

The Jamestown Cross

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

Volume 70, No.3 May 2006

John Buchanan Chosen Assistant Bishop of Southern Virginia

by Carlyle Gravely
Editor

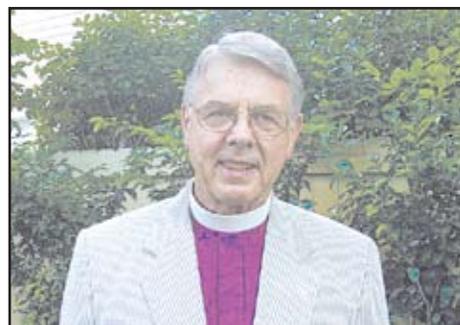
The Diocese of Southern Virginia will take the next step down its Transition Road in September when the Rt. Rev. John Clark Buchanan, retired Bishop of West Missouri, becomes the Assisting Bishop of Southern Virginia. Bishop Buchanan is currently serving as the Bishop-in-Residence of the Diocese of Texas.

Bishop Buchanan was selected by the Standing Committee of Southern Virginia earlier this month. The details of the transition are still being completed. They will be leading a study trip to Greece and Turkey in late August / early September and then will be moving here. His first major event in the Diocese will be the Special Council set for October 7th at Powhatan High School.

"We are looking forward to being with you all in Southern Virginia. We have been in Texas for about 18 months and a new Suffragan Bishop has now been elected. She will be consecrated in October so our work here is winding down. We are happy to accept this ministry opportunity in and with the people of Southern Virginia and to

continue our work in the Church at large," Bishop Buchanan said when contacted by the *Jamestown Cross*.

Bishop Buchanan was born in Laurens County, South Carolina in 1933 and is a 1958 (B. A.) and 1960 (J.D.) graduate of the University of South Carolina. Follow-



Bishop John C. Buchanan

ing graduation and prior to his ordained ministry, he was an attorney in private practice and in the insurance industry. He and his wife Peggy were married in 1964. They have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

In 1966, he entered the General Theological Seminary in New York, where he

received a M.Div. degree in 1969. He was ordained Deacon later that year and Priest on the Feast of the Holy Name (January 1st) 1970

by the Rt. Rev. Gray Temple, Bishop of South Carolina. He completed work on a D.Min. (Continued on Page 7)

General Convention Open Hearings Being Held

Bishop Robert H. Johnson and the Lay and Clerical Deputies and Alternates from the Diocese of Southern Virginia to the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church are having a series of Open Hearings both BEFORE and AFTER June's meeting around the Diocese.

Three meetings were set before the June 13 to June 23 meeting in Columbus, Ohio and there are two meetings set after the Convention completes its work. Two of the Pre-Convention sessions have been completed, in Blackstone and in Norfolk, and one at Bruton Parish in Williamsburg on June 4 remains.

These hearings will give people from

around the Diocese the chance to learn more about the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, how it is organized and works and provide an opportunity to express your thoughts and concerns to the Bishop and Deputies.

The current schedule for the meetings after General Convention is:

July 9 -- Christ and Grace Church in Petersburg

July 16 -- St. John's Church in Hampton.

All of the meetings will be Sunday afternoons starting at 4:00 p.m. and will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend.

The Church's 75th General Convention Begins June 13

by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub
Executive Officer
The General Convention

With few precedents for a republican form of church governance the first General Convention met in 1785 in Philadelphia. That convention began work on a constitution and a revision of the Book of Common Prayer, the church's book of worship. Within ten years the General Convention had agreed on its form of governance and its pattern of worship, both of which endure to the present day.

Uniquely for its time, the first General Conventions determined on a bicameral house in which elected (rather than royally appointed) bishops would make up one house and lay and ordained deputies (equally represented) would make

up the other house.

All bishops of the Episcopal Church, active and retired, are entitled to seat, voice and vote in the House of Bishops (unless deprived of the privilege). Each of the Episcopal Church's domestic and overseas dioceses (and the Convocation of Churches in Europe) is entitled to elect eight deputies, four lay persons and four priests and / or deacons, to the House of Deputies. (The diocesan electors of deputies are themselves elected representatives from local parishes.) Deputies are not delegates; that is, they are not elected to represent the electing dioceses.

Deputies vote their conscience for the good of the church. They cannot be instructed to vote one way or another, for to do so would preclude godly debate and

preempt the work of the Holy Spirit. Deputies are expected to serve on committees, if appointed, to attend forums and hearings, to read the reports to the church from its commissions, committees and appointed boards, to listen to, and if so moved, to respond to resolutions on the floor of the house.

The House of Bishops and House of Deputies meet, deliberate and vote separately. To be enacted resolutions must pass both houses in the same language. Both houses have the right to amend legislation, but the amendment must be accepted by the other house. Resolutions presented to convention come from four sources: committees, commissions, agencies and boards of the church; bishops; dioceses and provinces; and deputies.

In the House of Deputies three lay or

clerical deputations from different dioceses may request a vote by orders. In a vote by orders, each diocesan deputation has two votes: one lay vote and one clerical vote. To cast that vote the deputation is polled.

If a majority of a deputation is in favor, the diocesan lay or clerical vote is cast as a "yes." If a majority of a deputation is opposed, the vote is cast as a "no." Tied deputations count as "divided" and, in effect, as additional "no" votes.

The House of Bishops is chaired by the Primate of the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold, and, in his absence, by the Vice Chair, Bishop Richard S. O. Chang, Bishop of Hawai'i. They are assisted by the Secretary of the House of

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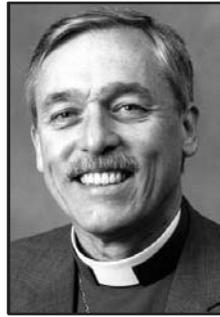


The Episcopal Church welcomes you
The 75th General Convention, Columbus



The Bishop's Letter: "Spirit, Discipleship and Calling For Our World"

When I preached this sermon at the Clergy Renewal of Vows Eucharists during Holy Week at St. Luke's, Blackstone and at St. Cyprian's, Hampton, I had been your Interim Bishop for almost eight weeks.



It's been a full eight weeks of visiting around our diocese and working with clergy and lay leaders of our diocese. Everywhere I go, I encounter a positive spirit of getting on with the ministry of the diocese. I also encounter an equally spirited sense of Christian Discipleship. So, the following remarks pick up on our common calling in the Diocese of Southern Virginia to offer ourselves in ministry and discipleship to Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

I share these words with you in the spirit of this common calling.

Renewal of Vows
Diocese of Southern Virginia – 2006

We're all disciples of Jesus Christ who calls us to ministry with and for God's people and Holy Week is the time to reflect on the meaning of ministry and the cost of discipleship for all Christians. Ministry and discipleship – that's what I want to talk with you about today.

In my eight weeks with you, I have a sense that the clergy and laity of our diocese have kept their focus on ministry and discipleship in spite of the ups and downs of the recently experienced leadership crisis in our diocese. And I commend and salute you all for the faithful, steady focus on ministry and discipleship!

Now at the heart of Christian ministry is being a pastor, for a pastor is most importantly one who cares and who remembers that: God cared enough to gloriously create us and the universe; that God cared enough to become one of us in Jesus to show us what caring is about; that Jesus cared for all who came his way even when he was exhausted – spiritually, emotionally, and physically; and that disciples who follow Jesus are also called to care for God's creation and for all God's people.

The good news is that all this didn't just happen in the past. The good news is that God still cares through us and others like us. The good news is that Jesus still cares for all who need his caring. The good news is that Jesus cares for us, each of us, lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. And the really good news is that God in Jesus calls us and Christians everywhere to be God's compassionate, caring team for ministry. For ministry is about caring.

That's also our calling here in the Diocese of Southern Virginia – to be God's compassionate, caring team for ministry. A parish I know has a caring team which helps that parish do the caring ministry in the parish and in the community that they're called to do. And all of us here today, clergy and lay alike, leaders of our diocese, are called as well, to be the caring team for our diocese encouraging our whole diocese to do the compassionate, caring ministry we're called to do. For we're all disciples of Jesus who not only calls us to care but teaches us to care.

Recently I heard this story about discipleship: A famous holy man was sitting by a river meditating when a man approaches and says, "I'd like to be your disciple." Silence. Again, the man says, "I want to be your disciple." With that the holy man leapt up and as fast as a whirlwind wrestled the man into the river where he held him under water a long time. Finally the holy man lifted him up and asked, "What did you desire the most when I held you under the water?" "Air," the man says and the holy man responded, "When you desire to be my disciple as much as you desired that air, then you can be my disciple!"

Yes, disciples of Jesus are always called to ministry and to care for God's people and we can only do that when

we desire God's love in Jesus as much as we desire air. Or as Peter responds for the disciples to Jesus' question: "Will you also go away?" "Lord, to whom shall we go?" (John 6:67, 68). You see, the disciples desired to be with Jesus as much as they desired air! They desired God's love in Jesus as much as they desired air! That's what Christian disciples do! And God's love in Jesus is at the heart of each of our parishes and worshipping communities. God's love in Jesus is at the heart of our diocese. God's love in Jesus helps us all to be the compassionately caring people and places God calls us to be.

In her recent book *Beyond Belief*, church historian Elaine Pagels shares a personal story of her need for the church as a compassionate, caring team.

"On a bright Sunday morning in February, shivering in a t-shirt and running shorts, I stepped into the vaulted stone vestibule of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York to catch my breath and warm up. Since I had not been in church for a lone time, I was startled by my response to the worship in progress – the soaring harmonies of the choir singing with the congregation; and the priest, a woman in bright gold and white vestments, proclaiming the prayers in a clear, resonant voice. As I stood watching, a thought came to me: Here is a family that knows how to face death.

"That morning I had gone for an early morning run while my husband and two-and-a-half-year-old son were still sleeping. The previous night I had been sleepless with

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FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA;

What follows is a summary of items coming before the Standing Committee since my communication to you in the March issue of the *Jamestown Cross*. Two meetings are included in this report: March 23rd and May 1st.

We were delighted to receive, at our March 23rd meeting, a positive report from diocesan treasurer Art Spooner regarding the well-being of diocesan funds and the development of procedures to keep them safe. Art noted some accounting items that previously had been left undone, and some things done that should not have been done. But he assured us there was no malfeasance in past practices. Accounting practices have now been secured, and brought in line with normal accounting procedures. His report was presented to the Executive Board on March 30. For 2006 to date, pledges over budget amount to \$30,000.00, but in this March moment there is a serious cash flow problem. Art recommended that the diocese secure a line of credit. His report also included a list of Restricted Accounts; for

example, the Diocesan property list; a discussion of recommendations to the Executive Board about funding and operation of Chanco by the James; and the Mission and Ministry Foundation. We are pleased with the competent attention being paid to our financial life, and want you to know it.

We also discussed our upcoming interview with a possible next interim bishop, and the inclusion of our consultant, the Rev. Hal White, in this discussion. I might mention that Hal grew up in the rectory of St. Andrew's in Norfolk, when his dad was rector. Hal is retired and now living in Wicomico Church, Virginia. It was further determined that our consultant would not be asked to be a regular attendee at Standing Committee meetings, but will be present at joint meetings of the Standing Committee and Transition Team. Hal's work is devoted to making sure that all points of view are heard, and that the issues on the table are addressed in as orderly a manner as possible. We are absolutely dedicated to the task of making this diocese work as effectively and compassionately as possible.

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Requiescant in Pace

The Rev. James Arthur King

The Rev. James Arthur King, 76, died peacefully in Richmond April 27th, surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by seven nephews and nieces, a first cousin, many friends and innumerable former parishioners.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, he was a 1951 graduate of University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society and a 1957 graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria.

He was ordained Deacon and Priest by Bishop George Gunn and began his ordained ministry at Grace Church, Drakes Branch; St. Paul and St. Anne in Kenbridge; and St. Andrew's in Victoria. In 1959, he became an assistant at St. Andrew's in Newport News where he led the work to

plant St. George's Church. He became their first rector in 1962. He accepted a call to St. Paul's in Monroe, N. C. then returned to Southern Virginia at All Saints', Virginia Beach before his final pastorate at St. John's Church in Petersburg. He retired in 1991 but continued his service as a supply priest and short-term interim for several years.

Bishop Robert Johnson celebrated his life and ministry in a Eucharist at St. John's in Petersburg on May 6.

Frederick John Thomas Horne Jr.

Frederick John Thomas Horne Jr., 90, of Newport News, died surrounded by his family on Friday, April 28.

Fred was born in 1916, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Penn State in 1938 and served in the U.S. Navy as a Lt. Commander during World War II. After leaving the service, he worked at the Newport News Shipbuilding until his retirement in 1980. His last position was Director of Contracts.

Fred was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, serving several terms on the Vestry and as a Delegate to Diocesan Council. He also taught Sunday School and served as a Lay Reader.

On a diocesan level, he served on the Stewardship Committee and the Executive Board and was a Trustee of St. Paul's College. He also was the Chairman of the Commission on Alcohol and Drugs. He volunteered after retirement as a drug and alcohol counselor at Riverside Hospital in Newport News and was an active volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America.

Fred is survived by his wife of 59 years, Louise Carlisle Horne, 4 children and 7 grandchildren. A memorial service was held at St. Andrew's.

The deadline for
the next issue of
The Jamestown Cross
is
June 15, 2006

Geocaching for Christ -- A High Tech Treasure Hunt

by the Rev. John A. Baldwin
Emmanuel Church, Virginia Beach
"episcodad" to the geocaching community

Last July, while I was engaged in a month-long exchange of pulpits with an Anglican priest in Dorset, England, a visiting friend from California introduced me to a leisure-time pursuit that was brand new to me: "Geocaching". It's a high-tech treasure hunt using a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System).

Six years ago when the Clinton administration removed jamming devices on satellites, it became possible to use GPS units to bring people within 15 feet of any given coordinates (latitude and longitude) by utilizing signals from orbiting satellites. In May 2000, someone hid a container of goodies outside of Portland, Oregon, and gave the coordinates to friends, who enjoyed the hunt so much that geocaching as a game/hobby/sport was launched. There are now over 250,000 caches to be found by geocachers in all 50 states and in 212 countries.

What helped geocaching explode in popularity was the development of a website, www.geocaching.com. By entering this website and typing in any given postal zip code, all of the caches hidden within 100 miles are instantly accessible with their coordinates listed, along with a page describing the type of cache (from large ammo boxes to 35mm film canisters and smaller), the type of terrain and interesting features of the site, together with hints for finding the cache, and the comments of cachers who have already found it. Although the coordinates will bring the seeker close to a given geocache, they are normally cleverly hidden in hollow trees, under logs, stones or

piles of leaves, hanging from branches, or attached by magnets to metal objects. They may be out in a forest, along a beach, or even in a crowded shopping center.

When a geocache is located, the cacher signs a log inside of it verifying that he/she has found it. The cache is then replaced so that someone else may have the joy of discovery. In larger caches, small items like

toy cars, trinkets and doodads are available for trading on an equal value basis . . . great fun, especially for children. At the close of the outing, the geocacher returns to their computer and logs in their finds, with the website keeping a running total of all their discoveries.

My wife made the mistake of buying a GPS unit for my birthday last August, and I

have been on the trail in search of geocaches ever since. I've also taken time to hide and post a few caches of my own. The first was a film canister hidden in the cemetery behind Emmanuel, Virginia Beach, called "Kempsville History". The page posted on geocaching.com describes the interesting history of the church and area. This cache has been visited by 48 geocachers to date. A second cache, "250th Anniversary Cache", followed at St. John's, Chuckatuck (Suffolk) celebrating this important milestone in the parish's history. My third, "An Epiphany", was placed, guess where? At a certain church – of the same name – in Norfolk.

Recently I became even more ambitious and posted 9 caches which all went "live" on March 27th called "ECUSA Welcomes You 1-9". They are posted, with permission, on the grounds of 9 Episcopal parishes in Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg and Toano. Each cache in the series is a Tupperware container with a log book, some small trading items, and a puzzle piece, which when all 9 pieces are found, assembled and deciphered give the coordinates for a 10th cache. The names of 36 diocesan parishes are encrypted in the puzzle and they must be identified before solving it.

"ECUSA Welcomes You" is a subtle form of evangelism for the diocese of Southern Virginia by drawing attention to the presence of these 9 parishes, and by sharing some of their history and special attributes with a newly emerging community (geocachers). Many of the geocachers I've met on the trail are GenXers, who will now know of the presence of Hickory Neck, St. Mark's and Ascension, Emmanuel, St. Martin's and All Saints', Eastern Shore Chapel, St. George's & Glebe (caches number 1 to 9 in that order).

Geocaching is a wonderful reason for a walk in the woods and the closeness to God that solitude can bring; it provides the thrill of the hunt and find ("the pearl of great price"), and it stretches our God-given minds and intellects in a pursuit that is fun, satisfying, and even mystifying at times.



The Rev. John Baldwin with one of the geocaches planted in the "ECUSA Welcomes You 1 - 9" hunt.

Anglican Leadership Changing Around the World

(ACNS) The Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan, the Most Rev. Dr. Robin Eames, has announced his intention to retire later this year and Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, has announced that he will retire next year.

Elsewhere, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia has opted for a new model of shared leadership that honors its three-Tikanga structure. The Primacy of the church will be amended constitutionally to comprise the three senior bishops, each carrying the title of Archbishop and Co-presiding Bishop.

Dr. Eames, who is 69, has been a bishop for 31 years and was appointed as Archbishop of Armagh in 1986. He is the senior primate in the Anglican Communion.

The Church of Ireland House of Bishops will consider in due course the selection of a successor.

Archbishop Hutchison, former Archbishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, had been ready to retire at the time he was elected Primate in 2004. The announcement means that the next General Synod, which convenes in Winnipeg next summer, will elect a successor.

As the new structure in New Zealand is implemented, the new Archbishops will each retain their present episcopal roles, but will be supported in their primatial duties by the other bishops and the General Synod Standing Committee. General Synod debated the Primacy vigorously for a full day and a half, swinging between a single Primate

and a three-member model embodying the three Tikanga before deciding on the new tri-partite system. The three Archbishops were installed as co-presiding bishops of the church during a service in Christchurch Cathedral on May 11th.

Christ the King Has An Organ to Donate

Christ the King Church in Tabb has a second organ which they would like to donate to another church. It is a 1983 Yamaha FX-3 with TX-1 Tone Cabinet amplifier/speakers.

Interested churches should contact Junior Warden Chris Marple at 757-867-6418 in the evening.

The Rt. Rev. Robert H. Johnson
Assisting Bishop of Southern Virginia
Ms. Donna Hudgins
Chair, Department of Communication
Mr. H. Carlyle Gravely
Editor

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Three More Nominated; Presiding Bishop's Election Set June 18 in Columbus

[Episcopal News Service] The stage is set to elect the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church on Sunday, June 18, at the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio. The 26th Presiding Bishop will succeed the Most Rev. Frank Tracy Griswold III, whose nine-year term ends on November 1.

At least seven names will be formally submitted to a joint session of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies on Saturday, June 17, including a slate of four recommended by the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop.

Besides the four on the slate, three other bishops have been nominated and their names will presumably be formally submitted by their nominators, said the Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Straub, Executive Officer of the General Convention. The additional nominees for 26th Presiding Bishop are:

- the Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls, Bishop of Lexington;
- the Rt. Rev. Charles Edward Jenkins III, Bishop of Louisiana; and
- the Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque-Gomez, Bishop of Colombia.

"How the joint session carries on from there will depend upon a special order of business," Straub said. "Last convention, each candidate had the opportunity for two supporters to give three-minute speeches but the nominees were not allowed to speak."

Once the joint session is adjourned, deputies and bishops return to their regular business sessions.

The following morning, after Sunday Eucharist, the bishops will convene at 10:30 in executive session at Trinity Church in downtown Columbus near the state Capitol to elect the 26th Presiding Bishop.

"The bishops will debate and vote on the nominees," Bishop Kenneth Price of Southern Ohio said. "The bishops will be sequestered at Trinity Church. There will be a roll call so we have an exact accounting of who is present, and we elect by simple majority."

A total of 311 bishops are eligible to vote, although not all may be present, Straub said. Bishops will vote as many times as necessary until a majority is achieved. Unlike past elections, vote tallies will be made public.

Once the House of Bishops has chosen the Presiding Bishop-elect, it remains in session until the House of Deputies concurs with its choice.

After the deputies concur, the bishops certify the election. "The Presiding Bishop-elect will be invited to address both houses and to celebrate Eucharist" but will not officially assume the top position until a November 4 installation service at the Washington National Cathedral.

The Presiding Bishop is elected every nine years to serve as the chief pastor and Primate of the church. Canon law (Title I Canon 1.2.4(a)(1)), charges the Presiding

Bishop with responsibility for leadership in initiating and developing church policy and strategy, and for representing church policies, strategies and programs authorized by the General Convention.

The Presiding Bishop is also charged to speak God's words to the church and to the world, as the representative of this church and its episcopate in its corporate capacity (Title I, Canon 1.2.4(a)(2)). In addition to these key roles, the Presiding Bishop oversees and presides at meetings of the House of Bishops, provides for episcopal ministry in cases of vacancies and visits the dioceses of the church (Title I, Canon 1.2.4(a)(3-6)).

Biographical information on the three newest nominees follows. Information on the four on the committee slate was in the March issue of *the Jamestown Cross*. For additional information on the nominees and the process, visit the website at www.episcopalchurch.org/ens and click on the "Election of the 26th Presiding Bishop" button.

Francisco J. Duque-Gomez, Bishop of Colombia

Francisco J. Duque-Gomez was chosen unanimously on February 2, 2001, as Bishop Coadjutor of Colombia and consecrated in the Church of San Albán of Bogotá on July 14, 2001. He is the fourth bishop of the Episcopal Church in Colombia, constituted as a Missionary Church by the General Convention in 1963.

Born in Salamina (Caldas), Colombia, in 1950, he is married to Blanca Lucia Echverry. They have three children.

He was received into the Episcopal Church in December 1967 by the first bishop



of Colombia, the Rt. Rev. David Reed.

Duque holds a doctorate in law and social sciences from the Universidad Libre de Colombia in 1978. He is a practicing trial attorney for several companies and in the financial sector, as well as a university professor, teaching in the area of civil, family and commercial law since 1978.

He has studied alternative mechanisms of conflict resolution at the National University of Colombia and participated in

several symposiums and conferences on the subject.

Duque studied theology at the Seminary of the Caribbean in Puerto Rico, the Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá and the Theological Training Center of the Diocese of Colombia (CET), where he currently serves as a professor of constitution and canons.

Duque also participates in social work with vulnerable groups who are victims of Colombia's internal conflicts, in union with different churches and religious denominations.

From 1997 to 2003 he represented the Episcopal Church's Province IX as a member of the Executive Council and also served as a member of its communications and international relations subcommittees. He also represented Province IX before the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He is president of the Province IX Court of Appeal and representative of Province IX to the Ministry Development Committee of the Episcopal Church.

He served the Diocese of Colombia as Secretary of Diocesan Convention in 1972, as well as president of the diocesan standing committee and of various diocesan committees. In 1978 he was elected Provincial Chancellor, a post he held for 14 years.

Charles Edward Jenkins, III, Bishop of Louisiana

A native of Louisiana, Charles Edward Jenkins III attended Louisiana schools and graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1973 and Nashotah House Seminary in 1976. He was consecrated bishop coadjutor of Louisiana in New Orleans on January 31, 1998 and was invested as the tenth bishop of Louisiana at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, on March 28, 1998.

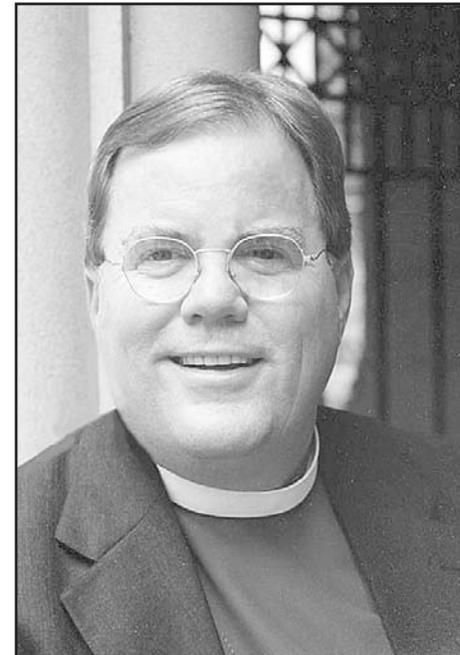
Jenkins was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Nashotah House in 1992 and an honorary doctorate from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, in 1999. In his continuing education, he studied for five years with Rabbi Edwin Friedman.

Jenkins was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop James Brown in 1977. His first call was as assistant chaplain at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where he served from 1976-77. He then served at Grace, Monroe, and St. Mark's in Arlington, Texas. Jenkins was called as rector of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, in 1985 where he served until his election as bishop coadjutor in 1997.

As a priest, Jenkins was president of the Standing Committee from 1992-1994. He was elected a Louisiana clerical deputy to General Convention in 1994 and 1997. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Nashotah House Seminary from 1981-1991. At the 73rd General Convention in Denver, Jenkins chaired the House of Bishops Structure Committee and served as a member of the church's Standing Commission on

Constitution and Canons.

At the 74th General Convention in Minneapolis in 2003, he served on the Cognate Committee on Evangelism and was



appointed to the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice. In 2004, he was elected president of the council.

In 2005 he was invited by Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold to join the delegation to address the Anglican Consultative Council's meeting as representatives of the Episcopal Church.

Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the fall of 2005, Jenkins partnered with Episcopal Relief and Development to form the diocesan Office of Disaster Response and is involved in long-range community rebuilding plans.

He and his wife, Louise Hazel Jenkins, reside in New Orleans and are the parents of two grown sons.

Stacy F. Sauls, Bishop of Lexington

Stacy F. Sauls, 50, was consecrated as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Lexington (Kentucky) on September 30, 2000.

Sauls serves as a member of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, and the Budgetary Funding Task Force. He is a member of the board of Forward Movement Publications, the Episcopal Media Center, and the American Committee for the Kiyosato Environmental Education Project (Japan.)

Under Sauls' leadership, the diocese hosted the 2003 national Episcopal Hispanic Youth Event at Berea College, the 2004 Provincial Youth Event, which resulted in the building of St. Timothy's Youth Outreach Center at the diocesan mission at Barnes Mountain, Kentucky and the 2005 Episcopal Youth Event, also at Berea College.

Sauls was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1955 where his family has lived since the 18th century. He moved with his family to the New Jersey suburbs in 1962. He and his mother moved back to Atlanta in 1970 after his parents' divorce. He graduated

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General Convention 101 -- An Introduction For All

(Continued from Page 1)

Bishops, Bishop Kenneth L. Price of Southern Ohio; a Parliamentarian, David Beers from New Jersey; and a Chair of the Committee on Dispatch, Bishop Wayne Wright, Bishop of Delaware (who grew up in Southern Virginia). At this General Convention the House of Bishops will elect a new Presiding Bishop; that election must be confirmed by the House of Deputies. The 26th Presiding Bishop will take office on November 4, 2006, at a service at the Washington National Cathedral.

The House of Deputies is chaired by the President of the House, Dean George Werner, and, in his absence, by the Vice President, Bonnie Anderson. They are assisted by the Secretary of the House of Deputies (myself); a Parliamentarian, Polly Getz; and a Chair of the Committee on Dispatch, J. P. Causey. The Hon. Jim Bradberry from St. George's in Newport News is a member of this committee. This General Convention will elect a new President and Vice President of the House, who will take office at the

close of General Convention.

Much of the work of convention is carried out by legislative committees. The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies determine the number of committees, the number of persons who serve on them and their composition. Deputies are asked to indicate their preference for membership on committees, and the presiding officers make their choice considering previous experience, expertise and interest, ensuring the committees represent diverse points of view, geographic, ethnic and gender diversity and participation by younger deputies.

Resolutions proposed for discussion at convention are referred to committees, which consider, amalgamate and perfect them before presenting them on the floor of convention. Legislative committees hold hearings on legislation at which the following can speak: deputy, registered alternate or registered visitor. These are held in convention hotels near the Convention Center.

In 2006, the 75th General Convention

of the Episcopal Church will meet in Columbus, Ohio from Monday, 12 June through Wednesday, 21 June. In response to previous conventions' requests that convention be stewards of time and resources it will be one legislative day shorter than last convention. It was also planned for June to smooth the Presiding Bishop transition.

General Convention meets prayerfully. Each morning bishops, deputies, registered alternates and delegates to the ECW Triennial gather for Bible study and Holy Eucharist. At this year's General Convention the themes for these gatherings will reflect the observances for the days from the church's calendar of saints, or, if there is no saint's day, the theme of General Convention: Come & Grow.

Both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops have chaplains, who lead their houses in regular prayer at the beginning and end of sessions and daily at noon. Chaplains are also asked to pray before the enactment of important legislation. Organizations within the church sponsor additional worship services, while volunteers staff a prayer room in which there is continual intercession for the work of convention.

A highlight of every General Convention is its festival Eucharist at which the United Thank Offering is presented. The United Thank Offering is taken up in parishes twice each year for the mission of the church. For this General Convention a musical setting of the Holy Eucharist has been commissioned in honor of the Presiding Bishop, and it will have its premiere in

its entirety at this service.

Debate on the floor is governed by the Constitution and Canons of the church, Rules of Order for each house, Joint Rules of Order (that apply to both houses) and Roberts' Rules of Order. Deputies are expected to listen respectfully to the views of others and to adhere to the rules, which require, for example, that persons of different points of view alternate at microphones.

Convention is more than legislation. One of the most interesting parts of convention is the Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall reminds me of an oriental souk: it is a marketplace of goods and ideas in which the organizations and interest groups within the church present their wares, recruit members and do their best to influence legislation. It is a colorful part of convention, and it would not be General Convention without it.

Many church-related organizations hold meetings in conjunction with convention, and there are lunches and dinners hosted by seminaries, provinces, societies, boards and staff offices of the church. One gathering not to be missed is the triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church Women. The ECW meeting has changed over the past several decades; it focuses on the mission and service of the church, and many of the church's most distinguished members are invited to address this body.

General Convention is a combination of legislative assembly, bazaar of goods and services and family reunion. It is one of the most exciting and, truth be told, one of the most awe-inspiring gatherings in the world.

26th Presiding Bishop To Be Elected, Confirmed During 75th General Convention

(Continued from Page 4)

from Headland High School in 1973 and went on to attend Furman University, where he majored in political science.



It was at Furman that Sauls met his future wife, Ginger Malone, of Clinton, South Carolina. Sauls graduated from Fur-

man summa cum laude in 1977 and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to attend the University of Virginia School of Law. He graduated from Virginia in 1980, a member of the Order of the Coif.

Sauls accepted a federal court clerkship and practiced corporate law. He left the practice of law to enter the General Theological Seminary in 1985, from which he graduated cum laude with a master's in divinity in 1988.

Sauls was ordained a deacon in 1988 at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta and priest in 1989 at St. George's Church in Griffin, Georgia, where he served as assistant to the rector. He also began a more than ten-year tenure leading the Diocese of Atlanta's senior high camp. Sauls was called to St. Thomas' Church in Savannah in 1990 and returned to St. Bartholomew's Church in Atlanta in 1994. He was elected Bishop of Lexington in 2000.

Ginger and Stacy Sauls were married on August 11, 1979. Ginger has been a special education teacher for 27 years. The Sauls have two adopted sons from Korea.

Did you know . . .

General Convention is older than the government of the United States.

The first General Convention took place in 1785. The Constitution of the United States was ratified in 1789. And the similarities between the two – two elected, equal legislative houses that balance each other's power is no accident. Many of the founders of our nation were Episcopalians and helped write the church's first Constitution

The House of Deputies is the senior house.

The House of Deputies first met in 1785, but it wasn't until 1787 that the American Episcopal Church had enough bishops to form a "House." Bishop Samuel Seabury was consecrated in Scotland in 1784. Bishops William White and Samuel Provoost were consecrated in 1787.

Dioceses elect deputies, not delegates.

Since the first General Convention in 1785, lay people and clergy sent to General Convention by their dioceses have been called "deputies" and not "delegates." And the distinction isn't just a matter of semantics.

The Rev Gregory Straub, executive officer of General Convention, notes, "Deputies are not delegates – that is, they are not elected to represent the electing dioceses. Deputies vote their conscience for the good of the church. They cannot be instructed to vote one way or another, for to do so would preclude godly debate and preempt the work of the Holy Spirit"

Votes 'by orders' in the House of Deputies can be complicated

On most votes taken by the House of Deputies, each deputy casts his or her ballot individually. But on Constitutional amendments, or on any vote when requested by the entire clerical or lay deputation from three dioceses, deputies vote "by Dioceses and Orders." In such a vote, each diocese has one clergy vote and one lay vote.

But how do four people cast one vote? The clergy and lay deputies are polled by the chair of the deputation.

If the vote is 4-0 or 3-1, one vote is cast in favor of the majority. If the vote is 2-2, a "divided" vote is cast.

Divided votes have the effect of a "no" vote, since passage requires a majority of "yes" votes and divided votes count against that total. This method of voting requires a kind of super-majority to pass a measure, since each deputation must have at least three-fourths of its members in favor to vote "yes."

In this system, lay and clergy deputies may cast votes that differ from each other.

Good Shepherd Church in Norfolk Speaking To The World We Live In “In A New Way”

by Elizabeth Allen Davenport
Good Shepherd Church, Norfolk

Have you ever been in a room where everyone is speaking a foreign language that you don't know? If you pay attention to the facial expressions and body language you might get the gist of things but will you really understand? Have you ever been to a Spanish Episcopal service? You might be able to pick out the Lord's Prayer or the Creed but would the language meet your everyday spiritual needs? If you're a deaf person whose native language is American Sign Language, is there a church in the Hampton Roads area where you can see a signed interpretation of the sermon, the hymns, the lessons and the Eucharist? Good Shepherd Episcopal Church at 7400 Hampton Blvd. in Norfolk, Virginia provides this access every Sunday morning at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Good Shepherd's ministry to the deaf and hard of hearing experienced enthusiastic congregational support when it began about a year ago. Come into Good Shepherd's service any Sunday morning and you'll find a certified sign language interpreter. The interpreter stands in front, near the altar during communion, gracefully translating the spoken words into sign. The interpreter is there not only for members of our congregation but for any deaf and hard of hearing people, visitors or residents in the Hampton Roads area, who might decide they want to attend an Episcopal service and have full access to the word.

Access does not begin at 10:30 in the morning and end at noon on Sundays. Our intent is that those who choose to make Good Shepherd their family will be included in every aspect of the life of the church. The Deaf Ministry Committee at Good Shepherd

is committed to providing an interpreter for any event or service in the life of the parish. We also provide informal American Sign Language classes that meet weekly in the fall and the spring. In these classes we have had great fun learning the complexity, beauty and efficiency of the native language of deaf people in the United States and Canada. We're not only raising awareness but we're joyfully moving forward as we work at welcoming and building community.

The Episcopal Church began a ministry to deaf people over 150 years ago. St. Ann's Episcopal Church in New York was the first church for deaf people, founded by the Reverend Thomas Gallaudet, son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet who established the first school for the deaf in the United States. Thomas traveled extensively establishing missions for the deaf in cities throughout the East and mid-West. He recognized that the Gospel could be best spread to other deaf people by another deaf person. One of his students and parishioners, Henry Winter Syle, was the first deaf clergy ordained by the Episcopal Church in 1876. This event did not happen without controversy. Objections ranged from the idea that one must have all their senses to preach the Gospel to the thought that ordaining someone so different might cause the church to collapse. Gallaudet and Syle's ministries began a challenging and unique work that our Church continues today. Since Syle's ordination at least 46 other deaf people have been ordained.

Today the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf serves as a national organization providing support and services to ministries to the deaf. Styles of ministry can vary from hearing parishes providing interpreters to deaf parishes led by deaf clergy worshipping in American Sign Language. St. Barnabas Church of the Deaf in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. John's Church for the Deaf in Birmingham, Alabama are two such churches.

My own connection with the deaf began with my baptism many years ago. My father was then Dean of the Cathedral of our Merciful Savior in Faribault, Minnesota. My Godparents, Howard and Dorothy Quigley, were both teachers of the deaf and Uncle Howard was Superintendent of the Minnesota School for the Deaf. Twenty some years later he guided me towards graduate school in Deaf Education. I've been blessed with a career that's given me wonderful opportunities to be involved in the deaf community. I've taught deaf infants and their parents, elementary aged deaf children and now hearing college students learning American Sign Language. I've interpreted for the deaf in all sorts of settings.

Five years ago I began some of the most challenging interpreting work I have ever done. St. Michael and All Angels Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico had begun providing access to the deaf community. Religious interpreting was an area I'd shied away from, but something pushed me to assist with the work. It's tough! I still have a hard time getting through the Nicene Creed and some of those hymns. But it's deepened my spiritual life in ways too difficult to describe. When I arrived in Norfolk less than two years ago to create a new home with my new husband, who just happens to be the rector at Good Shepherd, we were surprised and thrilled to learn there were 2 deaf / hard of hearing members of the church. Their presence and friendship are a true gift to me.

One of these members is Bairy Cyrus, chair of our Deaf Ministry Committee. She wrote a memoir published last April about growing up at a residential oral school and then in hearing schools. We had a book signing party for Bairy at Good Shepherd. Approximately seventy-five people came for the event. This shows how supportive the people of Good Shepherd have been. They constantly express awe at the beauty of American Sign Language. This new form of access is a gift for all of us as we learn and grow together.

Our baptismal covenant calls us to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ". It calls us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself". And it calls us to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being". There are so many ways we can daily live out this covenant. Good Shepherd's new Deaf Ministry is just one of those ways. We have the talent and resources to provide the means for this exciting ministry to grow within our church family. We welcome you to come and experience the beauty of a signed Episcopal Church service. Most importantly, we ask that you share the good news that Good Shepherd Episcopal Church's 10:30 a.m. service is interpreted in American Sign Language weekly!



Elizabeth Davenport (l) and Bairy Cyrus (r) talk during the spring Ministry Fair at Good Shepherd in Norfolk.

General Convention Prayer Octave Set; Cycle Begins With Pentecost, Concludes Trinity Sunday

[ENS] An Octave of Prayer for the 75th General Convention will open on Pentecost Sunday and conclude Trinity Sunday, just as deputies and bishops begin to gather in Columbus, Ohio, for the June 13-22 legislative sessions.

Patterned on a similar recent observance in the Diocese of Maine, the octave will feature daily meditations as well as prayers reflecting the General Convention's theme of "Come and Grow."

Prayers and related resources are posted online at www.episcopalchurch.org. Click the General Convention link then look under Highlights.

The idea was conceived at the joint meeting of the Councils of Advice for the

Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies.

The Very Rev. George Werner, president of the House of Deputies, has named the Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber of the Diocese of Ohio to chair the effort.

"It is significant that the octave will begin on Pentecost, the Church's 'birthday party,' and continue through Trinity Sunday, the Church's 'family reunion,'" Svoboda-Barber said.

The hope of the planning group is that both individuals and congregations would participate in the octave to provide prayerful support to the General Convention proceedings.

Themes for the daily observances, using

the Convention's theme of GROW, are:

Pentecost, Sunday, June 4: Grow in the Spirit

Monday, June 5: Grow in Hope

Tuesday, June 6: Grow in Love

Wednesday, June 7: Grow in Understanding

Thursday, June 8: Grow in Gratitude

Friday, June 9: Grow in Service

Saturday, June 10: Grow in Peace

Trinity Sunday, June 11: Grow in All Ways into Christ

Related resources are also available on the Episcopal Church's visitor website, www.comeandgrow.org.

For more information call Svoboda-Barber at 740-427-2187.

Consigning Women Arrive at Norfolk's Advent Church

Nestled in Pinewell by the golf course and the bay, the Church of the Advent has always been known for its family and community spirit. Father Bob Gilman, the Rector of Advent, sees Advent as socially responsible to the needs of the community.

"The mission of Advent is to serve and inspire others because Christ has inspired others to serve. We want to make a difference in the community life of Ocean View so that the light of Christ may indeed burn brightly touching and inspiring the lives of all we meet."

Advent has prayed for ways to bring new members into the fold and to expand its outreach goals. The Vestry set out to find innovative approaches for meeting the needs of the parish and the community. Several committees were formed and charged with the identifying and developing projects.

One committee was asked to determine the need for a consignment shop at Advent and would the shop meet Advent's mission of bringing people to Christ. After researching shops in both Norfolk and Virginia Beach, the committee determined that there is a need for a shop in Ocean View and they and the Vestry decided what better place than at Advent.

For Sharon Meachum, a committee member with years of experience in cloth-

ing and furniture consignment and interior design, it was a natural. "I see our shop, Consigning Women, as a cooperative to share faith, time and talent. As a center of community activity, we want to offer workshops on topics such as flower arranging,

woodworking, cooking and quality of life issues. If our clients show interest in other topics, we'll seek experts on the subject who can help us expand our horizons. We want to be a barometer for social change.

"Our plan is to be open Thursday, Fri-

day, and Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are accepting women's designer clothing, estate jewelry, cottage furniture, decorative home accessories and plants. We are looking for the unique as our hallmark. We will also feature the works of local artisans. The 22' x 44' shop is well designed and comfortable. It will be in a constant state of evolution with a varied selection every week."

If you have items for consignment or donation, call us for an appointment at 757-587-2070. Tips for being a successful consignor are the three "Cs" - "Clean, Current, Classic and always on hangers." Consigning Women of Advent is located at 9629 Norfolk Avenue, in the Ocean View area of Norfolk.

Most recently, Advent hosted a fundraiser spaghetti dinner for a parishioner of nearby Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. The shop was open and guests browsed and shopped. The event was a great success and Consigning Women donated a percentage of their sales to the fund.

Consigning Women had its grand opening the weekend of May 12 and 13th with a tea on Friday and "A touch of the Bubbly" champagne reception on Saturday. We welcome the community to join us in celebrating Consigning Women's beginnings.



Sharon Meachum, volunteer (right) helps Juanita Sneed (left) make the perfect selection from the Consigning Women's shop at Norfolk's Church of the Advent

John and Peggy Buchanan Moving Here in September

(Continued from Page 1)

degree at the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1975. He served 4 years at St. Matthew's in Darlington, South Carolina and was the Rector of St. Andrew's Church in Mount Pleasant when he was elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of West Missouri in 1988. He was



John and Peggy Buchanan in a recent photo

consecrated February 25, 1989. After his consecration, he was awarded a D.D. by the General Seminary and became the Bishop Diocesan in 1990.

He retired as Bishop Diocesan in 1999 and he and Peggy returned to their home in Mount Pleasant. Before becoming assistant in Texas, Bishop Buchanan served at St. Michael's Church, Charleston, South Carolina.

He and Bishop Bob Johnson were "Baby Bishops" at the same time since Bishop Johnson was also elected in the fall of 1988 and was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor in Western North Carolina in March 1989. Bishop Johnson commented, "I've known John for over 18 years. He is a trusted and respected colleague and friend. I know that he and his wife Peggy will bring their insightful and gracious style of ministry to Southern Virginia and they will be well received here."

In addition to his service in the Diocese of Texas, Bishop Buchanan currently serves as the parliamentarian for the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Charles Joy, President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, said, "We are looking forward to having John and Peggy with us for a fruitful ministry as we work on this new step in the life of the Diocese."

Juggling Communications is Focus of Sarasota Conference

The fast-paced world of communication and learning essential new communications skills were the focus of the Episcopal Communicators annual conference, "The Art of Juggling Communications," held April 19-22 in Sarasota, Florida.

The conference schedule included several workshops, plenary sessions and table discussions dedicated to various aspects of Episcopal Church communications, as well as the annual Polly Bond awards and daily worship and meditations with Chaplain Mary Ann Hoy from the Diocese of Maine.

Looking ahead to the 75th General Convention, scheduled for June 13-21, was also central to the agenda. Preaching at the opening Eucharist, the Very Rev. George Werner, president of the House of Deputies, encouraged the communicators to listen to the many voices in the church and at General Convention. He urged them and all journalists to come and talk to people in order to hear their stories, rather than coming with a story already written.

Werner said that journalists in the church must strive for balance in a time when many parts of the church feel and act

off-balanced. "I meet people every day who know the sins of the people they oppose, but not their own," he said.

Plenary sessions and workshops on various topics were offered throughout the meeting. Among these were ones dealing with Truth Telling, the changing face of communication

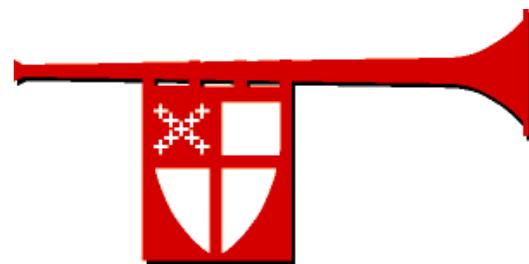
in an electronic age, advertising, parish communication and disaster management.

Carlyle Gravely, the editor of the *Jamestown Cross*, was elected to a three

year term on the National Board of Directors of the Episcopal Communicators organization.

Marceile Riddick, the *Jamestown Cross*'s recently retired photographer, was recognized with a Polly Bond Award for photography, principally her work from the 113th Annual Council in Midlothian in February 2005.

Southern Virginia will host the meeting in April of 2007. In parallel with Jamestown 400, the session will focus on the 400th anniversary of the creation of the Anglican Communion with the first permanent presence outside England of the Anglican Church. The meeting will be headquartered in Virginia Beach and will include a day trip to Jamestown and Williamsburg.



Norfolk Convocation ECW Supports The Mission of the Holy Spirit

by Frances S. Barber

Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

At the Convocation Board meeting in March, the women present set as their project for 2006 / 2007 a concerted effort to encourage the parishes in the Norfolk Convocation, through the ECW, to support the ministry of the Mission of the Holy Spirit. A committee has been appointed to work with the Mission to find ways of serving the ministry. The members of the committee are Barbara Grice, Christ & St. Luke's; Grace Martino-Strid, Church of the Good Shepherd; Marilyn Meek, Church of the Ascension; Marian Edmonds and Juanita Steward, Grace Church; Cissy Irby, Church of the Epiphany; and Frances Barber, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach.

The Mission, an active ministry in the Diocese for thirteen years, serves the community of Park Place in Norfolk. In 2005, it was designated a Jubilee Center by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. Jubilee is a program that recognizes outstanding service to the community. The primary goal of the Mission is to empower inner-city youths to cope with society and to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of God. It is uniquely formatted

to build lives by using Bible stories that fit life situations affecting young people daily. A committed group of men and women have worked faithfully and continue to work to fulfill this goal.

The goal of the Norfolk Convocation ECW Committee is to highlight the work of the Mission and to encourage the eleven parishes in Norfolk to take an active role in the ministry. As most parishes already are attuned to the work of the Mission, the goal is to support that involvement and to encourage others to join in the work. It is also a hope of the committee that other Convocations will become more involved in the work of this vital ministry.

The Committee discussed ways to support the Mission more fully, which included attending Sunday services at the Mission, making contributions of small needed items, sharing information about the Mission or volunteering at the mission. Also noted was the need for a few people doing a lot. Some examples are making financial contributions to help with the monthly expenses of the Mission, donating up-to-date computers, providing college textbooks, and donating or providing a much-needed van for transportation for the children.

The Committee is working to recruit in each parish of the Norfolk Convocation a volunteer who will make a one-year commitment to serve as a communication link between the Committee and the parish. Already on board are representatives from six of the eleven parishes in the Convocation.

Many things are needed by the Mission to continue the work for which God called

this ministry into being. One of the most meaningful gifts we can freely offer is to pray for the Mission of the Holy Spirit and the people who serve and those who are being served through this ministry.

For more information, please call Frances Barber at 757-461-3595 or e-mail her via the Convocation 3 e-mail address at norfolkconvocationecw@hotmail.com.

Jesus Jam Set at St. George's, Newport News

by David Adams

St. George's Church, Newport News Lead Guitarist – 4th Day Band

St. George's Church in Newport News is hosting a Jesus Jam on June 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We are setting up our Gravely Hall (aka the Parish Hall) as a Christian Coffee Shop, where Christian bands / artists are going to offer gifts of music in an effort to evangelize the local community. Our hope is for others to experience God through gifts of music as they may have not experienced before. As it has been said, music touches places in the heart and soul that words alone cannot.

Among the featured talents will be

Trust'n Him and the 4th Day Band; both hail from the Tidewater area. We are praying that God will also send others who have been called to music evangelism.

Of course, there will be plenty of fellowship, snacks, drinks, etc. for people to enjoy in addition to the music. All are invited to experience the praise, worship and glory that will be offered to God on that evening. We are trusting God to provide our needs.

If you would like to support this ministry, we will accept donations or a love offering; however, that is not a requirement for you to experience this event. Hope to see you there.

The Bishop's Letter: "Spirit, Discipleship and Calling For Our World"

(Continued from Page 2)

fear and worry. Two days before, a team of doctors at Babies Hospital, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, had performed a routine checkup on our son, Mark, a year and six months after his successful open-heart surgery. The physicians were shocked to find evidence of a rare lung disease. Disbelieving the results, they tested further for six hours before they finally called us in to say that Mark had Pulmonary Hypertension, an invariably fatal disease, they told us. How much time? I asked. 'We don't know; a few months, a few years.'

"The following day, a team of doctors urged us to authorize a lung biopsy, a painful and invasive procedure. How could this help? It couldn't, they explained, but the procedure would let them see how far the disease had progressed. Mark was already exhausted by the previous day's ordeal. Holding him, I felt that if more masked strangers poked needles into him in an operating room, he might lose heart – literally – and die. We refused the biopsy, gathered Mark's blanket, clothes, and Peter Rabbit, and carried him home.

"Standing in the back of that church, I recognized, uncomfortably, that I needed to be there. Here was a place to weep without imposing tears on a child; and here was a heterogeneous community that had gathered to sing, to celebrate, to acknowledge common needs, and to deal with what we cannot control or imagine. Yet the celebration in progress spoke of hope; perhaps that is what made the presence of death so bearable. Before that time, I could only ward off what

I had heard and felt the day before.

"I returned often to that church, not looking for faith but because, in the presence of that worship and the people gathered there – and in a smaller group that met on weekdays in the church basement for mutual encouragement – my defenses fell away, exposing storms of grief and hope. In that church I gathered new energy, and resolved, over and over, to face whatever awaited us as constructively as possible for Mark, and for the rest of us."

Through the caring ministry of that parish and those people, Elaine Pagel's journey in discipleship was renewed and strengthened. Through the caring ministries of your parishes and our diocese, discipleship and ministry are revealed and strengthened for all who come our way.

And the mystery of it all is that God works through us and our parishes and our diocese giving us the strength to be the disciples we're called to be and to pay the cost of discipleship which is desiring God's love in Jesus above all and above all else in life.

Christian ministry is always about discipleship and caring. And being a disciple of Jesus and a member of God's compassionate caring team is truly a high calling.

And although our salaries help, we don't do what we do for the money. We do what we do for love in the faith that as we serve in this way our lives will be changed in God's love and the world will be changed in God's love. For that is our calling as Christian disciples who are called to the ministry of caring for God's people.

In his reflection on discipleship and ministry, Oscar Romero, the martyred Archbishop of San Salvador shares these thoughts with us about his ministry and ours.

"It helps, now and then to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about.

"We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."

And I might add, we care because Jesus cares. Now as all of us and our dio-

cese move into this future which is not our own, but God's, may God's love in Jesus strengthen our need for that love in our discipleship, and in our ministry, as we strive to be the compassionately, caring people God in Christ Jesus calls us to be.

In my eighteenth year as a bishop please know how grateful I am for each of you, for each of your parishes, and for our diocese. You are all caring people, and we are a caring diocese. You have welcomed me warmly and I am encouraged by you and for you.

May God's love in Jesus Christ continue to help us all be the disciples we're called to be and do the ministry we're called to do, counting on God's help to pay the cost of our discipleship and ministry, which is caring compassionately for God's people and for God's world. And may God bless us all in our ministries and in our discipleship as God continues to guide and bless us and the Diocese of Southern Virginia. AMEN

As we all continue our faith journeys in this beautiful Easter season, it is my hope and prayer that all of us will grow ever deeper into our calling of Christian ministry and Christian discipleship, so that we might become a more effective, compassionate, caring team for Christ in all we do.

I look forward with great faith and hope to the remainder of my time with you as your Interim Bishop.

+ **Bob**
Johnson

32nd Renewal of ShrineMont's "Summer Camp for Adults" Education Conference Set July 16 to July 20

Shrine Mont's 2006 program is set. Now's the time to register for the 32nd annual Adult Spiritual Formation Conference, July 16 to 20 in Orkney Springs.

This year's conference coordinators Beverly Buston, Michael Spear-Jones, Ben Blanchard and Segar Gravitt organized a conference with offerings for every interest. Starting with dinner on Sunday and concluding after morning worship on Thursday, you'll experience a wide variety of spiritual feeding, fun and mountain relaxation.

The Conference lifts the spirit, feeds the soul and sends participants back into the vineyard refreshed for the rest of the year. You'll meet people from across the Diocese of Southern Virginia and other states to learn, sing, worship, laugh and just experience the wideness of our faith.

This year's keynoter, the Rev. Caroline Fairless, will lead us through *The Paradox of Yearning and the Art of Release*. If yearning for God is universal how can we move it out of the confinement of our church into the world through art, community, ministry and worship?

After each morning keynote address, deepen your understanding of the yearning for God in a choice of 17 workshops. When you add the variety of daily worship, singing and fun activities, you can expect to experience the movement of yearning for God out to parishes, communities and other groups of people who yearn.

Cost is only \$400 including country-style meals, housing and the entire program. If you don't have the Conference brochure, you can register at www.shrinemont.tripod.org.

Take a look at these morning workshops:

M1 "Play me a story!" – Biblical Creative Drama brings text to life through role play, movement, improvisation and various other creative drama techniques.

M2 "In the Image of God" – An experimental workshop for artists and non-artists focusing on creativity and spirituality.

M3 "The Nearly Perfect Crime" – How the Church almost killed the healing ministry and how this ministry is being recovered explores the healing ministry of Jesus and present models in today's Church.

M4 "A workshop for Men: Unbind Him, Let Him Go Free" uses stories from Scripture, movies and our own lives to help each other along the way.

M5 "Science and Spirituality" explores the Creation Spirituality tradition of wonder and connectedness, from the cosmos to the micro-level, reflecting on Mother Earth's gifts.

M6 "The Music of Taizé" looks at this simple type of chant to enhance and supplement hymns and traditional music fostering a community of prayer and praise.

M7 "Spiritual Formation through the Lens of Liturgy" explores our strong feelings about worship as we share why we do what we do liturgically and challenges of finding new things.

M8 "Who ministers to the Thugs?" is a glimpse into the spiritual lives of those marginalized in urban living – Those whom we most understand as "left behind".



There are also several afternoon workshops to complete the day's "formal" educational component:

A1 "Stained Glass" explores more about this tradition while we make our own masterpiece. Learn to cut glass, foil, solder and finish a piece of stained glass.

A2 "Yoga: Stilling the Body to Still the Mind" uses some fundamental and adaptable yoga postures as a way to stretch and still the body and mind to prepare for prayer.

A3 "Taking Care of Our Vessel: Dancing Through Our Decades" explores ways

to strengthen and maintain flexibility and use of our sacred vessel as we use it as an instrument of expression.

A4 "Yearning in Celluloid" uses three films to explore our yearnings for meaning, truth, and connection. *Big Fish*, *Secrets and Lies*, *Secrets in Good Company* are the films.

A5 "Sacred Centering Sound" experiences mediation using sound as a focal point to clear your mind. Inspired by: *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle and *The Healing Power of Sound* by Mitchell Gaynor.

A6 "Contemporary Icons" will look at the sacred image in contemporary terms and create our own personal icon to help us along the spiritual path.

A7 "The Theology of Seuss" takes a theological look as we explore the world of Dr. Seuss and read his books. There is more to the story than just the rhyme.

If the above choices were not enough, you could also choose an all-day workshop rather than a morning and an afternoon one. The All Day workshops this year include:

D1 "Servant Leadership" which shares a pathway to the sacred within and without to provide discernment into the uniqueness of our true selves while we lead authentic and congruent lives.

D2 "Golf – Come to the Mountain and Bring Your Clubs" includes group clinics for short game, iron play and driving conducted by the Pro at Bayse.

The Daily Schedule begins with Wor-

ship at the Shrine at 7:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 7:45 a.m. We gather and sing starting at 8:45 a.m. and the keynoter starts at 9:30 a.m. The morning workshop begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the afternoon workshops starting at 2:00 p.m. There is a "late afternoon break" then dinner at 5:30 p.m. Again, we gather and sing starting at 6.45 p.m. then move into our Evening Worship and Program about 7:30 p.m. More socializing and rocking on the porches concludes the day.

Don't miss a minute! Make plans to be there and register today.

Seeds of Hope 2006 Grants Available

Seeds of Hope 2006 Grant announcement and application forms were mailed to all parishes in April. Grants are available to congregations and Diocesan groups (e.g. affiliated institutions, commissions, and task forces) within the Diocese of Southern Virginia for funding of outreach needs.

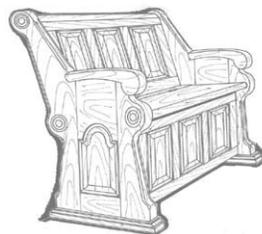
Grants are awarded as seed money to support the development of new programs or support the expansion of such ministries that are already in action.

Proposals for Seeds of Hope 2006 grants must be received no later than July 31, 2006. Additional applications are available from the Diocesan office, or from Tom Bell, Chair of Outreach Ministries, 5 Seagull Court, Hampton, VA 23669 or by e-mail at tom-bell@cox.net.

If We Are Truly Easter People, We Should Be Easter People All The Time

by the Ven. Patti Davis

In the best of times our days are numbered anyway, and so it would be a crime against nature for any generation to take the world crisis so solemnly that it put off enjoying those things for which we were presumably designed in the first place: the opportunity to do good work, to fall in love, to enjoy friends, to hit a ball, and to bounce a baby.
Alistair Cooke



FROM THE
deacon's
bench

In the face of a continuing war, of dreadful crimes and questions about who we are as a country and who we will welcome to join us, the above quote seems rather lightweight, until we realize it was written by a man who saw those same things and yet emerged on the other side generous and confident.

In addition to numerous pieces of scripture which serve as daily sustenance,

this quote can serve as a check and balance for life, a window through which we might see our lives as they were created to be and turn again to the center, the One who did

the designing. Because it really describes that which makes life worthwhile: a feeling of usefulness, people to love and to love us back, time to play and a glimpse of the future.

These are the things which betray our loyalties, the things which reveal whether we take ourselves too seriously and God not seriously enough. Because one of the confi-

dent messages of Easter is that the worst of life cannot overcome the best of God, that the "light has come into the world and the darkness has not overcome it."

And if we are Easter people, we are Easter people all the time, whether that seems reasonable or not, Easter people who declare that the tomb really is empty, the shrouds of grief and fear useless now and unneeded in the light of Easter Day. In any day, it may be

that our most profound act of service to each other might be simply to live as Easter people in a world which acts as if Easter never happened.

– The Ven. Patti Davis is the Archdeacon of Southern Virginia assigned to Norfolk's Church of the Advent and a Chaplain at a Virginia Beach nursing home.

A Report From The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Virginia -- We Are Active on Many Fronts

(Continued from Page 2)

Thinking of our calling a next interim Bishop, a member of this diocese asked me recently "Isn't it unhelpful to have this kind of change in Episcopal leadership, considering where we have come from?" Members of the Standing Committee want me to be sure to emphasize that Bishop Johnson is proving himself to be skilled in helping the diocese, on the front end of this interim period, with the immediately necessary task of organizing the administrative staff, building a foundation, as it were, so that our last interim bishop will be able to step in, immediately and with confidence, knowing that administrative and pastoral groundwork is already well begun. Our next Interim Bishop will, then, continue to build on this sturdy foundation, pay particular and long term attention to healing and reconciliation, and preparing, with the Standing Committee, the Diocese to elect a new Bishop.

From the Transition Team, a committee appointed by your Standing Committee and charged with paying close attention to diocesan life in this interim period, we heard that Bishop Johnson's Vestry days, West and East, were well received and well attended. It is the consensus of the Transition Team that the laity of Southern Virginia seems to want to move forward, but there are clergy with whom healing and reconciliation may be more slowly achieved, or possibly never. We as a Standing Committee, and with the Transition Team, want to be as respectful as possible regarding all sorts and conditions – God's people deserve such. The Transition Team reports that opportunity is being made for still further clergy discussions, with an emphasis on how knowledge of the past can be a positive support for the future of the Diocese. Judy Carlson has prepared a report of the work of the Transition Team that is included elsewhere in this issue of *the Jamestown Cross*.

We also learned that a group of church representatives have been meeting to plan possible divisive action if the issues of the General Convention are not determined to their satisfaction. These circumstances are not unexpected, thoughts and feelings in some quarters run high, so we are not surprised. As an Episcopal Church we are not of one mind about many things, excepting the Lordship of Christ. As your Standing Committee, we do want to continue to encourage among us a spirit of mutual respect as we grapple with such important issues as, among others, Creation and Redemption.

To this end, provision is being made for both pre and post General Convention conversations. There is little doubt but that this General Convention will make some decisions that will seem misguided to some of us, while others of us would likely be disappointed if some of these decisions were not made. I am reminded that our own Wayne Floyd once noted that Anglicans,

historically, are a both / and church in an either / or world. We have traditionally embraced a breadth of toleration for diversity that neither our Catholic nor Protestant colleagues enjoy. We welcome a diversity of faithful thought, particularly in regard to how Scripture is understood. In our either / or contemporary world this approach to Scripture tends to boil our waters.

Summarizing the last several paragraphs, we are, as a Standing Committee, committed to the notion that the more information we as a diocese have about what we are doing and who we are, the more healthy will be our common life. In discussion of the Transition Team report, the Standing Committee emphasized that issues should be discussed so that past hurts can be infused with healing, the goal being an increased sense of reconciliation.

We also discussed the hiring of a youth minister and Christian Formation Director. Funds for these two positions were included in the 2006 budget, which resulted from a diocesan wide conversation in the fall of 2004. These positions, we learned, have long been hoped for by those in the diocese who work with our young people. But this said, we are also concerned about moving forward with action regarding these items in this interim period. Our conversations are continuing, leaning at this point toward going forward in the near term. But if these positions cannot be filled this year, we recommend to the Treasurer and Executive Board that such budgeted funds be placed in escrow.

One of the canonical tasks of every diocesan Standing Committee is that of giving consent to Episcopal elections in other dioceses. Consents were approved to hold an election for a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Virginia and a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Texas.

And thinking a bit further about Episcopal elections, no bishop can be consecrated, in the American Episcopal Church, without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of this church. Bishop's do not elect themselves. It is the church who elects and consents to every diocesan election. But if a diocesan election is held within a certain period before a General Convention, then the electing diocese can ask the General Convention itself to approve the election, as opposed to requesting consent from the Standing Committees of each diocese. In two years we will be faced with these opportunities and these decisions.

We accepted with regret the resignation of the Rev. Michael Delk as Chair of the Liturgical Committee. Standing Committee President Charles Joy is going to pursue a replacement.

We closed our meeting with a discussion of the status of Diocese committees, who are the members and what are the respective activities. This was an item that

fell by the wayside in a previous year or two, and has to do with who we are, what we are doing, and how much it is going to cost. The matter was referred to the Human Resource committee of the Executive Board for a report.

Since our March 23rd meeting, which this portion of this report records, we have received word from Carlyle Gravely that the diocesan web site is now up and running. We are delighted. It is still not complete we understand, but such a web ministry allows us, as a diocese, the utility of another means of communication. Now that the site is reactivated, I am mindful of the strong history of this website before it was shut down in the waning months of 2005. Our own Ned May initiated, developed and monitored this site. One might say he was the founding pastor. Ned was financially compensated in a most modest fashion during the tenure of his oversight, but his devotion never lost sight of his (and our) vision that such a website would not only aid communication in the diocese at large, but might be a great resource for those congregations in the diocese situated outside the Richmond/Hampton Roads axis. Ned and his wife Ceara live near the very small town of Howardsville, in the far northwest corner of this diocese. Ned knew – and knows full well – what communication (and communion with others in this communion) means to smaller, rural congregations. It was his joy to devote himself to helping a better way happen. We now stand on the foundation he built.

Toward the end of April we also learned from Bud Schoolar that Bishop Johnson did

an outstanding job convening the pre-convention meeting in Blackstone on April 23rd. Two clergy delegates and four lay deputies or alternates attended. Bud writes about this meeting as follows: "There were about 35 people total (i.e., presenters and everyone else). Bishop Johnson and Jim Bradberry were the primary facilitators. Bishop Johnson led off with an overview of General Convention and listed the primary events of the convention. The most time was spent on the answer to the Windsor Report and the election of a new presiding Bishop.

"New to me was that the election of a new Presiding Bishop could also be very explosive and not accepted by the worldwide Anglican Communion. One of the most respected candidates is a woman and only the US, Canada and New Zealand recognize women Bishops. This could cause as much controversy, worldwide, as the election of Bishop Robinson.

"The meeting lasted from 4:00 to 5:30 and was totally upbeat. There was absolutely no mention of diocesan issues. It should be noted that all participants were from Convocation 8. There was no representation from Convocation 9."

On May 1st we members of the Standing Committee met at Bruton in Williamsburg, convening at 10 o'clock. Members of the Transition Team were also present. President Charles Joy led an opening worship. Diocese Treasurer Art Spooner and Gordon Tayloe presented for final consideration our Letter of Agreement with Bishop Johnson. This letter states the terms and conditions of Bishop Johnson's employment, agreed to by both Bishop Johnson and the Standing Committee / Executive Board. Treasurer Art Spooner noted that such a letter is of particular interest to those who audit the books of this diocese.

We also discussed the construction of a letter of agreement with our next Assisting Bishop, who should be among us shortly when all items have been put to rest, satisfactory to both the new bishop and the Standing Committee / Executive Board. Salary, housing and travel provisions were discussed.

Bishop Johnson joined us at 11:15 a.m., giving an interim report as to his activities and his preliminary view of the status of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. His hand written notes will be incorporated by reference and attached to the original minutes to be maintained in the records of the Standing Committee. A brief listing of the topics which Bishop Johnson discussed includes:

1. A Letter of Agreement with Canon Win Lewis must be constructed as soon as possible. Win continues to carefully steward the course of the diocese on a day to day basis, now fulfilling responsibilities he did not formerly oversee. We are blessed by Win's presence and capabilities.
2. We must push for the hiring of a youth director. Active, committed and competent, but unpaid laity cannot be expected to run forever our diocesan youth programs. There is money in the budget for this.
3. The need for healing in the diocese is not chronic, but it is episodic, showing from time to time and from place to place. Bishop Johnson recommends that we begin consideration of an episcopal election in early 2008, with a consecration by June, 2008.
4. Bishop Johnson noted that both laity and clergy continue to feel disassociated from the Diocese. This is an ongoing item with many years history, particularly for members of the diocese outside the Richmond / Hampton Roads axis, and a feeling exacerbated by the recent events in our diocesan life. With this reality in mind, Bishop Johnson reminds that the diocese deserves to be rebuilt in terms of our structure, as well as morale. He encouraged us not to consider placing a second Bishop in Petersburg. A second bishop, able to

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Tasked To Look Back And To Look Forward

The Diocesan Transition Team Gets Underway

by Judith Carlson

St. Barnabas' Church, Richmond

The eight members of the Diocese's newly-formed Transition Team began their work at Chanco last February at a joint retreat with the two other Diocesan bodies with whom they will be most closely working – the Standing Committee (of whom they are an appointed subcommittee) and the Executive Board. It was at the recommendation of the three bishops appointed last fall by the Presiding Bishop to consult with Southern Virginia leaders that our Transition Team was formed. It is meant to enable and assist diocesan leadership and to seek to create an atmosphere of mutual support and accountability by assisting Southern Virginia in its progress toward reconciliation, renewed stability, and – eventually – toward the election of a new bishop. A momentous task!

At Chanco the three groups met with the Rt. Rev. Robert H. Johnson, who is serving as Assisting Bishop through July of this year. Several team assignments were clear from the outset – especially the necessity

for a time of “deep listening” across the diocese. Various lay and clergy Transition Team members will join Bishop Johnson as he meets with numerous diocesan groups, including all of the convocations. Team members or their representatives will be attending many other diocesan gatherings too – for example, both Bishop's Days and a Clergy Day last March and the Open Hearings scheduled both before and after June's General Convention.

Results of these visits get communicated to the entire team, so that the wide variety of current perceptions and emerging insights enter into a total picture of Southern Virginia at this stage of her life. What can we learn, what are people's key concerns, and most importantly, what can these visits tell us about what kind of diocese which, together, we need to shape for our future?

It's a journey of discernment, and the Transition Team is very mindful that for Christians, discernment always takes place in *community*. So we will be (and have already begun) working with many others – individuals and groups across the diocese

– to answer these questions and discover together where God is calling Southern Virginia at this time and place. Our partners will be the Clergy, the Convocation Deans, and the contact people for many diocesan organizations as well as the Standing Committee and the Executive Board, to whom we will make regular reports and from whom we will be seeking guidance and feedback.

Two Work Phases Expected

The Transition Team's first phase will be tending to issues of healing and reconciliation as well as beginning the process of diocesan self study. After that important work comes a second phase – preparing the diocese to enter into the search process for a new bishop. The timeline of the second phase is not yet certain, but in time as work progresses and specifics become clearer it will be announced. Although the Transition Team's responsibilities end with the appointment of a search committee for a new diocesan bishop, they themselves will not become the Search Committee.

Work So Far

One helpful source for Transition Team discussion was the extensive list of issues and concerns generated by the clergy in March at Chanco. The full list can be found at the new diocesan website [www.diosova.org] but several primary themes stand out. Despite our diocese's amazing diversity of perspectives, there is plainly a common longing for a climate of trust in which acceptance and mutual respect – not necessarily agreement – can allow ministry to go forward. Quite a number of responses indicate recognition of the need for clear and agreed-upon norms – a set of mutually acceptable and well-understood “bottom line” standards of behavior to undergird the way we live and work together. Norms serve as reminders that *how* we do something is always at least as important as *what* we're doing, a truth too easily forgotten in the press of agendas or passions.

And so the Transition Team has begun to work not only on some norms heard during our listening, but we also have begun to distill some of the basic bedrock values behind these norms. These values seem to be defining the nature of our hopes for our future diocesan community. For example, it's immediately clear that Southern Virginians, no matter their personal perspectives, deeply desire to be part of a community where all persons will be respected at all times. Practical norms which express this value could include agreeing to listen and speak from an “I” position (without speaking for anyone else) and doing so without blame or attack. Related norms would be respecting confidentiality and respectfully including all opinions in discussion, even when we disagree.

Another value our listening has elicited is that of honesty, openness, and direct-

ness, which in turn suggests a norm about complaining directly only to someone who can do something about a situation, but not to anyone who cannot. Similarly, a commitment not to engage in “parking lot” or side bar conversations instead of face-to-face discussion with the parties involved keeps everyone's behavior straightforward rather than passive-aggressive. A desire for claiming responsibility for one's actions is evident.

The wish to engage authority in a healthy way and for the appropriate sharing of power raises important issues for diocesan life together as we move forward. There are strong expressions about avoiding any future climate of “winners and losers” and about developing accountability for such an atmosphere. Potential norms here might include a commitment to see that persons affected by decisions are represented in the decision-making process. Norms would also witness to a commitment to provide clear information about how and why decisions are to be made, about who has what authority, and about the details of decisions that might be made in the absence of those affected. Perhaps these could be summarized by the simple and trust-enabling promise of “No surprises!”

The above examples only reflect the beginning work of the Transition Team. Certainly much more work lies ahead, and more importantly, many other groups and people need to be consulted and have input about the kind of diocese Southern Virginia will become in the next chapter of her life. It is exciting to be part of such an endeavor, especially to watch and to pray and to work together with the diocesan family to see what new thing God is doing in our midst.

The Transition Team

Co-Chairs

The Rev. Herman (Holly) Hollerith, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg
hhollerith@brutonparish.org

Ms. Toni C. Hogg, St. Martin's, Williamsburg
hoggtbc@aol.com

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The Rev. Donna-Mae Siderius, (Executive Board), St. John's, Hampton
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Mr. Gordon B. Tayloe, Jr., (Standing Committee), Good Shepherd, Norfolk
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The Standing Committee Reports

(Continued from Page 10)

travel, would be better sited in Norfolk. Bishops need to communicate. If a bishop needed to be located in a place other than Norfolk, then South Richmond might be the better place. And efforts regarding restructure should also consider a reduction in the size of the Executive Board, as suggested by the Three Bishop's Report. And any and all restructure should be undertaken with the help of a consultant. As noted, some of these items have been a part of our diocesan common life for decades. Now might be an opportune time to begin to think as creatively as possible about their resolution.

5. Bishop Johnson also noted, to no one's surprise, that stewardship in the diocese must be attended to. Money is in short supply. Your scribe, writing in this moment, notes that stewardship at fundamental levels has to do with valuing the gifts of God, and doing so as explicitly as possible. Blessings and miracles are always and everyday close at hand, and the more the community of faith, whether locally or nationally, values the riches already in our hands, gifts from a providential God, the more we will, individually, know ourselves rich beyond belief. For myself, I may have but a dime in my pocket, but I also know myself as far richer than a dime. We are a diocese rich with gifts and resources, all of them gifted to us by God. From Howardsville to Cape Charles to Chatham, God is continuing the good work among us so long ago begun. We have a song to sing, one written far beyond the scope of

our days, and fundamentally authored by Another. In my writing to you as Secretary to the Standing Committee, I hope to communicate to you in such a way that you will know that in all that we do – and in all that we are – we are blessed. Money – and trust – will come, the more we perceive ourselves as the rich folk we are.

We also reminded ourselves of our lunch date with the diocesan staff on May 18th at Talbot Hall. Charles Joy, Gordon Tayloe and other members of the Standing Committee have been making a point of being present at Talbot Hall for a time or two each week, to provide whatever advice might be ours to provide, but always to provide an encouraging word to a team of folk who help us far beyond what most any one of us can ever imagine. When we meet at Talbot Hall, on any occasion, lunch for all is “on us.”

After lunch with the Transition Team, the Standing Committee met with Win Lewis. The following candidates were approved unanimously for ordination, and the approving Resolutions were adopted and executed: Mary Garner; Susan Grim; and Fred Poteet.

Future meeting dates are May 18 at Talbot Hall, June 15, July 13, September 21 at Talbot Hall. No August meeting is planned.

Reporting for the Standing Committee, the Rev. Howard Hanchey

Standing Committee members: Senior Class – President Charles Joy, Robert Satcher, Middle Class – Gordon Tayloe and your reporter, Junior Class – Stan Sawyer, Bud Schooler.

Diocesan Web Site Back; Your Help Needed to Make It Fully Functional

by Carlyle Gravely
Editor

As the Department of Communication continues its work to improve communication in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, I have good news to report. After an absence of about 5 months, the Diocesan Web Page – www.diosova.org – has been reestablished. Over Easter weekend, the newly designed web page was posted.

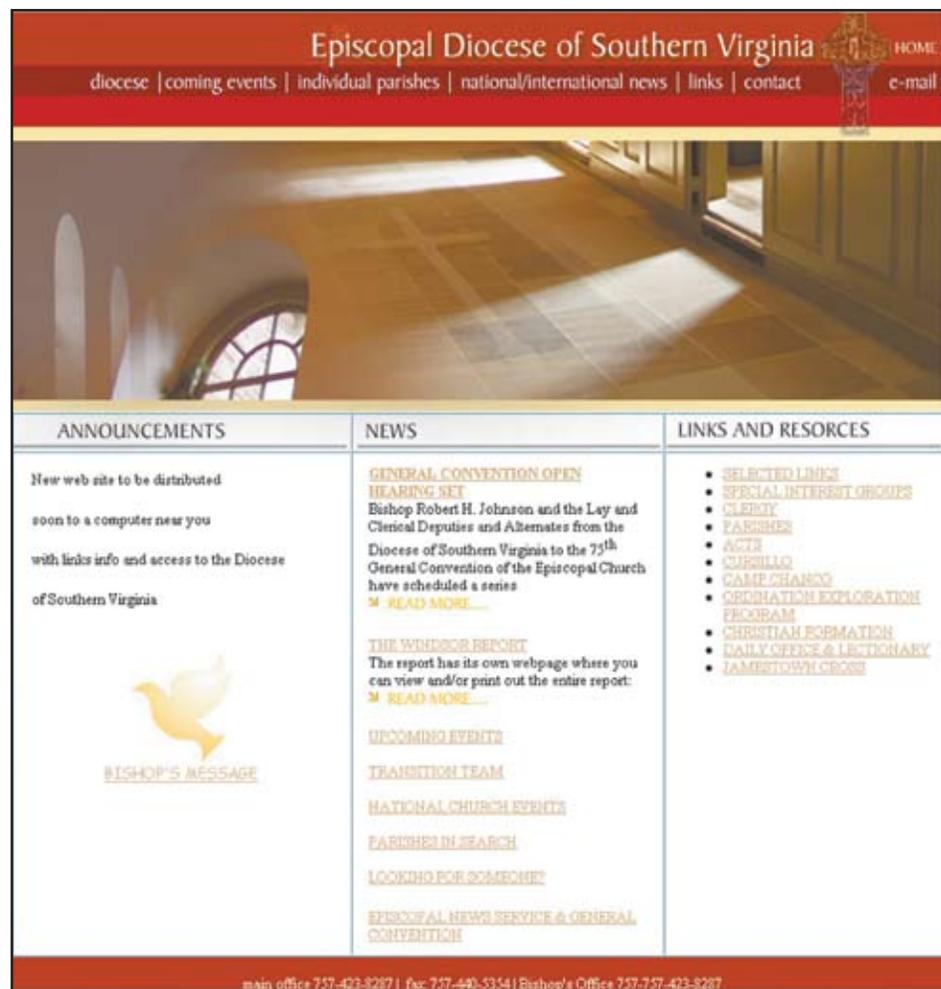
The new page was designed by Oller Studios in Williamsburg with input from the Department of Communication and various members of the Diocesan staff. The new page reestablishes the Diocesan presence on the World Wide Web that ended late last year when the founding Web Minister Ned May left the volunteer position he had filled for almost 10 years. It was his initiative in 1996 to design the original Diocesan web site to fill a void in the communication efforts of the Diocese. His work was recognized locally and nationally. Without his dedication and skill, it is unlikely that the Diocese would have had a presence on the World Wide Web as early as it did.

Even as we are glad to have the new web site functional, it is not finished – but then any web page that is a useful document is never finished because it must be a living thing, constantly changing to reflect the changing life of the Diocese in this case.

We have a number of things that we are still working to complete and to do some of those, we need your help. One of the features that was designed into the new web site is the ability to post photos of the activities of the Diocese. To support these photo capabilities, we need you to send us photos and the accompanying information about groups and activities in your congregations and photos of the churches of the Diocese. As we build this inventory, we will post some in the NEWS section of the web site and we will use some to augment the photos on the various pages of the site.

We are also working to develop a secure information exchange which will allow the web site to be used for registrations for Diocesan events and to send information about the leadership of your parish to the Diocesan headquarters. This feature will hopefully be available within the next few months to improve and simplify conference registrations and information exchange. Further down the road, the plans are that the web site will include a password protected “chat area” where various groups can have electronic conversations / meetings.

To help the web site reach its full potential, we also need you to identify links to other



The Opening Page of the new Diocesan Web Site -- www.diosova.org.

information resources you would like to see directly linked from our page, added information that you have and want to share across the Diocese and beyond, information that you need and would like to find on the Diocesan web site, etc. Please contact us / send the information to us for our review and addition to the Diocesan Web Site, as appropriate.

The best way to do this is to send them to the general Diocesan mail box, 600@diosova.org. Please include “web page” in the subject line to help us sort them more effectively. We also very much want you to send us your comments, reactions and suggestions as we continue our work to improve our web site.

We look forward to hearing from you.

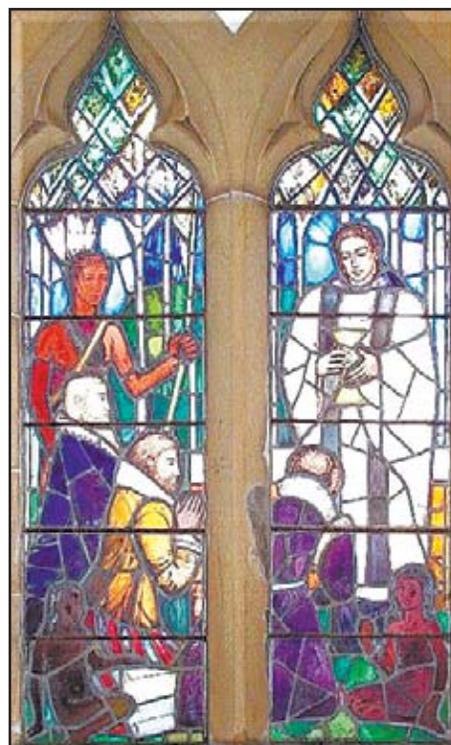
Retracing the Footsteps of Robert Hunt

On December 16, 1606, 145 men and boys on three ships left London for the New World. They landed at Cape Henry (in today's Virginia Beach) at the entrance to Chesapeake Bay on April 26, 1607. Just short of three weeks later, they landed on Jamestown Island. Among them was their chaplain, the Rev. Robert Hunt, Rector of All Saints Church, Old Heathfield, Sussex, who established the Anglican Church at Jamestown.

In recognition of the 400th Anniversary celebration of Jamestown, the Friends of All Saints Church thought it would be meaningful to celebrate our mutual heritage. With the growing interest in Jamestown and the English connection, a tour highlighting Rev. Mr. Hunt, his church and village, has been developed.

“We have drawn up what we hope will be an interesting

program for a week-long stay from June 17-



The Robert Hunt Window

24,” said Rev. Roger Kenward, Chairman to the Friends of All Saints Church, and a former Honorary Chaplain to Her Majesty, the Queen. All proceeds from the trip to towards the restoration efforts of All Saint's Church, where Rev. Hunt was Vicar before coming to Jamestown.

“We will meet our special visitors at Heathrow Airport, entertain them in our homes and take them to some of the most beautiful and fascinating historic properties, towns, cities and gardens in England, including Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle and Canterbury Cathedral – the home of the worldwide Anglican church. We will also visit traditional pubs and inns and take in a boat trip on the River Thames.”

Highlighting the week will be a Commemorative Service to be held on Sunday, June 18 at All Saints Church. The silver Chalice and Paten used by Rev. Hunt will be part of the service. Prayers and Psalms will be read from a 1559 Book of Common Prayer, identical to the Prayer Book Rev. Mr. Hunt brought to America.

Anyone interested in the trip should contact Rebecca Suerdieck 757-258-1132.