that you have to throw

away a favorite sweater (parish tradition) that your grandmother (a long ago vestry member) knitted for you when you were a child (smaller congregation) in order to not seem outdated in the 21st century. You will perhaps recognize your self, your vestry, your clergy and your congregation as the chapters unfold in each book, and you will laugh, chuckle, or smile and say “Uh oh” as you are reading.

Using real life parish experiences (the names have been changed to protect the parishes’ identities), the Rev. Philip Wiehe and the Rev. Linda McFadden have described counterproductive situations they have encountered in over 30 years of ordained ministry that do not uphold “being the Body of Christ.”

In *Ten Dumb Things that Churches Do*, Mr. Wiehe identifies situations that churches encounter in their common life, any and all of which can create distractions from being the Body of Christ. From “acting too much like a business/corporation” to “not acting



enough like a business/corporation,” he uses humor and wit as tools in understanding how churches, regardless of denomination, approach the challenges of “being church” in today’s world, while often relying on outdated and methods of evaluating situations.

In the sequel, *More Dumb Things that Churches Do*, Mr. Wiehe teams with his wife, Ms. McFadden, to dig deeper into issues not covered in as much detail in the first book: money, mission statements, leadership issues, communications and generational changes. This book also includes sample workshop formats for strategic planning, developing parish core theology and teaching hospitality practices.

Read these books and laugh, then think of how your church could benefit from living out our baptismal covenant and operating out of trust and love, rather than fear. +

The Rev. Philip Wiehe is interim rector of St. George’s, Arlington. The Rev. Linda McFadden is a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

Reporting Back on the Windsor Dialogue Commission

By Emily Cherry

Earlier this summer, the Diocese of Virginia’s Windsor Dialogue Commission reported the results of a six-week listening process to the Executive Board. The Commission—originally called the R-5 Commission—was established after the 212th Council in 2007 with the charge to discern through a listening process what emerging consensus there might be about the roles of gay and lesbian persons in the life of the Church. In 2008, Bishop Lee appointed members of the R-5 Commission to the Windsor Dialogue Commission to continue that discernment process and to engage members of the Diocese in education and discussion. At the 2009 Council, the Committee was charged with the specific goal of offering a listening process that

enables mutual understanding.

Since Council, Bishop Lee invited 12 churches, representing the diversity of the Diocese, to undertake a listening process under the guidance of the Windsor Dialogue Commission. Groups of four people from each church paired off in one two-hour meeting each week, each with a facilitator. The purpose of the process was to provide an environment in which authentic sharing could occur to ensure a culture of “hearing” rather than discussion. The groups were then charged to report back to the Commission.

The report found that, based on “four overwhelmingly positive experiences and two characterized by feelings of impatience for not addressing issues of liturgy and

blessings, it appears that there is progress towards an emerging consensus in the Diocese of Virginia for the support of same gender unions.” The positive experiences were marked by trust, the sharing of personal stories and an atmosphere of respect, all grounded in Scripture and prayer.

Recommendations include continuation and expansion of the listening process, with a funding request to make that expansion possible; disseminating these results to the larger Anglican Communion and making the listening process available to the Communion; and maintaining a permanent record of this work, with an oversight group to oversee the continued work.

Read the full report online at www.thediocese.net. +

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Lauren Stanley Heads to Haiti

By Matthew Davies, Excerpted from Episcopal News Service

“Where does God need me most?” For the Rev. Lauren Stanley, this question has led her to the most populous diocese of the Episcopal Church and the poorest nation in the western hemisphere—Haiti.

A priest from the Diocese of Virginia, Ms. Stanley will move to Port-au-Prince in August to begin a three-year placement as an Episcopal Church missionary.

Ms. Stanley is no foreigner to serving in poor and disadvantaged communities, having spent four years as an Episcopal Church missionary in the Diocese of Renk, Sudan, where she taught at the theological college.



Ms. Stanley

But her term in Renk came to an abrupt end in March when Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul of Sudan chose to terminate Ms. Stanley’s missionary placement.

Bishop Peter Lee of the Diocese of Virginia said in a recent statement that Ms. Stanley had “served faithfully in the Diocese of Renk, Sudan, for nearly four years, receiving widespread support

among her students and the local community.”

Ms. Stanley sees a lot of commonalities between Sudan and Haiti, describing them as “two most desperate countries with desperate political situations.”

Yet, despite the struggles and challenges, in both places there is an incredible amount of faith, she said. “Faith is not a menu option as it is in the western world. You live your faith every day. What I see in both places is faithful people struggling mightily to help bring about the kingdom of God. This is their gift to us. This is what faith can look like.” +

We Are Partners: South Africa and Virginia

By Bobbie Smith and Anne Gordon Curran

Since 1991, the Diocesan Commission on South Africa Partnership has offered funding for lay and clergy education in the rapidly growing Anglican diocese of Christ the King, South Africa, including supporting seminary training for the Rev. Maureen Simons, the first woman of

color to be ordained under the Rt. Rev. Peter John Lee. Money has also helped with education for lay leadership, which is essential in the diocese, as it has more than doubled in size.

The other major focus of the Commission is establishing church-to-church links between the two

dioceses. These partnerships are specifically designed to support each other through prayers and mutual respect. Current partnerships are:

- St. James’s, Richmond – St. Cyprian’s, Sharpeville
- St. Philip’s, Richmond – St. John the Baptist, Boipatong
- Emmanuel, Rapidan – St. Monica, Orange Farm
- St. Gabriel’s, Leesburg – St. Gabriel’s, Boitumelo
- Trinity, Washington – St. Mary’s, Rosettenville
- St. Margaret’s, Woodbridge – St. Nicholas, Ennerdale

Between 1992 and 2008, the Commission has sponsored four teams to visit Christ the King and hosted two teams here in Virginia. Two groups of youth have also gone to South Africa and one group traveled to Virginia. The Rev. Martha Macgill and her family served as missionaries for three years at St. Francis, Walkerville, and were instrumental in establishing a popular on-going camp for youth of Christ the King. Recently donated land is now being developed to serve as a permanent campsite and youth retreat center in Diocese of Christ the King.

All of this and more have been accomplished in these 18 years of a relationship based in prayer and enthusiastic energy as we have and continue to discover the many bridges across diversity.

Questions? Please contact the Rev. Ann Ritonia, chairman, at 540-662-5843 or assistantann@christchurchwinchester.org. +



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All Youth, All Diocese, Joining Together in Mission

By the Rev. Mary Davila

In late June, a group of 12 youth and two adults from across the Diocese of Virginia set off for Marion, N.C., for the first ever diocesan-wide youth mission trip to the Towel Ministry Program. The primary focus of Towel is on repairing the homes of elderly or handicapped persons who do not have the physical or financial resources to do so on their own.

Jessica Riddle of St. Barnabas', Annandale, was prompted to come on a mission trip when she received a \$200 youth mission voucher from the Diocese of Virginia upon her confirmation. Jessica worked on one of three Towel work sites, at the home of Doris and Pat, and she assisted with fixing a hand railing, putting on a new door, cleaning the roof and gutters and painting. The Towel work sites are assigned through referrals from the Department of Social Services, and the emphasis of Towel is as much on relationship building as on physical building.

Louann Croft of St. Andrew's, Richmond, was also on Jessica's site. "Doris and Pat were really thankful for the hard and kind work we did for them," said Louann. "The trip was a great experience. It was so good that my brothers and I are thinking about going on another mission trip with Towel Ministry."

Another group worked on Mrs. Scott's house, where the workers nailed down the roof, sealed cracks, put up new gutters and built a new set of stairs. In the words of Joey Evans and Carl Croft of St. Andrew's, Richmond, "Mrs. Scott was a great woman with a very upbeat attitude. She was always commenting on what a great job we had done on the repairs around her house."

The final group worked at the Shelter for Abused Women in



Photo: Mary Davila

Libby Brown of All Souls', Atlee, helps construct a play set at the Shelter for Abused Women as part of the first ever diocesan youth mission trip in Marion, N.C.

Marion, disassembling a play set and moving it away from visibility from the main road.

Justin Crane of All Souls', Mechanicsville, was part of the mission team at the Shelter, "I got to witness many things happen. I saw a backyard of a women's shelter completely changed in one week. I've made new friends. I got to take part in a healing service. My relationship with God was definitely strengthened."

Almost all of the youth who went on the trip said that this experience sparked an interest in participating in future mission trips. None of them had ever been part of a mission trip before, and many of them had never done a lot of construction work. But it wasn't the physical labor that made an impression on the youth. The youth were more impressed by the faith and reliance of the home owners they met. As Whitley Menges of St. Stephen's, Richmond said, "Even people in

bad situations can find hope and get up for every day and they stay strong with the hand of God beside them." Lydia Metz of St. Barnabas', Annandale, said that this experience made her realize how fortunate she is, and that she wants to continue reaching out to those in need.

The youth also commented that they were excited to have been empowered to do "real" construction work. "We don't bring youth here to stand around and watch," said long-time Towel Ministry coordinator Ron Earwood. "We older people aren't going to be around forever, and the youth have got to learn basic labor skills." Mr. Earwood noted that many of the youth come to Towel skeptical about the whole experience, and then they start to see what "God is all about. They start to see how fortunate they are, and then they are inspired to help those in need."

This was the first diocesan wide youth mission trip, and all youth from the Diocese of Virginia were eligible to apply for the trip. The hope is that such diocesan wide efforts will continue each summer, allowing youth who may not have the opportunity to participate in a trip with their own church to join a larger team of youth from around the Diocese.

Other trip participants included Libby Brown of All Souls', Atlee; Jordan Riddle of St. Barnabas', Annandale; Rico Dutton of St. John's, Centreville; and Danny Wehr and Johnathan Wehr of St. Peter's, Purcellville. +

For more information about youth mission in the Diocese of Virginia, please contact the Rev. Mary Davila, assistant rector at St. James', Leesburg and diocesan youth mission coordinator, at youthmission@thediocese.net.

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