

Episcopal News



September 2009 Vol. 20, Issue 7

Embracing Christ, Engaging the World

A diocesan edition of **episcopallife**

Tales of Summer



Summer Camp

St. Francis' Mission

Shelbyville Bible Camp

Pages 4k-5k

Leaving their Mark

Is purple your color?

at

General Convention

Page 2k

A Prayer for Guidance in Our Bishop Search

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, 818

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Bishop, deputies return from 76th General Convention talking about the 'middle way' taken by Episcopalians

By Mary Jane Cherry
Episcopal News Editor

"For the Holy Catholic Church, where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is in error, direct it. Where in anything it is amiss, reform it.... Where it is divided, reunite it."

Simple and succinct, the lines from Bishop Ted Gulick's prayer opening the first diocesan forum since General Convention captured the tone of humility, seriousness and hopefulness that he and the deputies have brought back to Kentucky from the 76th annual meeting of Episcopalians in Anaheim, Calif. July 8-18.

The forum, attended by about 60, was held July 28 in the parish hall at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Louisville. The bishop and four deputies (Sam Dorr, Debbi Rodahaffer and the Revs. Pat Connell and Amy Coultas) gave reports before answering questions during the 90-minute forum. (The other four deputies, unable to attend, were Mary Abrams, Hamp Moore, and the Revs. Libby Wade and Bill Watson.)



The General Convention deputies, nearing the end of their stay in Anaheim, were all smiles on the House of Deputies' floor. They are (l-r) Hamp Moore, the Rev. Bill Watson, Mary Abrams, the Rev. Pat Connell, Sam Dorr, Debbi Rodahaffer, the Rev. Libby Wade, the Rev. Amy Coultas.

In interviews and at the forum the bishop and deputies prefaced their remarks with observations about the character of this convention, which the bishop described (and the deputies reiterated) as the "most careful, prayerful,

respectful" of the six he has attended. "What I saw in the House of Bishops and what I heard everyday from the House of Deputies was about Christian people who were trying very, very hard to be the

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Youngsters sojourn with Paul in 'Rome'

By Janet Irwin
Episcopal News Staff Writer

"Those men are chained!" a soft voice declared in a whisper that carried across the entire Roman plaza where the young visitors to 'Rome' were gathered. "They're chained together!"

One of the men, their Roman guides told them, was a man named Paul. A follower of Jesus. The other, the one with the shiny gold helmet, was a jailer, guarding Paul to keep him in prison.

"That man, Paul," one bewildered little girl told the adult standing next to her, "looks a lot like our friend Frazier Marsh." Next day, after she had heard the story of how Saul had been touched by Jesus and became his follower Paul, the girl explained further, "You know, that is Frazier Marsh, but God loved him so much that he changed his name to Paul."

Adults forget. A lot. And among the many things they forget is how quickly young children accept as fact the things that adults tell them, and how easily pre-school hearts can be wrenched by things they perceive as cruel or frightening.

That's probably why some among the 20 or so adults from four urban Episcopal churches were surprised to see the shocked faces of the participants in the joint Vacation Bible School held at Christ



Youngsters discovered the world of Paul during the annual multi-parish Vacation Bible School in Louisville. Photo by Donald Vish

Church Cathedral July 20-24, when the 40 or so youngsters first saw "St. Paul" chained to his Roman jailer.

An adult visitor to the site could learn a great deal wandering around the great plaza where craftsmen and women plied

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Profile released

Bishop search enters new phase

By Mary Jane Cherry
Episcopal News Editor

The search committee for the Diocese of Kentucky's eighth bishop completed the first part of its work this summer with the online publication of a diocesan profile, and the committee is well into the second phase, the campaign to actively seek nominations. That phase will conclude Sept. 15, the deadline for nominees to submit "indications of interest."

The profile's July 1 publication coincided with the committee's plan to broadly publicize the diocese's search during General Convention. Search Committee Chair Alex Campbell said more than 400 letters announcing the search have been mailed to bishops, deployment officers and deans of seminaries and an additional mailing is to go out to cathedral deans.

The 20-page profile presents what Campbell calls an "aspirational profile" of the diocese's eighth bishop and an introduction to the diocese. "It was written with the perspective of candidates in mind," Campbell said. "We have a lot of information about diocesan missions,

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Bishop, deputies return from 76th General Convention talking about the ‘middle way’

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compassion of Jesus Christ for our church and for our world.” The convention, he said, stayed focused on “mission to the poor and to our overseas dioceses and beyond” as it also “continued our struggle to resolve issues and tensions among us.”

Raising national attention

Much of the forum predictably was devoted to explaining the two resolutions that have captured the attention of the national news media and bloggers: D025 and C056. The resolutions, both passed by a two-thirds majority in the House of Deputies and House of Bishops, address issues and tensions raised within the church by the 2006 General Convention’s adoption of resolution B033. That legislation asked the bishops and dioceses, for the sake of unity in the Anglican Community, to follow the Windsor Report recommendations and forebear from consenting to the elections of partnered homosexuals as bishops and from permitting the blessing of same-sex unions in their churches.

The 2009 convention, the bishop stressed, did not repeal B033. Resolution D025, he said, “makes access to the ordination process (not necessarily ordination itself) open to all the baptized” in accordance with The Episcopal Church’s canons, which forbid discrimination against persons because of sexual orientation. The General Convention was intentional and careful in avoiding “either the extreme of repealing B033 or the extreme of readopting it as the ultimate value of The Episcopal Church ... A middle way was chosen. Whether we were successful or not is a matter of debate.”

Resolution C056, he stressed, recommits the Episcopal Church’s support of the Anglican Communion while addressing the new reality that civil unions of same-sex couples are now legal in six states as they are in the Anglican provinces of Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and South Africa, according to Gulick. “Naturally Anglicans in those jurisdictions will ask what the church is going to do to recognize that relationship in some sort of liturgical way.”

The resolution does not authorize rites of blessing same sex unions, he stressed. “It is important to understand that. We haven’t taken any action except to have



Above, Bishop Ted Gulick and four deputies (l-r Sam Dorr, Debbi Rodahaffer, Bishop Ted Gulick, the Rev. Amy Coultas, and the Rev. Pat Connell) convened a post-convention forum at St. Thomas Church, Louisville. Photo by Steve Cherry. On the right, the Rev. Pat Connell and Sam Dorr set up the standard marking the deputation’s space on the convention floor. Photo by Hamp Moore

theological considerations at the moment and to develop resources. We have not approved rites. ... The bishops are encouraged to support clergy in pastoral generosity to persons who have chosen to marry in these states, and pastoral generosity is not defined specifically.”

Being Christ to one another

The Rev. Pat Connell, who devoted most of his presentation to these resolutions, began by acknowledging “that probably most of you are here to understand how we responded to B033. I think many of us are still trying to find a way to speak and to communicate and to keep the conversation going as a church since the election, consent and consecration of Gene Robinson.”

A second-term deputy, Connell, rector of Trinity Church in Owensboro, recalled that at the 2006 convention “you could cut the tension with a knife. ... This convention was very different. There was a sense of being Christ to one another.”

Connell said he supported D025 because it is “descriptive, not prescriptive ... We [the deputies] wanted to be transparent ... to tell the truth of who we are as The Episcopal Church.” B033 is still in effect until a majority of bishops and Standing Committees consent to the election of a partnered gay or lesbian as bishop.



He did not support resolution C056. Describing himself as the “lone ranger” among our deputation, he said he supports the call for theological study in developing blessings but he voted against the resolution because “I think we need to stand firm and be more judicious in what we allow our bishops to do. ... I know as an Episcopal priest, if I do a marriage without a marriage license ... I could be charged with fraud. I was very concerned with this generous oversight.”

Good news for gays, lesbians

Another second-term deputy, Sam Dorr, found the two resolutions’ adoption hopeful for gay and lesbian Episcopalians. With resolution D025, he noted, the deputies “made it clear that we want to remain in the Anglican Communion as long as that is possible, but we also wanted to state where we are now in 2009.” Although B033 is still in effect, at least for now, he said, “I do think

that what we did at this convention is, we said that just the fact that you are a homosexual man or woman is not going to automatically be a block to the ordination process. That to me is the good news to the gay and lesbian community.”

Similarly, Resolution C056 may not authorize blessings, but, he said, it “allows us to begin the process of gathering materials,” a resource he said he wished he’d had earlier this summer when he and his partner of 28 years were married in Iowa. “As it was, we created our own, relying heavily on various liturgies from other prayer books. ... It is important we have begun the process of really looking at what’s out there—what we can say, and how we can respond pastorally, which I think is extremely important to individuals living in states where it is legal to have a civil union or marriage.”

As an aside, Dorr noted that the issue that caused most excitement on the convention floor was a discussion on how to refer to the “blessed Virgin Mary” (a woman, he said, left the floor in anger and, as Jesus advised his disciples to do in an unreceptive town [Matt 10:11], shook the dust off her shoes as she left). “The issue was not about human sexuality, and I find that hopeful,” he said.

Defining pastoral generosity here

In an interview shortly after the convention, the bishop was asked how he would address Resolution C056’s provision for “pastoral generosity” in our diocese. While the resolution does not apply directly because civil unions of same-sex couples are not legal in Kentucky, he said, “we do have Episcopalians in our diocese who have been civilly married in other states. I would say [they are] the first persons I would need to consider.”

He said that, as he did early in his episcopacy when faced with interpreting a new canon on remarriage after divorce, he plans to consult with the diocese’s priests and deacons in the fall about “how we might interpret C056 in the Diocese of Kentucky, and how we in this diocese can provide generous pastoral response. I will do that before I consider any individual request.”

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Leaving their mark at convention

Two simply elegant, yet humorously eye-catching bookmarks caused a bit of a buzz at General Convention about the Diocese of Kentucky and its search for a new bishop.

The deputies and visitors from our diocese took nearly 1,000 bookmarks, a purple one that sported the playful question, “Is purple your color?”, and a blue one, unabashedly direct, that asked, “Do you want to be our bishop?”

Reportedly, the deputies did not just pass out the bookmarks randomly, however. Sometimes they targeted individuals they wanted to know about the search. The deputies were even known to rush up aisles to hand bookmarks to individual clergy members whose comments and insights caught their attention.

Apparently their strategy worked.

“What’s it like to be a bishop in your diocese?” was the question Bishop Ted Gulick said he was asked several times during the convention.

While reporting on the convention at the July 28 forum, he was particularly tickled to repeat the query from some San Franciscans: “We love your materials. Who is your designer?” Beaming, Gulick said he told them that “our designer” is one of “our most talented priests,” the Rev. Amy Coultas, who was a graphic artist before going to seminary and is now the canon missionary for young adult ministries in our diocese.

Only time may reveal the success of their efforts, but Coultas reported the deputies came back with the names of 10 people for the search committee.

Episcopal News

Diocese of Kentucky

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Letter to the editor

Senior warden thanks church leaders, canon to the ordinary

Bardstown's Ascension Church has been without a priest since the end of October 2008. We are happy to announce that we have extended a call for the Rev. Karl Lusk to become our part-time interim priest and he has accepted. Rev. Lusk will be coming to Ascension in September.

As Ascension's senior warden during this period of time, I have had a unique view of church administration. At this time I need to extend my gratitude to several people without whom it would have been a much more difficult and unpleasant job than it was.

First, the vestry at Ascension has done a great job of stepping up when needed to support not only our church and its congregation and me. Thank you. You have been my strength.

The diocese is another entity without which we could not have made it through this difficult time. Everyone I turned to for advice or help gave it freely and with understanding. I must especially thank our canon to the ordinary. She has been my priest, friend and mentor. Joan, thank you is not really enough to express what you have meant to Ascension and to me.

We have been served by support priests. There have been too many to individually mention here but it cannot be overstated as to their importance to Ascension. They have been a diverse lot and have each uniquely offered spiritual support and food for our congregation. Thank you.

Lastly, my gratitude to the members of the congregation of Ascension. You are truly a special group. You have been wonderful. You are what makes Ascension the best church in Kentucky.

Peace,
Jesse Wheat, Senior Warden



Wanted: The Occasional Volunteer

Interested in spending some quality time at All Saints'? Sign up to help staff the front desk in the conference center lodge from time to time. Call Greg Premo, interim director, at 270-259-3514.

Bishop search enters new phase

Continued from page 1k

geography and the economy of the state. ... We want it to be a fair introduction to our diocese, presenting the strengths and other things that people might consider."

The profile is the culmination of a six-month initiative to collect and synthesize the observations of laity and clergy members obtained through a diocesan survey, seven "listening" group sessions in churches across the diocese, and two clergy discernment meetings. More than 1,000 parishioners and clergy members responded to the survey. Campbell said the survey consultant reported the participation was "excellent" and well beyond what is needed to get reliable findings.

In addition, 34 priests and deacons participated in clergy discernment sessions, and more than 160 people participated in the "listening" sessions, which were held at Resurrection Church, Louisville; St. Francis in the Fields, Harrods Creek; Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville; St. Matthew's Church, Louisville; Trinity Church, Owensboro; Grace Church, Paducah; and Christ Church, Bowling Green. "Taken as a group, they are very representative of the Diocese as a whole," the profile reports.

One of the most important sections, said Campbell, is the one-page "Profile of a Bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky," which outlines the qualities and skills wanted in a bishop according to three categories.

At the top of the list, the profile states that the ideal bishop will be a "spiritual" and "prayerful" person with "sound judgment and wisdom, intellectual honesty and openness to differing ideas, compassion, integrity, and a passion

for challenging ministry to multiple generations, diverse populations, people in need, and communities in transition."

The profile notes that the bishop will have several "important tools" for accomplishing ministry here: "a committed and collegial clergy, a laity eager for ministry and receptive to change, strong finances with endowed support for the expense of the episcopate and for seminary education and post-seminary support of newly ordained clergy in the Diocese, a low level of conflict, new and renovated facilities across the Diocese, and a thriving camp and conference center in a beautiful sylvan setting."

The new bishop will face challenges identified through the surveys and group sessions. Survey respondents, the profile says, "expressed a desire for a stronger shared vision for the Diocese, more support for churches in transition, strategies for building congregations, and cultivating financial giving." The complete results of the survey are available online.

Participants in the listening sessions and clergy conferences revealed additional concerns they hoped to see addressed by the new bishop, a "stronger financial profile, a reorganized Diocesan staff, and better communication strategies, particularly involving technology." The profile and complete reports on the listening sessions and clergy conferences are available at www.bishopsearch.episcopalky.org/

[Editor's Note: Be sure to visit the search committee's Web site. You will find the answers to "Frequently Asked Questions," including the June 2010 date of the electing convention as well as the September date set for the new bishop's consecration.]



Kneeling (l-r), Hilary Bogert[-Winkler] and Mary Ann Mertz were ordained by Bishop Ted Gulick, assisted by Christ Church Cathedral Dean Mark Bourlakas. Photo by Mary Jane Cherry

Diocese's newest deacons head east

By Janet Irwin
Episcopal News Staff Writer

This past June, two new deacons were added to the roster of clergy associated with the Diocese of Kentucky. While neither will be serving in this diocese as their careers are moving them elsewhere, they are outstanding examples of the clergy coming from Kentucky.

Married on July 25 to Rick Winkler, the Rev. Hilary Bogert-Winkler grew up at St. Peter's, Louisville, and was active at All Saints' programs and a member of the Youth Council. She served as the youth representative to Trustees and Council throughout her high school years. While at Western Kentucky University, she attended Christ Church, Bowling Green, where she was involved with the Episcopal College Fellowship, serving as its peer minister.

After graduating from WKU, Bogert-Winkler went to Harvard Divinity School, where she graduated with a master's of theology in world religions. While there, she became a postulant for Holy Orders and interned at Trinity Church in Boston.

After graduation from Harvard, Bogert-Winkler entered Yale Divinity School, where she was graduated Summa Cum Laude with a master's in religion and literature and a certificate in Anglican Studies. She served as chapel minister for the Episcopal seminary at Yale, and received the Thomas Phillips Memorial Award for achievement and promise in the practice and study of Anglican liturgy. Her paper "These Holy Mysteries: George Herbert's 'The Holy Communion' and the Book of Common Prayer" will be

published in the forthcoming edition of Yale Divinity School's student journal, *Glossolalia*.

This fall, she will serve as an associate at Grace Church, Amherst, where she will work mainly with youth ministry and Christian education. She and her husband, Rick, will soon be moving to Massachusetts.

The Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Mertz, a communicant at St. Matthew's Church, this May added a diploma of Anglican Studies from the General Theological Seminary, New York, to the long list of her academic achievements and her even longer list of outstanding professional activities in a wide field of experiences.

Beginning with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in music and secondary and elementary education from Bellarmine University, Mertz has pursued increasingly specialized training in theology, music and education. These pursuits culminated in a doctor of ministry with distinction from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and then her Anglican studies at General.

Given her background, it is not surprising that this fall Mertz will assume a position as chaplain for children and their families in the Lower School of The Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia, a pre-K-12 day school and the oldest Episcopal school in the country.

She will provide pastoral care, lead worship, preach, teach and take on some administrative duties.

Peace & Justice plans JustFaith program

The Peace and Justice Division is starting a new program and inviting anyone interested in taking a spiritual journey toward a more compassionate faith.

JustFaith is a 30-week program that provides a lively and challenging format of reading, discussion and prayer. Most of us long to be generous

and compassionate, and this program provides an opportunity to explore justice in a deliberate and engaging way that has changed lives, inspires faithful witnesses and transforms the world through love and service.

Interested? Contact Mary Abrams at 502-245-7819 or at meabrams@bellsouth.net

All Saints' summer camps 2009: A tale of engagement

By Mary Jane Cherry
Episcopal News Editor

"How old are you?" one child asked. "About 600 years old," said a stiffly white-haired, bearded Noah in a shiny blue garment that looked suspiciously like a graduation or choir gown.

"Why do you have a Detroit accent?" another asked.

"I do not have a Detroit accent. I have a bible accent. ... I was on this ark. How long?"

"A really, really long time," a third youngster answered.

"And it was made even longer because there were all these animals, and I had my sons..." Noah began his story.

"Did you get rabies?"

Noah, of course, answered, weaving his response into the story. His question of the youngsters "Have you ever shared a room with anybody?" led unintentionally (or maybe intentionally) into a discussion about messy cabins as the youngsters talked with him about what it was like living on a boat with your entire family and hundreds of animals.

Noah (David Laws) was a central figure that July week in the lives of about 60 youngsters. They were attending the primary camp for second through fourth graders at All Saints' Episcopal Camp and Conference Center on Rough River in Grayson County.

Under the guidance of camp director Beth Bojarsky and the primary camp chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Beth Macke, the camp curriculum, entitled "Singing in the Rain," was devoted to the story of life on

Noah's Ark. To help create a total experience for the youngsters, the staff of full-time and junior counselors, as they did at each camp, transformed Cralle Hall, where the youngsters played games, sang and met for Christian formation programs. For this camp, they built a huge ark, complete with waves of blue lapping at its hull.

"Noah came every day and visited, and told stories. We talked about what sort of crazy things God asks us to do," Bojarsky said. "Beth Macke did a beautiful job of creating the program for this. We did a scavenger hunt of sorts to build the blocks to build the ark. They too did some drawing... and they painted arks in small groups."

Bojarsky completed her first summer at All Saints' with this group of



Camp counselors recreated Noah's ark for the Primary Camp of second through fourth graders (photo on the left), who were treated



Above right, Senior High campers indulged in an All Saints' staple. Photos by the All Saints'

youngsters. (She became the diocese's youth and camp director last January).

The season of weeklong camps began June 14 with senior high students. Centered on the story of the Tower of Babel, the camp curriculum explored the world's major religions. "Every day we looked at a different religion and how it was like and unlike Christianity. And every day we focused on our own faith in some way," said Bojarsky. "For example, the day we talked about Buddhism and the concept of journey and the concept of meditation, then in the evening, by candlelight, they walked the labyrinth. It was a really powerful experience, especially for a surprising number of those kids who were able – in this dimly lit place, amongst other people – to walk this sort of journey and offer something to God that they were wrestling with at home, something they were really excited about, a question they had about their future ... It was a really neat experience, reflecting on religions while not forgetting who we are as Christian people."

Moses was the center of the junior high camp, entitled "Into the Wilderness." During that camp, she said, "we talked about what it's like to be in the wilderness. We used drama quite a bit to engage the campers, and did a dramatic recreation of the story of Moses." To help make the books of Leviticus and Numbers attainable, she said, the campers were asked to do skits on the weird laws in Kentucky. The camp's chaplain, the Rev. Jim Trimble, she said, gave her the idea; he had used strange laws in Kentucky for a sermon. She said she found the laws on the computer. "I literally googled strange laws in Kentucky."

For the fifth and sixth grade camp, the curriculum was focused on creation. "We totally renovated Cralle Hall everyday. So as the first day, it was dark and light. We put black paper over half the windows. On the second ... we did the sun and moon and stars. We used white chalk to put stars on all of the black construction paper, and we made a big paper sun and moon."

They also drew creatures one day just for the fun of it, like God, who made the leviathan for "sport of it," according to Psalm 104, she said. But, one of the "coolest things about that week," she said, was the day they talked about the Sabbath. "We encouraged the kids to think about how busy they are and how important it is to take time to take a deep breath and really appreciate God's creation," she said. Drawing from the work of Richard Louv (*Last Child in the Woods*), who "talks about how kids don't have the opportunity for unstructured play anymore," the camp staff planned a half hour of unstructured play time, she said, noting the irony. "On Friday morning we set up boundaries It was almost all of the camp, and we put staff around the boundaries. We had staff at arts and crafts ... at the pavilion for basketball or what not. ... It worked so well that we kicked ourselves for not doing it every day with this group. ... It was such a breath of fresh air for the campers. ... They were like, 'Really, we can just do what we want to?' It was such a good representation that God said, don't worry about the things of life. Just be."

The counselors, she said, "seemed to like it quite well. What made this camp a success this summer, absolutely, without a doubt, hands down, was the staff. I firmly believe that the right people came forward to work. They had experience. They had enthusiasm. They love All Saints'. They were great with kids."

Two counselors confirmed her observations. Victoria Hay, a sophomore at the University of Louisville, said she really enjoyed her third summer on the camp staff, especially the Christian education programs. This year, she said, the programs encouraged the youngsters to not just sit and listen but to be active. "We got to go outside and run around and play games. It helped the campers learn a lot more."

Joanna Fraser, a sophomore at Northern Kentucky University, said this was her fourth summer at All Saints', and she

A staff of all trades



The All Saints' staff members were creative, fun and whimsical, as seen in the programs and spaces they built and ran for the campers (including Noah's ark in Cralle Hall). They also demonstrated their flexibility and strong sense of responsibility, to the point that some even became at-one with their environment, literally.

While the counselors and senior high campers set up the campsite for the overnight, it began raining. A real gusher by all accounts. It was

accompanied by outbursts of lightning, and a decision was made to return to the conference center. Unfortunately, the pickup truck had settled into the muddy landscape. It took not only good old-fashioned grit but also a big tractor, driven by conference center staffer Tim Probus, and a willingness to become indistinguishable from the mud to move the trapped vehicle.

Habitat mission

The counselors, however, did not just serve children and take on nature this summer. As they did during the last two seasons, the staff, supposedly on a break from work, took on a mission project. This year they swung hammers and paint brushes on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. Sponsored by St. John's Church in Murray, which fed and housed the 12 counselors worked on two homes in Mayfield.



ent with God and friends



l with daily visits from Noah (aka David Laws).
s' staff

preciated rescheduling the daily activity to morning and having the Christian education program in the afternoon. "The kids get really tired easily in the morning, especially when they are tired" and "it's kind of stressful on the staff," she said. Having the program after their afternoon nap "was really good because they were rested and they could really pay attention." She told, about 160 young people attended all four camps, and Bojarski feels this was a successful camp season. From what she heard, she said, "the campers really enjoyed themselves. I think when you're looking at success in a program it's whether or not people want to come back. Rumor has it they do. I'm hopeful for larger numbers next year. Hopeful for a great camp season again."

The camp season brought a few challenges

she hopes to avoid next year by contacting churches and individuals directly and earlier. This year, about half of the registrations arrived after the June 5 deadline. Late registrations not only make it difficult to order supplies but also to make decisions about staffing the camps. "The earlier we can encourage folks to register, the better it is for the camp program. It will help us plan and prepare financially and programmatically. It will help us get cabins ready."

She is already looking ahead to next year. Although she said she is good at administration, she wants to hire someone to help with the paperwork so she can do more of what she loves to do and is trained to do: teach, especially about creation and the environment. A native of New York state, she not only holds a master's degree in outdoor recreation but she also received a master of theology degree from Virginia Theological Seminary, where she focused her studies on environmental theology.

She hopes to recruit more parents and volunteers in future camp programs. Reflecting on the summer, she said about the camp program here: "I think the beauty of All Saints' is that it's a very general interest camp, where most anyone can find something that they get excited about. There are water activities for people who like swimming and canoeing. There are sports activities for people who like to be a little more active. There is the arts and crafts element, which provides children lower key activities. ... What's neat about All Saints' is that it's a small enough community that even people who are little more introverted and intimidated by large crowds can find their place. It's such a trusting atmosphere."



St. James' ecumenical tale of a bible camp

Members of First Presbyterian and St. James' Episcopal churches in Shelbyville combined their talents and resources this summer to create a unique Vacation Bible Camp based on the life of David. For the first time, the two congregations worked together to provide a program for toddlers through eighth graders.

The children learned about David the Shepherd, David the Psalmist, David and Goliath, and David the King by participating in innovative programs on drama, music, art, gardening, science and dance.

Top photo, Eric Swisher, who brought four live sheep from Five Turkeys Farm in southern Shelby County, held a baby lamb as he told the children about David and the job of raising sheep in Bible times and today.—Diane Perine Coon, St. James'



St. Francis' summer youth ministry: A tale of service in the mountains and inner-city

By Janet Irwin
Episcopal News Staff Writer
Information for this article was taken from *The Canticle*, the St. Francis newsletter

For many years, the young people (and some adults) of St. Francis in the Fields Church, Harrods Creek, have traveled to David, Ky. to work with the people there, holding a Vacation Bible School and doing hard physical labor as well. This year was no exception.

On June 30 youth and adults made a journey to eastern Kentucky once again to worship, work and play with their friends there. The ties between St. Francis and the people of David are strong and each new mission only adds to the joy and love experienced by all the people involved.

In addition to the mission work in David, St. Francis arranged for young missionaries to work with an Anglican congregation in Piedras Negras, Mexico. This year they planned to construct a building to provide a place where the women can learn how to sew, where the students can learn computer skills and do homework. They also planned to provide support for families who are in desperate need. The children in the area also need



St. Francis in the Fields youth wrapped up their summer mission work painting the future home of the pastor of an inner-city church. Photo provided by the church

shoes, so during VBS at St. Francis the young people collected shoes to share. However, due to the risks involved in Mexico, plans were changed. Instead of sending a team there, the money raised for the building and the roofs will go to Piedras Negras as will shoes for the children.

Disappointed as they were with the cancellation of the Mexican mission, the young missionaries of St. Francis soon found a

new route to journey as Abigail Mueller explained in an article she wrote for *The Canticle*, the St. Francis newsletter. The following is excerpted from that article.

Recently on our Louisville mission to the West End Solid Foundation Church we experienced being the hands and feet of Christ. We were called to build upon the solid structural foundation of Pastor Paul and his wife Peggy's future home on the property of their church. We heard from Sloane Graff, Hannah Warner, Abigail Mueller, Raleigh Langley, and Bill Recevuer about allowing for a spiritual solid foundation, and we were able to watch the strength of our youth team share pieces of their foundation through their work, their hearts, and their love for each other, service, and giving back to our Louisville community.

When we traveled in the past to foreign countries and rural regions of our own country we saw the need to be a part of the foundational work in a community. Here in Louisville, we had the opportunity to build

upon an existing solid foundation. This mission was different, minutes instead of miles from our home, but our work was no less valuable and no less appreciated than in the far away places we had traveled to in the past. The benefit and the gift in being in the West End was that it not only kept us closer to friends, family, and homes during the week, it offered us a view of how close we sometimes are to creating a solid foundation for our own life, even though we feel we have to go somewhere new or different to actually make the "U Turn" it requires to rejuvenate and begin anew. ...

Our mission team for the inner-city project at Solid Foundations Church worked diligently and joyfully, though there were 45 members, larger than two standard mission teams. We were also able to call on members of our St. Francis community for their services and expertise in order to complete the many unforeseen projects that arose throughout the week. ...

Our team was able to form a solid foundational understanding of why we were there. We were there to serve, and we were there to share love, be Christ-like examples in our Louisville community, and we were there to give ourselves one more opportunity to make a "U Turn" closer to our God.

Bishop, deputies return from 76th General Convention talking about the ‘middle way’

Continued from page 2k

Two clergy members' elections

This convention was about much more than these two resolutions, the bishop and deputies stressed. They had cause to celebrate two elections. The Rev. Tim Mitchell, rector of Advent Church in Louisville, was elected to the board of directors of the Church Pension Fund, and the Rev. Amy Coultas, a deputy at convention, was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop.

In addition, Patricia Egbert, parish administrator at the cathedral and young adult leader in the diocese and wider church, was one of four chosen for a special tour of the House of Deputies with its president Bonnie Anderson, noted a proud Coultas, who is canon missionary for young adult ministries in the diocese.

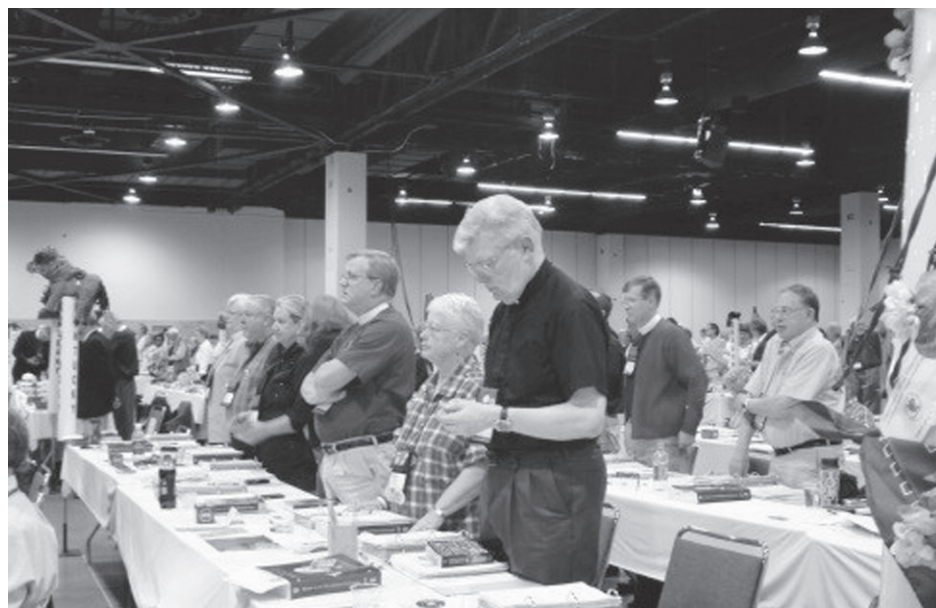
Particularly challenging was adopting the budget, which was cut by 25 percent. The bishop reported that the drastic cuts were due chiefly to the declining global economy and a “tremendous” reduction in The Episcopal Church’s financial portfolio. In response, the budget decisions meant eliminating 41 church center staff positions and approving a strategic communications plan calling for the transformation of the church’s Episcopal Life monthly newspaper to a quarterly magazine.

Mandatory health plan, other resolutions passed

Of particular importance in this diocese, the convention approved legislation (Resolution A177) establishing mandatory health coverage for all employees working 1,500 hours or more per year for Episcopal dioceses, congregations, missions and canon-established organizations. That decision, the bishop said in an interview, “will be an immediate help for the Diocese of Kentucky” because it will place the diocese in a larger insurance pool and should lower the insurance rates for clergy, lay employees and their families who are covered through the Episcopal Church’s health plan. In addition the convention mandated (Resolution A138) a pension plan for lay church employees who work at least 1,000 hours a year.

The bishop, who chairs the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, proudly noted that General Convention unanimously approved the “most theological” and a “very important” document (Resolution A074), which came out the Ecumenical Relations Committee he co-chaired. Six years in the making, the document is meant to be a resource for diocesan commissions and individual churches, he said. He highlighted the document’s section on “Salvation in Christ and Interreligious Relations,” which he said settles a critical issue for Christians on how “to articulate the Lordship of Jesus Christ” in interfaith dialogues.

Second-term deputy Debbi Rodahaffer, Christian formation director at St. Matthew’s Church in Louisville, focused on other legislation, especially a document that she had helped develop, the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation (A082). Not only was the charter passed, urging



The only provisional bishop serving two dioceses simultaneously, Bishop Ted Gulick was flanked by the Kentucky and Fort Worth deputations during a joint budget meeting in the House of Deputies. Photo provided by Katie Sherrod, communications director, Fort Worth

congregations and dioceses to expand their understanding of Christian education beyond youth programming, but the convention earmarked \$30,000 in the budget to implement its objectives (which, as Rodahaffer noted, is a remarkable feat this year).

More accomplishments noted

Overall, 419 resolutions were submitted to General Convention, all acted upon but 95 that have been referred to an interim committee. That work record, the bishop said, is historic. Among the resolutions spotlighted by the bishop and deputies, many reveal, as Dorr said, the breadth of the Episcopal Church’s response to the “day-to-day situations that we all deal with.” They include:

- A073 moves The Episcopal Church toward full communion with the Moravian Church, a relationship similar to that with the Lutherans;
- A072 reaffirms the church’s ongoing dialogue with the United Methodist Church and expands that dialogue to include the historically black churches;
- A075 allows Episcopalians and Presbyterians to accept the Eucharistic hospitality offered by both churches;
- B020 adds Thurgood Marshall to the church’s liturgical calendar of observances;
- A178 encourages dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support Episcopal Relief and Development’s work during Lent;
- A088 adopts *Rachel’s Tears, Hannah’s Hopes*, liturgical resources to assist with healing after abortions or other childbearing-related losses;
- C078 directs development of a liturgy for the loss of a companion animal;
- D096 urges lay and clergy leaders to “speak out clearly against the widespread practice of domestic violence” and to participate in domestic violence prevention training.

Mary Abrams, who served on the World Missions Committee, also noted in an interview the importance of the church’s adoption of The Five Marks of Mission, setting out the church’s commitment to evangelism and mission. “All the other provinces of the Anglican Communion have adopted them and we never had. It

helps bring us in line with the Anglican Communion,” she said.

Abrams also mentioned that convention passed a resolution authorizing the Commission on Liturgy and Music to create a “Creation Cycle” for the Pentecost season. That work, she said, will be particularly helpful for our diocese’s congregations because Trustees and Council last June passed a resolution encouraging our congregations to create a creation cycle. She said she plans to take about 30 resolutions for consideration to the diocese’s Division of Peace and Justice, which she chairs.

Bishop, deputies questioned

The forum concluded with about a half hour of questions from the audience about convention and other issues. An intense moment came when a member of St. Matthew’s Church asked why Episcopal Church leaders do not respond to attacks such as that by conservative newspaper columnist Cal Thomas. Noting that most of his friends are conservative and not Episcopalian, the St. Matthew’s member told the forum: “It’s very difficult being an Episcopalian out there in the world, where we have shrinking numbers” and are seen as being “at odds” with “the Anglican Communion, the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. What are you going to do about it?” he asked the bishop.

The bishop, explaining he was traveling the day the column was published just two days prior, said he literally had no time, but he also questioned whether a response to Cal Thomas from him was what is needed. He also noted that he had already given a 45-minute interview with the Courier-Journal religion reporter, Peter Smith, about General Convention and the Anglican Communion (the interview was published on July 31).

To answer the other part of the question, the bishop continued, could take another forum “but I’m not going to dodge it.” One reason “we’re getting smaller,” he said, is the church is too focused on “institutional preservation” rather than “engaging the world pastorally as servants of the gospels.” In addition, he explained, Episcopal families are not having children at the rate they have in the past. Dioceses, he said, not only need to track population

trends in those areas where declines are occurring, but they also need to look at the clergy and lay leadership of congregations that are growing.

The Rev. Libby Wade, the deputation chair, could not attend the Louisville forum but she met with about 25 members of her congregation at Grace Church in Paducah and she traveled to St. Andrew’s, Glasgow, where she met with about 10 other people. The response, she said, has been “mildly curious” and “intrigued” by a two-track model of provinces in the Anglican Communion that was proposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

Archbishop’s proposal

Williams, who attended the first three days of convention, wrote “that a realistic assessment of what convention has resolved does not suggest that it will repair the broken bridges into the life of other Anglican provinces; very serious anxieties have already been expressed.” An outcome, he suggested, might be a “two-track” model, two ways of witnessing to the Anglican heritage, one of which had decided that local autonomy had to be the prevailing value and so had in good faith declined a covenantal structure.”

At the Louisville forum, the bishop was also questioned about Williams’ proposal, noting “this is “a terribly, terribly important question.” He said he hopes The Episcopal Church “will ponder the covenant process very, very carefully.... What one part of the world does in any reality impacts the other part of the world directly. ...

“As much of this world is beginning to realize the organic and interconnectedness of us on this fragile earth, our island home, for Anglicanism to say in the midst of that world process we need to have more independence than interdependence, I think on one level that would be sad.” He added, however, that he does not wish to see a “covenanted relationship” that was centralized and authoritarian. “I still think we need to have a communion that would allow us to celebrate our own particular calls and unique missional opportunities,” he said.

Explaining that Williams is in a “tricky place,” working for unity in the Anglican Communion, Gulick said that Episcopalians are in a similar place.

“The Episcopal Church at General Convention was trying very, very hard to see how we could be responsible to those baptized Christians that we know and love and to live our life as an Episcopal Church out of our baptismal understanding being predominant over any other understanding of who we are, that we belong to Jesus and are sisters and brothers in Christ.

That’s our defining reality, and any other reality must be subservient to that reality. That’s what we were trying to affirm at the General Convention, and also trying to affirm ... the fact that we are a constituent member of the Anglican Communion. It’s hard to get this exactly right, right now. But I mean this literally and prayerfully. God knows we tried.”

[Editor’s Note: A DVD of the Louisville forum has been sent to each congregation.]

That We All May Be One — In the Diocese and Beyond

Weekly Cycle of Prayer & Events Calendar

Weekly Cycle of Prayer September

Sept. 6—Pray for the the Most Rev. John Wilson Gladstone, moderator, Church of South India and bishop of South Kerala, and for the Episcopal Church Home.

Sept. 13—Pray for the Diocese of Southern Highlands (Tanzania) and for St. John's Church, Murray, the Rev. Matt Bradley, priest-in-charge, and St. Peter's of the Lakes Church, Gilbertsville, the Rev. Nick Jaeger, priest associate.

Sept. 20—Pray for the Diocese of Southwark (Canterbury, England) and for Messiah Trinity Church, the Rev. John Allen, priest-in-charge, and for St. Paul's Church, Henderson, the Rev. Dr. Beth Macke, rector.

Sept. 27—Pray for the Most Rev. David Robert Chillingworth, primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane, and for Trinity Church, Russellville, Gerry Frost (warden).

October

Oct. 4—Pray for the Diocese of Swansea & Brecon (Wales) and for Christ Church, Bowling Green, the Rev. Michael Blewett, rector, and for the Province IV Chancelors and Bishops Meeting in Louisville (Oct. 8-10).

Oct. 11—Pray for the Diocese of Tanga (Tanzania) and for Our Merciful Saviour Church, the Rev. Tom Price, priest-in-charge.

Oct. 18—Pray for the Diocese of The Gulf (Pakistan) and for Cursillo (Oct. 15-18) and the Fall Youth Gathering (Oct. 16-18).

Oct. 25—Pray for the Diocese of Torit (Sudan) and for St. Alban's Church, the Rev. Paul Collins, rector.

Diocesan Events September

Sept. 1—Parish audit report deadline. Contact Becky Meyer at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 4—Episcopal News deadline. Copy due by 5 p.m. (ET). Send to Mary Jane Cherry at maryjane@episcopalky.org. Call 502-584-7148.

Sept. 7—Diocesan Offices are closed for Labor Day holiday.

Sept. 10—Trustees and Council meeting. 4-8 p.m. (ET). Christ Church, 206 W. Poplar St., Elizabethtown. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 11-12—School of Ministry, All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. Contact the Rev. Rose Bogal-Allbritten at 270-753-6908.

Sept. 13—Bishop Visitation at St. John's Church, 1620 W. Main St., Murray. 9 a.m. (CT). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 13—Bishop Visitation at St. Peter's of the Lakes Church, 47 Black River Road, Gilbertsville. 4 p.m. (CT). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 19—Mission and Evangelism meeting. All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. 10 a.m. (CT). Contact Betty Blodgett at betty.blodgett@murraystate.edu

Sept. 20—Bishop Visitation at Messiah Trinity, 8701 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville. 10 a.m. (ET). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 20—Bishop Visitation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 5 S. Green St., Henderson. 4 p.m. (CT). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 22—Clergy Ember Day. All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (CT). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Sept. 22—Commission on Ministry. Place to be determined. 5-9 p.m. Contact the Rev. Ben Maas at 502-452-9581.

Sept. 30—Mission Funding applications due. Send to Betty Blodgett at 57 Ironwood Drive, Murray, KY 42071-4698.

Sept. 30—Bishop Visitation at Trinity Episcopal Church, 326 S. Main St., Russellville. 6 p.m. (CT). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

October

Oct. 1—St. Alban's Day Care Center 25th anniversary celebration. St. Alban's Church, 9004 Buelah Church Road, Louisville. 4 p.m. (ET).

Oct. 3-4—Bishop Visitation at Christ Episcopal Church, 1215 State Street, Bowling Green. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 8-10—Province IV Chancellors and Bishops Meeting, Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S. Second St., Louisville. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 9-10—School of Ministry, All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. Contact the Rev. Rose Bogal-Allbritten at 270-753-6908.

Oct. 10—St. Luke's 150th anniversary celebration, 1206 Maple Lane, Anchorage.

3:30 p.m. (ET). Bishop will participate.

Oct. 10—Mission Funding meeting. All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (CT). Contact Betty Blodgett at betty.blodgett@murraystate.edu

Oct. 11—Bishop Visitation at Our Merciful Saviour Church, 473 S. 11th St., Louisville. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 13—Trustees & Council Executive Committee meeting, Diocesan House, 425 S. Second St., Louisville. noon-1:30 p.m. (ET). Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 15-18—Cursillo, All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. Contact kycursillo@aol.com

Oct. 16-18—Fall Youth Gathering 2009 for junior and senior high school students. All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. Contact Beth Bojarski at bethb@episcopalky.org

Oct. 21-22—College for Bishops Meeting, Los Angeles. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 25—Bishop Visitation at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 9004 Beulah Church Road, Louisville. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 27—Trustees and Council meeting. 4-8 p.m. (ET). Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S. Second St., Louisville. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

Oct. 30-31—Bishop's Retreat, All Saints' Center, Leitchfield. Contact Mike Hutchins at 502-584-7148.

A more complete, regularly updated calendar may be found on the diocesan Web site at www.episcopalky.org.

Episcobits

Two priests called

Ascension Church, Bardstown

August 30 will see the final service of the Rev. Karl Lusk as vicar of St. Thomas, Campbellsville, made most special with Bishop Ted Gulick's second visit of the year and the celebration of six confirmations and three receptions.

After seven years of service to the people of St. Thomas', Lusk is finding it difficult to leave the growing, enthusiastic congregation. However, when he was invited to become rector of the Church of the Ascension, Bardstown, he was able to turn there with equal enthusiasm. As chaplain at Flaget Hospital in Bardstown and a long-time resident of Nelson County, he already knows many members of the congregation of Ascension, and he is looking forward to working with them. Indeed, on his first Sunday there, Sept. 20, he will officiate at three baptisms, and there is a wedding scheduled in the near future.

Lusk, who has been active in both the lay and ordained ministries, is well known for his ability to make the love of Christ real by what he says and what he does. "I don't claim to bring any light to a congregation," he says, "my idea is to hand people a match so they can light their own fires."

St. Peter's, Louisville

On Sept. 1, the Rev. Ellen Morell, now serving as a priest in the diocese of Indianapolis, will begin her ministry as rector of St. Peter's Church, Louisville.

A mother and grandmother, Morell comes to St. Peter's with a wide variety of experiences in both the church and the lay world. She has successfully held many positions from teacher in a women's correctional institution to financial planner. She is coming to St. Peter's with enthusiasm to help them rebuild the financial as well as the spiritual aspects of their parish life. —Janet Irwin

EFM mentors trained

Seven individuals from across the diocese and one person from the Diocese of Virginia participated in Education for Ministry (EFM) mentor training at All Saints' Conference Center near Leitchfield, Ky., on June 18-20.

Participants were the Rev. Suzanne Barrow (St. Andrew's, Glasgow), Nancy Black (Grace, Paducah), Jay Hendricks (St. Andrew's, Louisville), Laurie Joyce (Christ Church, Bowling Green), Sally Proctor (Grace, Paducah), Denise Rivers (St. Andrew's, Louisville), William Vien (St. Andrew's, Glasgow) and The Rev. Jennings Hobson (The Diocese of Virginia). The trainer was the Rev. Johnna Camp.

Group members spent 18 hours developing skills for thinking theologically and integrating one's beliefs in relation to culture and tradition in order to further develop their ministry as Christians.

If you wish to become an EFM mentor, contact the Rev. Rose Bogal-Allbritten, EFM Diocesan Coordinator, at rose.bogal@att.net or (270) 293-9490. —The Rev. Rose Bogal-Allbritten

Mortgage burning set

St. Peter's of the Lake's Church in Gilbertsville will soon mark another milestone this month when they pay off the mortgage to their new parish hall in just over five years.

The parish hall was completed in June 2004 just in time for the church's annual St. Peter's Day celebration. The cost of the building was \$193,000.00, with a large portion of that promised in pledges over time. At the time of construction, the church had 20 to 25 active members.

Thinking creatively, the congregation saved some construction costs by setting up a "wish list." When ceiling fans, paint or a chalkboard were needed for a classroom, the items were listed and checked off the list as members bought them. One member purchased the new kitchen cabinets; another donated the appliances. The

outside deck and all the deck furniture were donated by yet another member. Not only did this approach help keep costs down but everyone was vested in our new building one way or another.

The "name the new parish house" contest generated everyone's creativity and culminated with the selection of a name: Inspiration Hall. The church is planning a "burn the mortgage" celebration on Nov. 8. —Doug Moore

The Gospel according to U2

On July 19, St. Andrew's Church, Louisville, was fortunate enough to have as a guest speaker Dr. Greg Garrett, author of the just released book *We Get to Carry Each Other: The Gospel According to U2*. Garrett, a professor of English at Baylor University and writer in residence at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin Texas, is a well-known interpreter through his book on pop culture of the Good News to the 21st century and the culture of the 21st century to the larger Episcopal Church.

He was in Louisville to promote his book just released by Westminster John Knox Press. Not only did Garrett preach at the 8:15 and 11 p.m. services, he also met with interested people from both services to answer their questions about U2 and to autograph his book. A surprising number of St. Andreans turned out to be avid U2 fans who knew quite a bit about the group and their battle against world hunger and for justice by way of their music. An heretofore unknown trio even materialized to add some live and lively U2 music to the 11 o'clock service.

With interest stirred by hearing Garrett, two sessions of the regularly scheduled book discussion group were devoted to study of the book and, most importantly, the lyrics of beloved and challenging U2 songs. —Janet Irwin

On the Cover

If smiling faces are a way to measure the success of a program with children, then summer camp 2009 was an undisputed winner, as seen in the smiling faces captured in the photos taken by staff during the Middle School and Primary camps.



Youngsters sojourn with Paul in 'Rome'

Continued from page 16

their trades and through a gloomy passage where Paul and his jailer were seated. Paul could be seen reading or writing a document while his jailer seemed about ready to fall asleep. In fact, some young Romans whispered, once the jailer really did go to sleep. They had wanted to free Paul from his chains, but Paul said he didn't want to get the jailer in trouble. He'd just stay right there. The young people thought that was very odd, or maybe noble.

In the great plaza teen-age vendors sold several choice dishes: cockroach-on-a-stick, rat-on-a-stick, cheese, fruit and very tasty bread.

Around the corner from the food stand, a wise old Roman engineer taught the young ones how skilled builders created Rome. Near him stood the beginning of a columned building, perhaps a temple or a government building. The architect explained to a gathered crowd how huge aqueducts carried water into Rome and other cities across the Empire.

Elsewhere, artisans showed other children how to put colorful pieces of ceramic together to make a mosaic design. Just outside the plaza, was a group of children happily patting a large, patient bunny while giving thanks that the God Paul taught them about did not want animal sacrifices.

Further, the visitor might come at last to a dark corner where determined Christians worshipped in secret. A chink in the wall let in a bit of light where the group gathered to learn more about Jesus and to pray together. Later, the underground worshippers were given different colored pieces of Play Doh to knead together. Trying to separate the colors again, they learned that this was the



The enchained apostle Paul (aka Frazier Marsh) and a Roman centurion (the Rev. Ben Maas) visit the cathedral. Photo by Janet Irwin

way God's love works. It is so deeply planted into our beings that we can never be separated from it again.

If numbers and activity reflect success, this fourth year of working together is promising. In addition to the 20 adults who did everything from preparing the lessons taught in each special area to skewering rat (chicken) on a toothpick, more than 50 young children and 40 teenagers took part in the learning experience.

Five parishes and their organizers — Calvary (Callie Hausman), Christ Church (Sarah Dewberry), St. Andrew's (Martha Holland), St. Mark's (the Rev. Charles Hawkins), and St. Matthew's (Debbi Rodahaffer and Janice Carolan) — officially sponsored this summer's program, and they were joined by an ecumenical group of volunteers from St. Thomas Episcopal Church, the (Roman Catholic) Cathedral of the Assumption, St. Francis of Rome Catholic Church and Highland Presbyterian Church.

St. Paul certainly looked with joy on the work of Christians, not divided by denomination, inspiring young people to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

