

June, 2003

Dear Friends,

We Anglicans are rightly thankful for our diversity and our unity but the reality of living in unity and diversity stresses us. A contemporary point of stress has to do with the church's ministry by and among her gay and lesbian members.

Two Anglican dioceses have taken actions in recent weeks that typify the stress points in our communion. The Canadian Diocese of New Westminster in the Vancouver area of British Columbia has authorized the blessing of same-sex unions. The first such blessing of the union of two men occurred in an east Vancouver parish on May 28. Eight congregations of the diocese deplored the action and have asked for oversight by someone other than their own bishop. The Anglican Church in Nigeria has declared itself out of communion with the Diocese of New Westminster.

On June 8, 2003, the Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire in our own Episcopal Church elected the Rev. Gene Robinson, longtime canon to the ordinary in that diocese, as their bishop. Canon Robinson, a divorced father of two adult children, is openly gay and lives in a partnership with another man.

At a meeting in Brazil this spring, the Primates of the Anglican Communion supported the Archbishop of Canterbury who has said that there is no theological consensus about same-sex unions in our communion. The primates said, "We as a body cannot support the authorization of such rites."

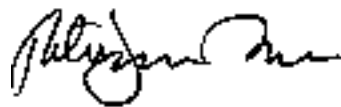
Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion has no central authority to force a national church to submit to an internationally recognized consensus. We continue in union while we disagree. Our disagreements will surface at the General Convention, July 29 - August 8 in Minneapolis. A resolution to authorize same-sex blessings will be introduced. Canon Robinson must receive majority votes in both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies in order for his consecration as a bishop to proceed.

At the 199th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia in 1994, the Diocese of Virginia declared, "The Diocese is consistently faithful to the church's teaching that the normative context for sexual intimacy is lifelong, heterosexual, monogamous marriage; and we have resisted with compassionate strength attempts to divide us, or to define us by such a fearful or narrow expression of that teaching that it becomes oppressive and self-righteous." The resolution went on to say that those same principles should be applied to candidates for ordination in our diocese.

We have differences with other dioceses. We also have faithful gay and lesbian parishioners, some in long term, committed relationships. Our diocesan sexuality dialogue group, which has been meeting for nearly seven years, provides a community of friends in which differences in this area may be explored.

I ask your prayers that our Episcopal Church may be faithful in its unity as we wrestle with the stresses of diversity. It's tempting but finally faithless to dismiss those with whom we disagree as prejudiced fundamentalists on the one hand or heretical revisionists on the other. Somewhere in the midst of our differences, Christ is calling us to unity, love and witness in our discipleship. That center, where Christ dwells, is where we are called.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter James Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter James Lee

About the Communiqué

Please feel free to use the material in the Communiqué, excerpting or reprinting parts of it in your newsletter, or posting the entire issue on your congregation's bulletin board. Please share it with others in your congregation who might find it helpful: Christian educators, church musicians, parish secretaries, parish newsletter editors, youth leaders.

The Communiqué is sent free of charge to canonically resident clergy, junior and senior wardens, members of the Executive Board and the Standing Committee, deputies to General Convention and Province III, and regional Presidents. Others may receive the Communiqué for a \$10 annual subscription fee. To subscribe, send a check made payable to the Diocese of Virginia (note that it's for the Communiqué) along with your name and mailing address, to the address below. The Communiqué also is online at the diocesan website: www.thediocese.net.

Deadline for the Communiqué is the first business day of each month. You may mail, FAX or e-mail information. We are unable to accept information for the Communiqué by telephone.

Please address all correspondence to: Communiqué, The Diocese of Virginia, 110 W. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. 23220. FAX: 804/644-6928.

E-mail: njenkins@thediocese.net

Prayers

Your prayers are asked for Maureen Sydnor, the Rev. Timothy Berry, Mary Jenks, the Rev. Edwin Williams, Wilmer Moomaw, the Rev. Bill Reardon, and the Rev. Jere Bunting, Jr.

Give thanks for the life of Elizabeth "Betsy" Power, who died May 27, 2003. Ms. Power had served as chair of the Diocesan Committee on Aging, the Executive Board of the Diocese and President of Region XIII.

Give thanks for the life of the Rev. Robert Andrews, retired rector of St. Andrew's, Arlington, who died May 29, 2003 at Goodwin House West in Falls Church.

Pray each week for the **Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses and synods in Virginia and their bishops; pray for churches that suffer persecution**. Pray for the following congregations and clergy during the weeks indicated. Congregations are scheduled for visits by

the Bishops on their prayer dates.

June 15: St. James', Leesburg-the Rev. John Ohmer, the Rev. Linda Kapurch; **Christ Church, Lucketts**-the Rev. Peter Gustin; **St. Gabriel's, Ashburn**-the Rev. Jeunee Cunningham; **St. James', Warrenton**-the Rev. Lawrence Murphy; **Pohick, Lorton**-the Rev. Donald Binder, the Rev. Jane Piver; **The Falls Church, Falls Church**-the Rev. John Yates, the Rev. Nicholas Lubelfeld, the Rev. Kim Swithinbank, the Rev. Penelope Swithinbank, the Rev. Robert Watkin.

June 22: Varina, Richmond-the Rev. Michael Hadaway; **St. Thomas, Richmond**-the Rev. Susan Eaves; **St. John's, Centreville**-the Rev. Howard Kempell.

June 29: St. Paul's, Millers Tavern-the Rev. Caitlin Howell; **Grace, Millers Tavern**-the Rev. Vincent Hodge; **Church of the Word, Gainesville**-the Rev. Robin Adams; **Calvary, Front Royal**-the Rev. Deborah Rutter.

July 6: Emmanuel, Harrisonburg-Please pray for this parish in its search for a rector, the Rev. Jack Sutor, Interim Rector. Please pray for **counselors, campers and guests at Shrine Mont** this summer.

July 13: St. Peter's, New Kent-the Rev. Geoffrey Price; **St. Peter's-in-the-Woods, Fairfax Station**-the Rev. Robert Koth; **Our Redeemer, Aldie**-the Rev. John Sheehan.

July 20: St. James', Mount Vernon-the Rev. Huey Sevier, the Rev. Ramsey Gilchrist; **St. Barnabas', Annandale**-the Rev. Linda Hawkins, the Rev. Stephen Shepherd.

July 27: Christ Ascension, Richmond-the Rev. David Keill.

August 3: Please pray for the **General Convention meeting July 29 - August 8** in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

August 10: Please pray for the staff and guests of the **Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn**.

August 17: Please pray for the staff and residents of **Virginia Diocesan Homes**.

August 24: Please pray for the **staff of the Diocese of Virginia**.

August 31: Please pray for the faculty, staff and students of the Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia: **Christchurch School, St. Catherine's School, St. Christopher's School, St. Margaret's School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School and Stuart Hall**.

September 7: Ware, Gloucester-the Rev. Peter Worthington; **St. John's, Warsaw, and Farnham, Farnham**-the Rev. Michael Malone; **Abingdon, White Marsh**-the Rev. Allen Coffey.

Get it online at www.thediocese.net

Announcements

Speak to Your Deputation

If you would like to forward your prayers, support and concerns to your elected deputies to General Convention, e-mail them at deputation@thediocese.net. This address is active now and will remain active throughout General Convention. For other Convention news, check out www.thediocese.net and www.episcopalchurch.org. You can also subscribe to the Diocesan News Service by sending a subscription request to lcampos@thediocese.net.

Amy Pastor Awards

Some fortunate pastor is going to win \$10,000 next summer, simply for following his calling to teach the Word of God. The Amy Foundation, a non-denominational Christian foundation and founder of the prestigious Amy Writing Awards has just announced the First Amy Pastor Awards. Fifteen cash awards totaling \$30,000 will be given to winning pastors simply for submitting ten sermon outlines, based on each of ten components of Christ-centered disciple making: love, prayer, truth, righteousness, faith, obedience, wisdom, work, commitment and accountability. To obtain entry guidelines and application forms, log onto www.eachonebringone.com.

Spend July 4 at the Bishop's Bluegrass Festival

The 14th Annual Bishop's Bluegrass Festival will feature three award winning acts: five-time Grammy nominee Vassar Clements, Virginia State Bluegrass Champions Jackass Flats, and Steep Canyon Rangers. Music begins at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children ages 4-12. Bring your own picnic or call and reserve a Shrine Mont barbecue chicken dinner. As always the festival is preceded by the 5K Run and Walk at 8:30 a.m. The fourth is a Friday so make a weekend of it at Shrine Mont. Call 540-856-2141.

The Magnetic Church Conference

Presented by gifted lay evangelist Andrew Weeks, this conference offers non-confrontational, practical evangelism techniques that help churches to attract and retain new members. The conference takes place Sept. 26 - 27 at St. Peter's, Purcellville. Fee: \$40 per guest or \$35 per person at pre-paid, group discount rate. For more information about early registration, call St. Peter's Church at 540-338-7307.

Churches in Search

Receiving Names

Harrisonburg, Emmanuel: Rector, town, 388 communicants, total operating revenue \$259,000.

Richmond, Emmanuel, Brook Hill; Rector, full time, 471 communicants, total operating revenue \$315,200.

Richmond, St. Bartholomew's, Rector, full time, suburban, 143 communicants, total operating revenue \$128,500.

Richmond, St. Martin's: Rector, full time, suburban, 213 communicants, total operating revenue \$153,500.

Richmond, St. Philip's, Rector, full time, urban, 187 communicants, total operating revenue \$250,200.

Building Profile

Doswell, The Fork Church; Rector, part time, rural, statistics to be provided.

Fredericksburg, St. George's: Rector, full time, town, 880 communicants, total operating revenue \$550,000.

Gordonsville, Christ Church: Rector, town, 112 communicants, total operating revenue \$134,000.

Hanover, St. Paul's: Rector, full time, suburban, 189 communicants, total operating revenue \$157,000.

King George, St. Paul's, Owens: Rector, full time, rural, 150 communicants, total operating revenue \$110,000.

Millwood, Cunningham Chapel Parish; Rector, full time, 150 communicants, total operating revenue \$136,800.

New Kent, St. Peter's Parish Church: Rector, full time, 230 communicants, \$170,000 total operating revenue.

Stanardsville, Grace Church: Rector, full time, town, 97 communicants, total operating revenue \$96,000.

West Point, St. John's; Rector, full time, town, 125 communicants, total operating revenue \$130,800.

Woodbridge, St. Margaret's: Rector, full time, suburban, 302 communicants, total operating income \$412,000.

No Longer Receiving Names

Alexandria: St. Luke's Church: Rector, full-time, suburban; 532 communicants; total operating revenue \$355,000.

Middleburg, Emmanuel; Rector, full time: town; 238 communicants, total operating revenue \$304,600.

Assistant and Associate Clergy Positions

Arlington – St. Peter's Church: Assistant Rector: St. Peter's 570 communicants share a sense of community in Christian worship that is both inviting and welcoming. Founded more than 40 years ago, it is located in the northern residential area of Arlington County. Its parishioners include families of all ages, active single young adults, and youth. Our new rector, the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips, joined us in late October 2002. The Rector and Vestry of St. Peter's are committed to continued church growth and program development. Our staff, in addition to the rector, includes of Director of Music and Youth Choirs, an Office Administrator, Sexton, Parish Secretary, and (in 2003-04), a seminarian. Our parish is both involved in and supports numerous active ministries. We are seeking an assistant to assist in pastoral care, outreach and mission, youth ministries and Christian education. For a more complete look at our parish, visit www.saint-peters.org. Interested persons should contact: The Rev. Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D., Rector, St. Peter's Church Church, 4250 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22207.

Arlington – Trinity Church: Assistant Rector. Trinity Church seeks an experienced priest to share in the work of helping to nurture and equip this dedicated multicultural congregation to respond effectively to God's call in a rapidly changing urban environment. Established in 1903, Trinity Church is located in an increasingly demographically diverse community for which area revitalization plans have recently been approved. The Assistant Rector will work with the Rector and Vestry to discern God's call in Trinity's new context, to revision, and to implement infrastructure and new ministries that will enable the parish to transition from a pastoral to program style church. Primary areas of responsibility for this part-time (20-25 hour per week) position include Christian education and spiritual formation. Clergy will share equally in liturgical planning, teaching and preaching responsibilities. The position is available now. We offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience and diocesan guidelines. Any interested candidate should send his or her resume and CDO profile to The Rev. Kim L. Coleman, Rector, 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia 22204, or telephone at 703-920-7077, or email to rector@tecarl.org

Richmond – St. Paul's Church: Assistant Rector. St. Paul's Church, Richmond seeks an experienced priest who can share a full time ministry in the life of downtown congregation. St. Paul's Church is located in the heart of downtown Richmond across the street from the state capitol and a block from city hall. We minister to parishioners who live throughout the Richmond Metropolitan area and to the homeless and poor who walk the streets of downtown. This priest will share in the administration of the parish, overseeing areas of parish life and supervising members of our diverse staff. Calling in hospitals and nursing homes, as well as providing pastoral care for individuals going through life's crises, will also be important. St. Paul's is seeking an excellent communicator who through preaching, teaching and writing can articulate the power of the Christian message. We seek a person who has a deep and enthusiastic faith, a person who will work hard, one who is flexible in dealing with the daily challenges of ministry and above all a person with a sense of humor. This position is available now. Interested candidates should send resume and CDO to the Rector, The Rev. Robert G. Hetherington, 815 E. Grace Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Other Positions

Please direct all announcements for non-clergy positions to the Editor Nancy Jenkins at njenkins@thediocese.net or via mail or fax at the Mayo House. Please make descriptions 100 words or less. Position will run in two issues unless subsequent announcements are requested.

Arlington – Trinity Church is seeking a full charge bookkeeper to handle monthly general ledger, cash receipts, cash disbursements, payroll preparation, and preparation of monthly and yearly financial statements. Must have experience with automated accounting systems and be familiar with IRS regulations on payroll taxes, etc. This position will also be responsible for similar monthly bookkeeping for the day school sponsored by the church. Prior accounting experience with a church or non-profit is a plus. This is a part-time position: 30 hours/week. This position does not accrue any employee benefits. Contact David Tuma at 703-549-8068 to arrange an interview.

Fredericksburg – St. George's has a position available to assist the Youth and Education Director for five hours per week. The position pays \$18 per hour with flexible working hours which might include three hours on Sunday evenings and two additional hours during the week. Some experience and musical ability (guitar?) is a plus. Please contact Jan Saylor at the church office for more information. (540) 373-4133.

Charlottesville – The Church of Our Saviour, a "corporate" size parish of 450 families seeks a part-time Youth

Ministry Director to form youth (8th - 12th grades) in the Christian walk and faith. Commitment to youth formation and attention to detailed management is essential. The candidate should seek to know Christ and make Christ known among youth. Undergraduate degree preferred; theological education and/or interests valuable. Salary: \$17-18K, minimum of 20 hours per week. Resumes and initial inquiries to Carolyn Bancroft, Parish Administrator, 434-973-6512, or by email: cvbancroft@cooschv.org. Deadline: noon, July 15, 2003.

Arlington — St. George's seeks an Administrative Assistant (20 hrs/week) to work in busy church office. Responsible for general office duties and requiring personal skills for dealing with many kinds of people in person and by phone. Collaborative team environment. Computer skills a strong plus. Knowledge of the Episcopal Church also a plus. Flexible work hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. \$12/hr. Send resume and cover letter to St. George's parish administrator at info@saintgeorgeschurch.org.

Calendar

July

4
Bishop's 14th Annual Bluegrass Festival and 5K Run/Walk — Shrine Mont at Orkney Springs. For information, call the diocesan Program Office at 804-643-8451 or toll free 1-800-DIOCESE. For overnight accommodations at Shrine Mont, call 540-856-2141.

15
Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commission on World Mission — 10:00 a.m. at Trinity, Fredericksburg.

30
General Convention of the Episcopal Church USA — continues through August 8 in Minneapolis, MN. To contact the Virginia deputation, write to deputation@thediocese.net. For more information about the General Convention, log onto www.episcopalchurch.org.

September

21
Executive Board, Deans and Presidents — continues through Sept. 22 at Shrine Mont. For information, call Patrick Getlein at 804-643-8451 or toll free 1-800-DIOCESE, ext. 30 or email pgetlein@thediocese.net.

October

19
Virginia Day at the National Cathedral — Washington, D.C. 11:00 a.m. The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Bishop of Virginia will be the Chief Celebrant. Co-Celebrants include The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell, Bishop of Southwest Virginia and The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Bishop Suffragan of Southern Virginia. The Rev. Dr. Peter James Flamming, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Richmond will be the guest preacher. Come help us celebrate Virginia.

22
Deans Meeting — 10 a.m.-noon, Trinity, Fredericksburg.

24
Worship and Language: Enriching Our Worship continues through the 25th. A conference sponsored by the Committee on Women in Mission and Ministry. Location and further details to be announced. Keynote speaker: The Rev. Sister Jean C. Campbell.

November

7-9
Junior High Weekend — Shrine Mont.

13
Executive Board Meeting — Grace Church, Kilmarnock, 10 a.m. . For information, call Patrick Getlein at 804-643-8451 or toll free 1-800-DIOCESE, ext. 30 or email pgetlein@thediocese.net.

December

4
Deans Meeting — 10 a.m.-noon, Trinity, Fredericksburg.

18
Executive Board Meeting — Mayo Memorial Church House, Richmond, 10 a.m. . For information, call Patrick Getlein at 804-643-8451 or toll free 1-800-DIOCESE, ext. 30 or email pgetlein@thediocese.net.

