



## Perspective

# God's Jubilee Brings Us Home

By the Rev. Charles E. Alley  
Deputy from Virginia

*"During Jubilee, all creation is to be liberated for the sake of finding proper balance and relationship in union with God and one another."*

—The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold

Jubilee—liberation from bondage, and restoration, refreshment, reconciliation, forgiveness and grace—is the idea that the Presiding Bishop has woven through his meditations and made the theme of this 73rd General Convention. Bishop Griswold has led us to the understanding of Jubilee as an activity rooted in the presence of God, rather than a passive idleness. His meditations have led me as a deputy to rethink my issues-made approach to our work as the General Convention.

When I heard that the Jubilee was a "Sabbath of Sabbaths," I thought back to God establishing the Sabbath with Israel in the wilderness. "You shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. ... It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." (Exodus 31:13,17; NRSV) We are to observe the Sabbath in order to be refreshed by reflecting on our relationship with God. We do this weekly at the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, and we are to have an extended reflection on who we are called to be as the Body of Christ every Jubilee year.

"Going home" was another metaphor for the activity of Jubilee used by Bishop Griswold. The

See *Perspective* back page

## Onward to Bishops

*"Help us to remember that holy ground is unpredictable, but still the safest ground on Earth."*

—The Rev. Frank Wade, House of Deputies chaplain

With an inspiring touch of Anglican balance, the Episcopal Church has taken a major step forward in its pastoral support of gays and lesbians, while voicing high expectations for those in such relationships.

In passing the first seven resolves of the Compromise Resolution on Human Sexuality yesterday, the House of Deputies articulated the Church's expectation that those living in life-long committed relationships are called to show "fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful honest communication, and holy love."

The Deputies acknowledged a reality—that there are gay and lesbian relationships in our churches. But by approving the proposal without the eighth resolve, which would have set in motion prematurely a process to develop rites for support of same-sex couples, they stopped short of declaring an artificial consensus on the appropriateness of those relationships.

What lies ahead—and what we hope the Bishops now will approve—is a continued period of discussion, reflection and prayer in the context of a more welcoming embrace of those in relationships outside of marriage. Indeed, the Episcopal Church is promising that gay couples are entitled to the "prayerful support, encouragement and pastoral care necessary" to live faithfully in accord with the standards of the Church.

Chaplain Wade has it right: Daring to address publicly our differences is to walk on holy ground, and that ground is unpredictable. It also is emotionally charged and perilous. But as we discovered yesterday, it can be full of grace and compassionate concessions.

The House of Deputies indeed walked on holy ground yesterday. We applaud the outcome of their deliberations.



*A deputy from the Diocese of Kansas prays prior to the vote on resolution D039, Issues Related to Sexuality and Relationships. See page 3 for comments on the parliamentary process that governed the debate.*

# What's Up

One topic of interest coming over to Deputies in the next day or two concerns A135, Consultation on Church Union (COCU), adopted with amendment in Bishops yesterday. A135, a rewrite of A038 in the Blue Book, recommends that the Episcopal Church enter into "Churches United in Christ" (CUIC). What makes this new consultation so exciting is its enthusiastic commitment to combating racism and to dialogue with the historically black churches in America, including the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. In our desire to evangelize, we need to expand our knowledge beyond the traditional European denominations, especially in an Anglican Communion that is the fastest-growing church for people of color in Africa.

**H**earing schedule for Wednesday, July 12. Sites and subjects reflect information posted by the Secretariat of the General Convention as of 6:50 p.m. yesterday.

- Canons**, Westin, Horace Tabor: Meeting has been CANCELED.
- Miscellaneous Resolutions**, Hyatt, Vista, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, A061, D098
- Prayer Book**, Liturgy & Music, Executive Tower, Symphony, 7:30 a.m.: Committee deliberation only, B042, D062
- Privilege and Courtesy**, Marriott, Gold Coin, 8 a.m.: Open hearing, D081, D095; Committee also will consider other committee-drafted resolutions or an other resolutions as needed
- Social and Urban Affairs**, Executive Tower, Brahms, 7 a.m.: Open hearing, A134, B041, D049, D067, D070, D073. 1:30 p.m.: Open hearing, B031

# Oreo Theology

I LOVE the Center Aisle! It's the first thing I've looked for these past three mornings, and I print it out and share it with our summer intern. I am especially grateful for Mary Adelia McCleod's piece on eating Oreo cookies [July 7, issue No. 3]. What a wonderful image! As one who was literally forbidden as a child to take those cookies apart to eat them (and has made up for it by taking them apart all of my adult life!), I was reminded of the resentment and confusion that can be engendered by a "my-way-or-the-wrong-way" approach to life. I pray that our church will continue to be a place where the news of God's love and goodness can be received and shared in a variety of ways.

Blessings on your work!

**Grace Cangialosi**  
St. George's, Pine Grove  
Stanley, Va.  
By e-mail

# Nuts to You

Thanks so much for the plug on sites to visit in the Exhibit Hall. We have had quite a few visitors who did so because they saw it in Center Aisle. Thanks also for providing such a great ministry through the updates. It is fantastic that you are willing to represent those of us in the center.

Please tell folks to come for Virginia Peanuts, a visit with the head nut and a chance to learn about a tremendous Episcopal Ministry. Thanks again.

**Donnie E. Wheatley**  
Executive Director  
Boys' Home, Inc.

# The People Respond

Join us in the walk down the center aisle by writing us at Suite 322, Holtze Hotel, 818 Seventeenth St., Denver (just drop it by the front desk and they'll get it to us, or give it to any member of the Diocese of Virginia deputation). Or you can send your letter to [centeraisle@thediocese.net](mailto:centeraisle@thediocese.net). As space permits, we will publish your letters and commentary. Please try to limit your letters to 150 words. Your letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please be sure to sign your correspondence and let us know how we can contact you.



**ELCA Presiding Bishop George Andersen will participate in this morning's Holy Eucharist with Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Andersen will greet the House of Bishops at 11 a.m. and the House of Deputies at 11:30 a.m.**

## Center Aisle

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## Parliamentary Procedure

How do you feel about the Parliamentary Process by which this resolution was decided in the House of Deputies today?



"The process was basically good; it got the job accomplished. I was more disappointed in the debate; no one had anything new to say. In future conventions the center needs to be better organized or the debate will be controlled by one side or the other." —Deputy David Stoller, East Carolina



"Although it seems externally confusing it did provide for what we needed to do. People were allowed time to prayerfully prepare to make a decision." —Deputy Marshall Vang, Albany



"I am not upset. In general I favor extended debate but that was not the will of the House." —Deputy Frank Storg, Spokane



"I thought we had enough time for talking. People were expressing what they already felt. By the time the extension was done, I felt we were ready for decision." —Deputy Grant Abbott, Minnesota

"It came out fairly." —Deputy Neil Anderson, Dallas



"I would like to hope it was fair and equitable but the human side of me worries and wonders about the subtleties that can take place in any political arena." —Georgette Forney, executive director, National Organization of Episcopalians for Life

"I thought it ended up straightening itself out; we had no help from the chair. Since there is so little consensus, evident from so many people at the microphones, there had to be some process to expedite the process." —Deputy Chuck Alley, Virginia



## So Saith Deputy Crump

The following is a transcript of a discussion that did NOT occur on the floor of the House of Deputies yesterday:

**President:** We will now vote on the fifth amendment, which would divide the 16th resolve of the bifurcated motion to support but not quite bless same-sex couples. Yes, microphone 8.

**Mic. 8:** Madame President, I move that we vote to extend the conversation by 37 minutes, with 16 of those minutes set aside to debate amendments to the amendment, and with three min-

utes reserved for a cigarette break.

**President:** Is there a second to the motion. Yes, microphone 7.

**Mic. 7:** Madame President, I would be willing to second the second to the motion. However, I believe the opportunity to offer the first second should go to microphone 6, which has not had its fair share of seconds—not to mention firsts.

**President:** Mr. Parliamentarian, is it possible for microphone 7 to second a second from microphone 6? Or would that be a fourth?

**Parliamentarian:** It is possible, but only if microphone 6 is willing to share some of its cheeze dips with microphone 7. (Just kidding.) But seriously, I see no provision in the Rules of Order that would allow the formal reservation of time for the use of tobacco products.

**Deputy Crump:** Madame President, Madame President, may I be recognized?

**President:** [Oh, boy, I wonder what he has up his sleeve!] Yes, Deputy Crump?

**Deputy Crump:** As you may recall, the General Convention has not allowed a third extension of debate on a motion already divided and quartered since the Convention of 1910. Might I suggest a 13-minute intermission while we consult the archives?

**President:** Make it 13 days. I'm out of here!

## A045: New and Improved

The amended version of A045, on the Deputies' schedule today, is a stronger, more realistic and much more pastoral approach to implementing the ordination of women than its original form. The new version not only notes the lack of progress made in Fort Worth and Quincy (while noting the progress in San Joaquin), it also calls on Executive Council to establish a task force to "visit, interview, assess and assist" those dioceses to come into full compliance with the canon by Sept. 1, 2002.

Kudos to Ministry for listening closely to all of the testimony, and for working hard to be pastoral on this emotionally charged issue. Through task force visitation, the people of those three dioceses will have an opportunity to tell their side of the story while hearing about the blessings and gifts that women bring to ordained ministry.

What gives this resolution teeth is the call for full implementation of the canon on women's ordination. Dioceses that don't accept ordained women also call into question the ministry of any baptized woman. As one bumper sticker seen locally says, "WOMEN: If you're gonna baptize 'em, you gotta ordain 'em."

### **Perspective** *continued from front*

popularity of movies like "Roots" demonstrates the universal human hunger for identity, for "going home." In the case of the church, our "roots" are found in our relationship with God. God is our eternal home. We are the Body of Christ on Earth.

Jubilee offers us the opportunity to reflect on, and to reflect to the world, our identity as a Christ-community. Jubilee takes the focus of our thinking off specific issues and places it firmly in the context of who we are by the call of God. As rational beings, dedicated to making decisions that will strengthen the Episcopal Church in its call to glorify God and extend the love of Christ to all persons, Jubilee gives us a much-needed frame of reference for discerning among the various choices for legislative action we are offered. Even in the face of polar views on specific issues, a common ground can be found in the identification of ourselves as the Church. It provides us with a common idiom for ongoing dialogue. Jubilee, by focusing us on the effect a specific issue has on our understanding of what it means to be Church, helps remove the legislative process from emotion-driven decision-making and supplies a context for making informed decisions.

Jubilee calls us home in order that we may reflect on our identity as Christ's people. May Jubilee be a sign to us that we are a community set apart by God to do God's will. It is my prayer that, with serious reflection, we might take actions consistent with his call to us as a community—the Episcopal Church.

*Jubilate deo!*

## The High Table

### *A guide to area gastronomy*

#### **Aubergine Cafe**

225 E. 7th Ave.

303-832-4778

Sean Kelly knows his way around the Mediterranean, and his Aubergine Cafe navigates a delicious course through the region's varied cuisines. Aubergine's menu not only hits on all of the major cooking styles found in that part of the world, but it does so using local ingredients — a philosophy that captures the Mediterranean spirit just as much as the recipes do. Although most of the dishes are classics, Kelly updates them with style, and so the grilled Moroccan free-range chicken breast over saffron couscous is sided with a roasted-fennel-and-eggplant-tomato chutney, and pan-roasted halibut sits on a soft bed of crab "gumbo" with housemade, Old Bay-seasoned potato chips and a textbook rouille. All of these delights are served in a dining room that is at once romantic and casual, a bistro in every sense, with the colors of Provence and Tuscany mixing with the smells of the sea. And with a staff as accommodating as a Greek family at their daughter's wedding, this is one club Med we should all join.

*\*Winner of Westword's Best of Denver 2000 Best Mediterranean restaurant*

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## Overheard Barside

The top 10 questionable ways to count new communicants. (submitted anonymously from stoolsitters at the Marriott Bar.)

1. Those "residing" in newly acquired family plots in the church's backyard cemetery
2. Members under the age of Oliver Cromwell (d. 1658)
3. Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who live in your geographic parish area.
4. People in your neighborhood whom you've "encouraged" or "strongly urged" to come to church.
5. Members "in utero."
6. People on the other end of your communicants' cell phones.
7. Members who are on the rector's e-mail list.
8. People who visit your rector's chat room.
9. Members who only identify themselves by their e-mail address.
10. Members who are in low-sodium deputations.