

Connections

linking diocesan leaders

Vol. 08, issue 11
November 2008

Around the Diocese

• **Christ, Roanoke (located at 1101 Franklin Rd.), SW, will hold an Alternative Gifts Fair on Sunday, November 9, from 9:30-10:15 and from 12:00-3:00.** Offering a variety of unusual gifts, the event is open to the public. All proceeds go to support the Millennium Development Goals.


• **Healthy and Wholesome training is required by the diocese and the Episcopal Church for those who work with our children.** Cindy Ptak and Phyllis Spiegel will hold a training session for the New River Valley Convocation at St. Thomas, Christiansburg, on Saturday, November 15, from 9:30-12:30. Mid-morning refreshments will be offered and the training will finish before lunch. Please RSVP ASAP to Phyllis Spiegel at 540-382-4365 (Office), 540-230-6949 (Cell), or rev@stecc.org (Email) so that a binder of information can be prepared for you.

• **Enjoy the Benedictine Experience at the Cathedral College, Washington National Cathedral, November 20-23.** Leaders will be Sr. Donald Corcoran, OSB, Cam, and Dr. Suella Henn. The focus of the day will be "Benedictine Spirituality – a Resource in Challenging Times." Participants will experience a day of prayer, study, work, and leisure. For more information, contact The Friends of St. Benedict, 5150 Macomb St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20016; call 202-363-8061; or email: SaintBenedict@prospect-tech.com.

• **New Ordination Manuals, formerly known as "The Red Book," are now available.** Manuals have been delivered by mail or by hand to principal parish clergy and mailed to senior wardens of parishes without clergy, members of the Commission on Ministry, members of the Standing Committee, and all those who are currently active in the discernment or ordination process.

DATES AND UPDATES

Looking Ahead in November

- 
- 1 Diocesan Art Day, 9:30--3:30, St. John's, Roanoke
 - 1 Daughters of the King Assembly, 9:30--2, Evans House
 - 2-Augusta Convocation, Emmanuel, Covington, 3--5:00 PM
 - 4--9 Bishop's Walkabout: Roanoke Convocation
 - 15 Executive Board, Evans House, 9:30--2
 - 18--22 Bishop's Walkabout: New River Convocation
 - 27--28 Thanksgiving Holiday; Evans House Closed

Bishop's Visits in November

- 02 Emmanuel, Covington
- 09 Christ, Martinsville
- 16 St. Andrew's, Clifton Forge
- 23 Christ, Buena Vista

Reimbursement checks will be written in the diocesan office on the following dates:

Nov. 12, 24 Dec. 9, 19

"Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after."

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh

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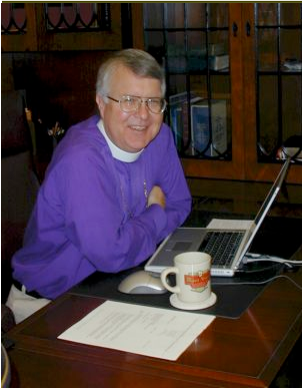
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Please send BMRC requests to bmrc@dioswva.org

Connections is a monthly diocesan publication connecting those who serve in similar or related leaderships positions with the Evans House staff and with each other. Those who receive it are asked to share it with others in their congregations. The submission deadline for Connections is the fifteenth of the preceding month.



Building on Our Strengths

"Why are we attracting such fine new clergy leadership? There is no one single answer, but I have noticed from talking to some of the new clergy and to people outside of the diocese that there appear to be several contributing factors. "

*--The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell
Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have added eighteen new clergy in the diocese over the past two years. This number means that 40% of our congregations have new clergy leadership. Congregations as diverse as Emmanuel, Bristol; All Saint's, Norton, and St. Mark's, St. Paul; St. John's, Roanoke; Christ Church, Pearisburg; and St. John's, Bedford, have called new clergy leadership. Sixteen of these clergy are from outside the diocese. These men and women replace faithful clergy who have retired or been called away to other congregations outside the diocese. These new clergy are outstanding additions to the vitality of our congregations and to the life of our diocese as a whole.

Why are we attracting such fine new clergy leadership? There is no one single answer, but I have noticed from talking to some of the new clergy and to people outside of the diocese that there appear to be several contributing factors.

Ten years ago we were in the bottom quartile of clergy compensation in the Episcopal Church and were the lowest east of the Mississippi except for Maine. People do not go into the ministry for the money, but it does help in attracting dynamic new clergy, making us competitive with other dioceses.

We are not fighting the culture wars in Southwestern Virginia. We are not of the exact same mind on issues, but we are focusing on mission and ministry. One indication of this commitment is the growing support of both lay people and clergy for the Millennium Development Goals.

We have a strong ministry with and to children and youth, and increasingly to young adults. These strengths help to attract new and younger clergy. Plus having young faces around just makes life more fun in the diocese.

Our self-analysis shows that as a diocese we value outreach, youth, and hospitality. We feel good about being Episcopalians, and we like our worship.

Several of your diocesan administrative leaders were in New York a few weeks ago attending the annual Episcopal Business Administrators Conference hosted by the Church Pension Group and The Episcopal Church. Those who attended told me that the Presiding Bishop spoke to the group and praised our diocese, saying that our ministries to children, youth, and young adults, which she observed at Annual Council last January, are a model for the whole church. She remarked on how our Children@Council, Youth@Council, and Young Adults@Council programs each involved outreach, singing, and worship. Our Council experience is an icon for why we are attracting bright new clergy to this beautiful diocese.

Please pray for me as I pray for you. It is an honor to serve as your bishop.

Grace and Peace,



Budgets and Bounty

"I, in the midst of the present economy, have a lot for which to be thankful and grateful."

-Alan Boyce
Deputy for Administration

Beth and I have just written our annual check to the diocese for our personal support of the 2008 Budget. Our contribution will be credited to the income line items referred to as "Grants" and "Contributions." The 2008 Council Adopted Budget calls for \$65,000 in grants and contributions from individuals, families, and parishes. As of October 1, we had received less than \$12,000 toward this opportunity to share.

I have been sounding the alarm since the spring meeting of the Executive Board that these receipts are not coming in as fast as they have in past years when we accepted this extra source of generosity in the diocesan budget. This lag began well before the present level of unrest in our economy. There has been something different about

this year.

Money is a subject I speak about regularly. More and more often, I talk about money. Sometimes I am criticized for talking about money so much. But what I am really talking about is our common interest in and support for the ministry that we do as the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. I can remember and point to Spring and Fall Convocation evaluations where we have collectively valued our ministries with youth and young adults at the Phoebe Needles Center and on our college campuses, fully supported the outreach ministry provided through Grace House on the Mountain, and appreciated and were thankful for the many resources available from the Bishop Marmion Resource Center.

Convocations have widely

praised our communications throughout the diocese via Epiphany, Connections, and our web site. Our ministries are consistent with the Long Range Plan we adopted in January of this year.

I have a sense that a lot of folks that hear this message are thinking that surely somebody else will do something about it. Could be. I hope maybe they are or will. Maybe they are waiting for something to happen. Maybe they are hoping something won't happen. I don't know, and I cannot speak for others.

I can speak for myself. Here is what I am doing about my support of our diocese: In the language of Terry Parsons, I am choosing to face fear bravely. I will look at my life and my resources through the lens of abundance and not scarcity. I, in the midst of the present economy, have a lot for which to be thankful and grateful. I believe fear is becoming more and more incessant in our lives right now. We need to rebuke it plainly and boldly if our faith is to have substance. I do not belittle the value of fear. I only belittle some of the excuses that fear hides

behind.

The life journey of our daughter Alyson has been shaped in many ways by our diocesan youth program, mission trips, and—I hope—by the fruits of campus ministry at Virginia Tech. Others are being blessed every single day and will be blessed in the future. I would not want those opportunities to go away by allowing fear to trump faith and hope.

As Administrator and member of the Executive Board, I am closely monitoring the diocesan budget for the remainder of 2008 and pondering 2009. These are some things I am looking at to reduce diocesan expenses for the rest of this year:

- Placing an immediate hold on any expenditure that might be put off till 2009
- Cutting back on heating and lighting
- Evaluating a 4-day work week in the diocesan office to save on utilities
- Reviewing the leases on our equipment

- Analyzing our telephone services
- Eliminating the landscaping expenses
- Pricing events to cover all expenses
- Further reducing the number of items which we print
- Reducing travel as much as possible

Finally, I would not consider asking anyone to contribute to something for which I had not contributed. I have made my contribution. I invite you to prayerfully consider your personal contribution, make others in your parish aware of this opportunity to share, and ask your parish vestry to consider an additional gift as well.

The Presiding Bishop just a couple of weeks ago at the annual Administrators Conference in New York City reminded us that we are all members of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and that it is amazing what can be done when we all get behind something worthwhile. I believe that what we do as a diocese is worthwhile, too.

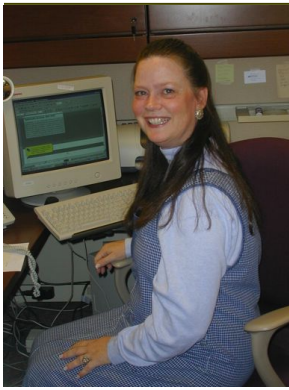


"Around the Diocese" continued from p. 1

• **Nick Moga, Diocesan ERD representative, wants all to know that the ERD 2008/2009 *Gifts for Life Catalog* is now available from ERD publications (<http://www.erd.org/GiftsForLife/>). Nick has about 200 copies on hand, and he can be contacted at 540-962-4650 or nickmoga@aol.com.**

• **The Episcopal Church Center in New York City continues to receive reports from many across the country who have received scam emails claiming to be from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori.** They are called, "Hello and thanks for your prayers." Please be alert and tell others that, if you have received such an email, it is false information and is a scam. Scams of this nature have been circulating for awhile. Suspect emails may come (or appear to come) from any number of addresses, such as kjefferts@aol.com, pbksjefferts@aol.com, xjefferts@aol.com—these are false addresses. These scam emails are being investigated. If you have any questions or wish to report an email, contact abusereport@episcopalchurch.org.

• **For the latest in news and stories around the diocese, visit our website at www.dioswva.org.**



Turn! Turn! Turn!

"To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose, under heaven. . . ."

--Kate Garcia

*Bishop Marmion Resource Center Coordinator,
Editor, Connections*

Insurance Contact for Active Clergy and Lay Employees

You'll read in **Epiphany** about some of the resources available for use during the upcoming seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. There are lots of possibilities for this busy time, but there are also many less-seasonal, new books beckoning from our shelves!

Praises, Prayers, & Curses: Conversations with the Psalms, written by Richard Schmidt, offers a new way to view the Psalms we may feel we know so well. An excellent source for individual daily meditations, the Psalter was compiled for group use. "They are in the Bible because they expressed the mind of a worshipping community," says Schmidt, further suggesting that small groups may enjoy meditating on the Psalms as well.

What the Bible Says About Stewardship is subtitled **You Are In Charge of God's Gifts to You**. The author is A. Q. Van Benschoten, Jr. With questions and statements for study and reflection at the end of each chapter, this book is planned for small-group use as five two-hour or ten one-hour sessions. In addition to a comprehensive leader's guide, the author includes a church self-study process to encourage participation by all members.

Comfort Ye: Finding Light in Times of Darkness is a book of reflections addressing tough questions head-on. Edited by Richard Schmidt, and including contributors such as Rowan Williams and Desmond Tutu, the essays are divided into two sections--those dealing with a particular event in the author's life and those dealing more generally with tragedy and loss.

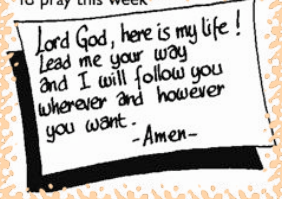
Five Keys for Church Leaders by Kevin Martin examines five aspects of development and growth in congregational life: *Build the Team, Pay Attention to the Generations, Tend the Two Doors, Keep Healthy, and Raise the Stewardship Level*. At just under one hundred pages, this is an easy-to-read, practical approach for any sized parish.

How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take To Change a Christian? This "pocket guide to shrinking your ecological footprint" is a handy guide of small-step changes a family or a parish can take to make a big difference in our world. As authors Jan Nunley, Claire Foster, and David Shreeve point out, "There is no place called 'away' where you can throw things. We're all downstream from somewhere else."

Drop in to browse through these and other resources, or send me an email saying what you'd like to find. We're here to serve, in the BMRC and throughout Evans House.

Kate

To pray this week



the best advice for aging well

laugh every day
drink lots of water
pray
do things in moderation
exercise
eat healthy
indulge once in a while
pray some more

help out a friend
pamper yourself,
pray
pray
pray
dance for joy
sing every day
pray

serve your community
have compassion
pray
kick a bad habit
pick up a good habit
pray
read good books
listen to good music

go to your favorite places
spend time with family
and friends

rest in the quiet
of God's hand

take each day
one breath
at a time

weep
smile
breathe in calmness
pray

--Valerie McNeese

Church of the Advent, Tallahassee, FL



Charter Chat

Some Sunday Fun

"Children's church games, especially group games, can be challenging at times," was the opening statement on a website I visited. No kidding! Traditional games may not mesh with a pastoral mode, and games that move too slowly invite small participants to insert their own variations. Nevertheless, it's often helpful to have a stock of games and activities available on a Sunday morning. Here are a few kid-tested ideas:

Endurance

Lead your kids in the following silly exercises to test their endurance. Have kids perform each activity for at least 15 seconds. Follow each activity immediately with the next one from the list. If your kids seem like they can keep going after you've used up the activities, repeat those you liked best (or make up your own).

- * Hop on one foot while turning clockwise.
- * Flap arms like a chicken while squatting up and down.
- * "Sit" in invisible chairs by bending the knees.
- * Have kids balance books on their heads and walk as quickly as they can around the room while clapping their hands.
- * Have kids run around a chair backwards, clapping their hands and barking.
- * Have kids sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" three times while balancing on one leg.

After the activities, while kids collapse in a circle for a brief time, you can tie this game to Jude 17--21 with questions like: What was it like to keep up with all these activities? How could we get even better at it? How is the game we played like everyday life? What are ways we can build our spiritual endurance?

Monkey See, Monkey Do

Each child in this partner game will have a chance to be the leader. Both start with their hands at their sides; the leader raises his/her hands, stamps a foot, or performs some similar, simple action. The instant the leader begins to move, the partner tries to copy the action. After three or four actions, switch roles. Combine groups and let each try leading more people.

Afterwards, ask about how hard or easy it was to be follow the leader. How does Jesus lead us? In what ways do we try to follow Jesus' actions?

Does It Please the Lord?

This game, much like "Mother, May I?", begins with the children lining up along one wall. Call them by name and offer them a chance to take certain steps to get to the goal (usually the opposite wall). The children must say, "Does it please the Lord?", and when they do, you reply, "Yes it does." Then they can take the steps described. (If they forget to ask, they skip one turn.) Sample "steps" might be the Baby Moses Step (one foot directly in

front of and touching the other), the Goliath Step (leg stretched out as far as possible), the Camel Hop (short hop), the Lion Leap (long hop), or the Shepherd Step (normal step). As they reaches the goal, allow them to continue to act out the actions.

Rubber Band

Have the children hold hands in a circle and ask them to form the new shape you name without releasing hands. As each shape is formed (square, figure eight, star, circle in a circle, etc.), call out a new shape.

Praise the group for working together to make the shape that was needed. Discuss other ways they achieve desired goals by working together.

A Chair for a Crown

This one requires musical instruments but is memorable for putting a new spin on an old game. No losers here!

Place chairs in a circle, one less than the number of children. Have the kids march around the chairs as you play or sing the song **Jesus Loves Me.** When you suddenly stop the music, all try to grab a chair and sit down. The one left with no chair is given a crown to wear during the next round as well as a musical instrument to play. As the circle grows smaller, each child has a turn to wear the crown and the rhythm band grows larger. Remove another chair and continue playing until everyone has a chance to wear the crown. Finish by marching around the room for a last rousing chorus.

If you've got an easy game to share, send it to kgarcia@dioswva.org.



For Your Information

(aka F.Y.I.)

If you have something you've always wondered about (animal, vegetable, or mineral) in the history or workings of the diocese, please send me your question!

--Jenny Dye

Diocesan Services Coordinator

Dear Friends,

We are in the full swing of convocation meetings! As I write this, the Lynchburg and Roanoke Convocations have already met. Participants in both meetings seemed to enjoy the new Conversations small groups. Kate Garcia and I led small groups on sharing the news of Convocation meetings and Council back to your parish. We heard a lot of good ideas about how you all are passing on the information you hear. Once all the suggestions are compiled, we will be sure to share what was learned.

In the meantime, I encourage you to think about how you pass on information you read about in **Connections**. Perhaps an abridged version can be published in your newsletter or posted on your bulletin board. Or maybe you will find time during announcements at your church to pass on items that are of particular interest in your parish. Whatever you do, be sure you try more than one method. We heard over and over that the more ways you put information out, the more chances people will absorb it.

Although I didn't receive any questions asking for my research, I will continue to leave my offer

open. If you have questions about something in the life or ministry of the diocese, send them in to me and I will track down the answers! I'll start with one of my own questions from before I started working at Evans House.

What money is available from the diocese to help parishes and parishioners?

The diocese has several funds available for assistance.

--**The H.E.E.D. Fund** is available to help parishes make their congregations accessible to the elderly and handicapped.

--**The Eldon C. Grover Student Loan Fund** is an educational loan available to parishioners.

--**The Southwestern Virginia Episcopal Fund** makes loans to clergy for purchase of homes and also loans money to parishes for capital improvements.

--**The Beirne Carter Education Grant** is an educational grant for children of clergy in our diocese.

--**Outreach Grants** are available to parishes and programs in our diocese that provide outreach.

Applications for all of these are available at Evans House.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Prayers in November

November 1-8

**Please pray for
Avis Aheron
Ruth Morrison
Judy McCartney
Bill and Esther
Williamson
and Jim Robertson.**

November 9-15

**Please pray for
Executive Board
members.**

November 16-22

**Please pray for
Evans House staff and
Youth Ministry Team
members.**

November 23-30

**Please pray for
our ministry
representatives and
front desk volunteers.**



YES! I want to help support Children@Council!

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia invites YOU
--infants through 5th graders to Children@Council
--6th-12th graders to Youth@Council, and
--adults age 18-30 to Young Adults@Council

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Parish and Town _____

Children@Council



Children of clergy and lay delegates or alternates are invited to participate in Children@Council while their families are at work on diocesan business during the Council weekend of January 23–25, 2009.

Children@Council is staffed by volunteers, funded by donations, and offered at no cost. Children from preschool through fifth grade will enjoy a Vacation Bible School format of activities. A nursery will be offered for children from birth to age three. Both programs will have age-appropriate opportunities to share in stories, worship, crafts, and outreach.

It is essential that participating children be pre-registered for Children@Council so that there will be sufficient food, supplies and helpers. Preregistration also allows us to tailor the program to the ages of those actually attending. Please pre-register by emailing the name and age of participants to svance@mail.mcps.org. Sally Vance will follow up with parents for full registration prior to Council.

Volunteers are needed to help lead and coordinate activities. Volunteers set up, clean up, read, lead activities and games, play, and worship with the children, choosing the type of work and amount of time each is able to contribute. Financial donations from parishes and individuals are also needed.

Let Sally Vance know if you're interested in being part of this unique ministry with our youngest Episcopalians during Council 2009, and help support delegates and clergy in their work for the diocese.

I would like to help by volunteering:
(describe briefly)

I would like to help financially:
(choose all that apply)

- All Friday dinners \$125
- All Saturday breakfasts \$ 75
- All Saturday lunches \$125
- All Saturday dinners \$125
- T-Shirt for one child \$ 10
- Art supplies/bag (one child) \$ 20
- Meals and Snacks (one child) \$ 25
- Weekend costa (one child) \$ 75
- Other (please describe) _____
\$ _____

- May we thank you in Connections?
- Would you like a receipt mailed to you?

Please return form and any checks to

C@C Sponsorship
PO Box 2279
Roanoke, VA 24009

Thank you for your support!

"Whoever receives one such child in His name receives me." Matthew 8:12



Youth Ministries News and Updates

Things have been moving along steadily here in the diocesan office. As far as youth events go, it has felt rather quiet, but a storm of activity is on the horizon! Take a deep breath and get ready for amazing opportunities in the next couple of months!

Convocation meetings have begun. Our first meeting was held in St. Paul's in Lynchburg. There were about twenty of us there, youth and youth leaders. We welcomed a few new faces as we played a crazy relay game and began some preparations for Youth at Council this year.



It is our hope to continue offering a youth element to our convocation gatherings to allow our community to continue to build. Youth workers, youth and parents, please mark your calendars for these gatherings in the Spring. They will be posted on our diocesan website.

Fall Youth Event (FYE): Faith and Sexuality- Having Healthy and Holy Relationships takes place Nov. 14--16 at Phoebe Needles. All high school students are invited to attend. Our guest facilitator will be Kathy Rock Pfister, youth minister, seminary student at ETSS. Kathy has much experience in facilitating

retreat on sexuality for youth and has led numerous workshops for adult youth workers on youth and sexuality. Musician Mike Peterson, currently working with the Office of Disaster Response in New Orleans, joins us. As many will remember, Mike accompanied us on our trip to New Orleans last summer.



Together we will explore the teachings of the church with respect to sexuality, but we will also honor that all too often people's experiences fall short of these teachings. Our goal is to meet youth where they are and open up meaningful dialog about sexuality and how it connects to our relationship with God. We will focus on our Baptismal covenant and how that gives us the tools to have healthy and holy relationships.

As part of the registration form for this event, there is a release statement that each parent is to sign in order for youth to attend. The release statement is in regard to the subject matter. Please complete the registration form and be sure that your youth has a medical form on file; if not, a notarized medical form is required. Registration forms can be found on the youth website www.dioswvayouth.wordpress.com

Registration ends on Monday, November 10. The cost is \$85.00, and scholarships are available through the diocesan office.

Please feel free to contact Aimee Bostwick with any questions or concerns that you may have. She can be reached in the diocesan office at 540-342-6797.

Eat In To Help Out: A diocesan fundraiser for Stop Hunger Now

Ask anyone who has participated in a packing event for Stop Hunger Now and they will tell you what a powerful experience it is, in a most unexpected way. My first experience was at Winterlight at Kanuga last year. The sight of hundreds of boxes stacked high filled with meals for those who desperately need them brought

me to tears. I felt exactly the same way at the last Y@C, when the Presiding Bishop blessed our meals on the back of the Stop Hunger Now truck.

The Youth Ministries Team also wants to issue a dinnertime challenge--I know some of you love challenges! Here's where the fun comes in:



We would like to offer this opportunity again--but this time have the adults, youth, young adults, and children work together side by side packing meals. We hope to pack over 80,000 meals, and in order to make that happen we need to raise \$16,000 to purchase the supplies. Please help us reach our goal and know that even if you cannot be with us to pack meals, you will have helped our diocese to feed 80,000 hungry people.

Here is how it works: We are asking each family in the diocese eat in and donate the money they would have spent on dinner at a restaurant to our Stop Hunger Now packing event. If each family in the diocese could do so a few times between now and January we can reach our goal.

Invite your friends over for dinner, those who do not know about the MDGs or Stop Hunger Now, those who may not be affiliated with your church. Ask them to donate the money they would have spent on dinner to our diocesan effort. Everyone can bring an international side dish and have a discussion on the MDGs. We are, in essence, reaching out to our greater communities to educate them on the dire need of the hungry around the world and having much fun while doing so. Brilliant! Please visit the diocesan youth website---www.youth.dioswva.org--for helpful links for recipes, MDG place cards, fact sheets on world hunger, SHN information and more. The possibilities are endless! Share your results and inspire all of us to give it a try!

Watch This Space! *Diocesan youth are looking forward to:*

November 14--16 Fall Youth Event (FYE): "Faith and Sexuality- Having Healthy and Holy Relationships" takes place at Phoebe Needles for all in grades 9--12.

December 27-January 1: Winterlight at Kanuga for all in grades 9-12. Visit www.kanuga.org for more information and to register for this unforgettable event.

January 23--25: Youth At Council
February: Youthworkers Weekend with Fran McKendree

March: YMT retreat at Phoebe Needles

April: Mass on the Mountain

May: Spring Youth Event at Phoebe Needles for grades 5--8.

All donations need to be received in the diocesan office by Friday, Jan. 16, 2009. Checks may be made out to Diocese of Southwestern Virginia/ memo: Stop Hunger Now. To learn more, please call Aimee Bostwick at 540-342-6797 or abostwick@dioswva.org

We thank all of our diocesan families and friends in advance for making this amazing event happen!

Want a great present for Christmas? Go to Winterlight at Kanuga!

"To Whom All Hearts Are Open" is the theme for Winterlight this year. The dates are Dec. 27 through Jan. 1. Join hundreds of other youth from around the country in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina for week you will not soon forget! Visit www.kanuga.org to learn more.

Aimee K Bostwick
Diocesan Youth Coordinator



What Are We About?

with apology to Dr. Seuss

—Gene Anderson

Diocesan Transition and Congregational Development Officer

It's a strange place we're in,
this business of sin,
lots of churches abound,
but odd things I've found.

It started out good,
people in loving mood,
drawing strangers to joy,
women, men, girl and boy.

The focus was clear,
when Jesus was near,
bringing others to see
God's love for me and thee.

Of course there were bumps,
humps, lumps, and jumps,
someway they got thru,
opening gifts to you, you, and you.

Spirit growth was the key
thru Bible study
vocation was the thing
a new life could bring.

Discovering God's great gifts
focused the heart's lifts,
sharing faith with their friends
was what made amends.

Giving their lives away
was what made the day,
holding on to their things
loneliness brings.

Yet as time moved forward,
things got more hard,
so focus seemed to veer
to membership so dear--
the next thing we knew
changes came in to view.

"Belonging" to a place
was the way you got face
and the burden was a race
to keep up the place.

Getting new ones to join
often meant more coin,
while spiritual growth flew
to filling up the pew.

Making disciples, the original intent,
a purpose torn and gradually rent,
'til for many survival became the rule
and working for that was the
major tool.

So what are we to do
when we're in this silly stew
cause even if you turn blue
the answer's in you.

Hop around fast
to make the church last,
read the bible each day
and remember to pray.

Work with others around,
other disciples you've found,
cause doing Jesus' thing
new people you'll bring.

If you're not having fun
then away from there run,
cause Jesus' joy should abound
when his people are around.

Laugh and sing in a bunch,
maybe stopping for lunch,
always get to the meal
hey, it'll make you be real.

Open up your front door
to those who are poor,
give away what you've got
God'll give you a lot.

Forget other's sin
and Jesus moves in;
love yourself more,
they'll beat down your door.

Trying something new,
may help grow you,
give up your fear,
and Jesus moves near.

If your church isn't great,
it's really not too late
so fill up your plate
with Jesus as your mate
give away all the hate
people, please don't berate.

The message is love
that comes from above
and giving it away
is what makes our day
and opens the way
for Jesus each day.

So come on, my friend,
the world to mend
and the changes we need
will come from that seed.

Give some love away,
what more can I say?

Parish Transitions

as of October 15, 2008

† **St. Thomas, Abingdon**, is extending a call to a youth coordinator.

† **Ascension, Amherst**, is seeking a part-time priest.

† **Christ Church, Pearisburg**, has called **The Rev. Anne West** to serve as their part-time rector.

† **Grace Church, Radford**, has called **The Rev. David Rose** from New Hampshire as their next rector.

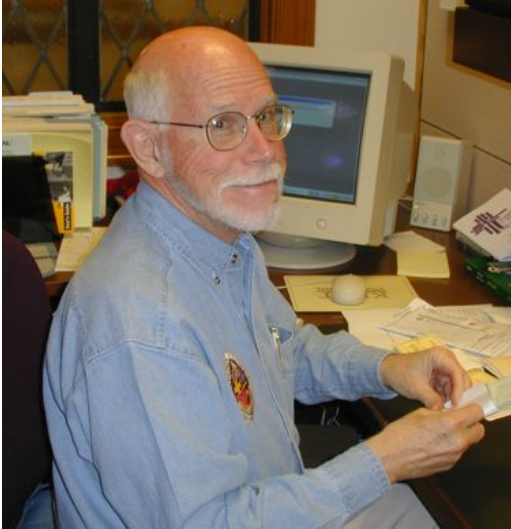


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"THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

NOVEMBER 11, 2008



The Dead Sea Scrolls comprise a collection of nearly 1,000 ancient documents discovered between 1947 and 1979 in caves near the Dead Sea in Palestine. Included were at least partial copies of the books of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament dated to before 100 AD as well as sectarian writings of a mysterious Jewish sect not mentioned in the Bible. The impact on biblical scholarship and the history of that era was, and continues to be, enormous.

Today, the tools of modern technology are being used to reveal even more about the Scrolls and the period they represent.

This presentation will describe the accidental discovery of the scrolls against the background of the turbulent birth of the state of Israel, the controversies over their translation and publication, and how they have affected the way we read the Bible today. Included will be a slide presentation with pictures illustrating the places and people involved.

Presenter Bill Lindsay is a program coordinator on the staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. He has a master's degree in Economic History from The American University and a Diploma in Lay Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary.

JOIN US FOR THE SEMINAR AND LUNCH!

Advance registration is requested by noon on Friday, November 7.

**Come experience the beauty and serenity
of the Blue Ridge Mountains!**



The Center for Lifelong Learning at Phoebe Needles offers monthly seminars on a wide variety of topics--with a catered lunch included!

Coming Up:

**Christmas Music
December 9, 2008**

**To learn more, or to register, email
pncenter@gmail.com
or call 540-483-1518.**



SPONSOR-A-DAY

To support diocesan ministries, consider sponsoring a day out of the year that has special meaning to you. Each sponsorship is a \$200 donation to diocesan ministry. You can give the donation in honor or in memory of a birthday, anniversary, death, or other occasion. (This donation is in addition to your annual voluntary pledged giving to your parish).

Parishes and small groups are also encouraged to consider sponsoring a day.

Date I/we wish to sponsor: _____ / _____ / _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please mark your check "Sponsor-A-Day: month/day/year"

Person making donation: _____

Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

Occasion: _____

In Celebration of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

If you wish to sponsor the same day each year, please fill out a new form each year.

May we acknowledge this gift in the diocesan publication Connections?

Yes No

Thank you for your donation to our Sponsor-A-Day Campaign.

Return this form to Sponsor-A-Day Campaign
PO Box 2279 ~ Roanoke VA 24009

or complete a similar form online using a credit card
at www.dioswva.org

☺January 5: Kate Garcia; in honor of Executive Board members and in celebration of the work they do on behalf of all 5800 Episcopal households in our diocese

☺March 28: The Rev. Jim and Nancy Henry; in celebration of their granddaughter's birthday.

☺May 26: Denis and Theresa Brion, in celebration of their wedding anniversary

☺June 22: Bishop Powell in celebration of the anniversary of his election as bishop, 1996

☺July 6: Church of the Good Shepherd, Galax; in honor of the anniversary of the church's consecration

☺July 18: Mike and Jennifer Lucado in celebration of Nathan Thomas Lucado's second birthday

☺August 3: Ellen N. Bouton; in memory of her parents on their anniversary

☺August 26: Frances Stebbins; in memory of Charles H. Stebbins, on his birthday

☺October 13: **Barbara Hargroves; in memory of her mother, Georgia V. Kiteley, on her birthday**

☺October 26: **Anonymous; in celebration of the twelfth anniversary of Bishop Powell's consecration and of Dorothy Powell's volunteer work at Evans House**

☺November 1: **Daughters of the King; in memory of Mary Duncan, Mary Jane Luke, and Eleanor Putney**

☺November 21: Dennis Case
☺December 13: Yates and Ida Forbis; in celebration of Cynthia Donnelly's birthday

☺December 21: Anonymous; in thanksgiving for the people of St. Thomas, Abingdon

☺December 26: Ruth Morrison; in memory of Joseph and Alice Magee, on their wedding anniversary

☺December 27: The Rev. William R. and Mary Ann Pickels; in memory of their grandson, Zachary T. Pickels

More than \$5000 was donated in support of diocesan ministries through the 2007 Sponsor-A-Day opportunity.



Building A Stewardship Committee

The Committee:

If you have heeded the plea preached by stewardship conference leaders to

“develop a year round stewardship program,” the odds are that you are feeling a bit guilty that the year is marching on and you have done little so far. Where do you start? Here is one possibility.

The first thing, the very first thing, to do is pray. God may have a few suggestions for you. However, once you have done that I suggest you begin immediately to assemble the team. Do not pass “GO.” Do not collect \$200. Recruit!

This does not mean that you immediately place an invitation in the church newsletter or bulletin for “anyone interested in serving on the Stewardship Committee to call (insert name of committee chair).” Think about the skills you will need to do the work and the members of the congregation who possess those abilities. To assist you in that, I offer the following suggestions. Feel free to adapt the list to meet the unique gifts and needs of your congregation.

The Stewardship Committee:

Recruiter – someone who can ask others to do things. This is

probably the most important member of the group. Though the chair bears the brunt of this responsibility, it doesn't mean they are good at it. If you are not, try to fill this slot first. Please note, do not settle for the “hopeless asker” in your congregation, the person whose frequent pleas (with whining, nagging, hopeless overtones) for volunteers and other resources fall consistently on deaf ears. Get the person you hate to have ask you to do something because you know you're going to tell them yes but you always sort of like doing the job anyway.

Organizer – a person who loves lists and calendars and who has an eye for details. They may nag sometimes, you may tease them about being anal retentive, but when they are on board, everyone feels a little safer and knows the project will come off smoothly.

Desk top publisher – Look for someone who enjoys making printed materials look attractive and readable. (If no one comes to mind, publish this list in your newsletter. These people will usually volunteer.)

Liturgist – an individual who will write prayers and help plan special campaign liturgies (like a commissioning service for campaign workers.) This role frequently appeals to the quiet types but not always.

Witness - someone who has struggled successfully with their own stewardship and can talk about it in public. Potentially this

is every member of the group but don't be surprised if it's not.

Party Giver – Think of them as Perle Mesta with an intimate acquaintance with prayer and offering plates. Look for the person whose invitations have you looking forward to their parties. They will probably have a circle of friends capable of helping. Be prepared to sit through discussions of color schemes, table decorations, and angst over the budget. You can also expect to have a good time!

Creative – someone who has ideas. They don't have to be well organized about it, they just need ideas. A truly great creative will look at things a little differently than the rest of the group and may not be easily understood. Be prepared to be patient. Hint: It helps if they are a little bit nuts.

Cheerful Workers – You need at least two people who will cheerfully (or sort of) set up tables, haul chairs, mount banners, copy, staple, collate, stuff envelopes, haul trash, and generally see that the work gets done. If all you have are thinkers who are too good to sweat, expect your grand schemes to fall far short of their potential. These people are pure gold. Treat them accordingly.

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Next month: *Thirteen Tips for Building An Effective Team*

A big THANK YOU to all parishes who have already returned Parochial Reports, Parish Audits, Certificates of Election, Parish Officers Reports, and VPG forms to the diocesan office. Check the chart to see who you are!

(Chart reflects materials received prior to October 15, 2008.)

Parishes in need of copies can find them in the Diocesan Paperwork notebook.

For more information or other assistance, contact LRobertson@dioswva.org or call 1-800-DIO-SWVA.

Parish	2008 Parish Officers Report Due 2/01/08	2007 Parochial Report Due 3/1/08	2008 Certificate of Election Due 3/31/08	2007 Parish Audit Due 8/31/0	2009 VPG Due 12/15/08
Abingdon, St. Thomas	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Altavista, St. Peter's	yes	yes	yes		
Amherst, Ascension	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Amherst, St. Paul's	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Arrington, Trinity	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Bedford, St. John's	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Bedford, St. Thomas	yes	yes	yes		
Big Stone Gap, Christ	yes	yes	yes		
Blacksburg, Christ	yes	yes	yes		
Bluefield, St. Mary's	yes	yes	yes		
Blue Grass, Good Shepherd	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Bristol, Emmanuel	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Buchanan, Trinity	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Buena Vista, Christ	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Callaway, St. Peter's	yes	yes	yes		

Parish	2008 Parish Officers Report Due 2/01/08	2007 Parochial Report Due 3/1/08
Christiansburg, St. Thomas	yes	yes
Clifford, St. Mark's	yes	yes
Clifton Forge, St. Andrew's	yes	yes
Covington, Emmanuel	yes	yes
Fincastle, St. Mark's	yes	yes
Folly Mills, Good Shepherd	yes	yes
Forest, St. Stephen's	yes	yes
Galax, Good Shepherd	yes	yes
Glasgow, St. John's	yes	yes
Hot Springs, St. Luke's	yes	yes
Lexington, RE Lee	yes	yes
Lynchburg, Grace	yes	yes
Lynchburg, St. Barnabas	yes	yes
Lynchburg, St. John's	yes	yes
Lynchburg, St. Paul's	yes	yes
Lynchburg, Trinity	yes	yes
Marion, Christ	yes	yes
Martinsville, Christ	yes	ues
Martinsville, St. Paul's		
Massies Mill, Grace	yes	yes

2008 Certificate of Election Due 3/31/08	2007 Parish Audit Due 8/31/08	2009 VPG Due 12/15/08
yes	yes	
yes		
yes	yes	yes
yes	yes	
yes	yes	
yes	yes	
yes		
yes	yes	
yes		
yes	yes	
yes		
yes		
yes	yes	
yes	yes	
yes	yes	
yes	yes	

Parish	2008 Parish Officers Report Due 2/01/08	2007 Parochial Report Due 3/01/08	2008 Certificate of Election Due 3/31/08	2007 Parish Audit Due 8/31/08	2009 VPG Due 12/15/08
Moneta, Trinity	yes	yes	yes		
Nellysford, Peace in the Valley	yes	yes	yes		
Norton, All Saints	yes	yes	yes		
Pearisburg, Christ	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Pedlar Mills, St. Luke's	yes	yes	yes		
Pocahontas, Christ	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Pulaski, Christ	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Radford, Grace	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Richlands, Trinity	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Roanoke, Christ	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Roanoke, St. Elizabeth's	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Roanoke, St. James	yes	yes	yes		
Roanoke, St. John's	yes	yes	yes		
Rocky Mount, Trinity	yes	yes	yes		
St. Paul, St. Mark's		yes	yes	yes	
Salem, St. Paul's	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Saltville, St. Paul's	yes	yes		yes	
Staunton, Emmanuel	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Staunton, Trinity	yes	yes	yes		
Tazewell, Stras	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Waynesboro, St. John's	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Wytheville, St. John's	yes	yes	yes		

Clergy Supply

The following clergy have indicated availability for supply work in our diocese. Please contact kgarcia@dioswva.org with changes.

Additions and changes are italicized.

Anderson, Gene
5631 Warwood Drive
Roanoke, 24018
(540) 776-9096

Roger Bowen
324 Sherwood Avenue
Staunton 24401
(540) 292-6423

Busch, Glenn
3024 Cardinal Place
Lynchburg 24503
(434) 384-8673

Copenhaver, Bob
116 Lewis Ave.
Salem 24153
(540) 556-8307

Crewdson, Robert
6 Miley Ct.
Lexington, 24450
(540) 464-1543

Furgerson, John
11Whitmore St.
Lexington 24450
(540) 464-1244

Glover, John
14449 S. Eastside Hwy.
Grottoes 24441
(540) 249-1402

Hayes, Dick
305 Broad Street
Bridgewater 22812
(540) 828-6486

Hershbell, Jackson
274 Still House Drive
Lexington 24450
(540) 464-4641

Howard, Karin
5402 Quail Ridge Ct.
Roanoke 24014
(540) 769-5292

Ingersoll, Russell
52 Sturbridge Lane
Greensboro, NC 27408
(276) 632-8448

Johnson, Ronald N.
320 Dudley Creek Road
Hardy, VA 24101
(540) 719-2316

Jones, Richard
3737 Seminary Rd.
Alexandria 22304
(703) 823-3186

Litzenburg, Thomas
316 S. Jefferson St.
Lexington 24450
(540) 463-58855

Lloyd, B.
3202 Matthews Lane
Blacksburg 24060
(540) 552-5372

McCauley, Claud
612 W. Franklin Rd., Apt. 7A
Richmond 23220
(804) 643-2668

McGuire, Roger
Box 8
Lindside, WV 24951
(304) 753-4913

Moore, Matthew
1824 King College Road, Apt. D-5
Bristol, TN 37620
(423) 217-0950

Parrish, William
3708 Manton Dr.
Lynchburg 24503
(434) 384-9758

Payden-Travers, Christine
1711 Link Road
Lynchburg 24503
(434) 384-4744

Pruitt, George
1246 Summit Ave.
Roanoke 24015
(540) 342-7229

Saarinen, Martin
595 Mountain View Dr.
Wytheville, VA 24382
(276) 625-0325

Sinclair, Roderick
1123 Courtyard Rd.
Charlottesville 22903
(434) 244-3507

Smith, Harmon
2228 Karen Dr.
Salem 24153
(540) 389-5205

Tatem, Francis
1552 Park Road
Harrisonburg 22802
(540) 564-3475

Taylor, Barbara
314 13th St.
Waynesboro 22980
(540) 942-3873

Please note change in supply rates as of October 1, 2008.

Clergy Supply Rates: The diocesan standard for Sunday Supply as Guest Celebrant and/or Guest Preaching is \$150 for one service; \$200 for two services; \$250 for three services. The diocesan standard for Assisting is \$100 for one service; \$150 for two services, \$200 for three services. The diocesan standard for Guest Retired Bishops confirming is \$175.

All amounts are plus \$.585 cents per mile, effective July 1, 2008. The cost of any meals and/or lodging involved is to be negotiated with the vestry.

Our Lutheran partners are excited to expand our opportunities together by sharing clergy supply lists.

If you feel called to work in ecumenical ministry and would like to be listed with the Lutheran Virginia Synod supply clergy, please email The Rev. Becky Crites, Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, at beckett605@cox.net.

Bishop's Visitations

Bishop Powell will visit every parish in the diocese over the course of fourteen months.

January 2008

06 Trinity, Rocky Mount
13 Good Shepherd, Galax
20 Christ, Pulaski
27 ANNUAL COUNCIL

February 2008

03 St. James, Roanoke
10 St. Elizabeth's, Roanoke
17 St. John's, Roanoke
24 Snow make-up

March 2008

02 Liberia
09 House of Bishops
16 Grace, Lynchburg
19 Virginia Episcopal School
23 St. Paul's, Salem
30 R. E. Lee, Lexington

April 2008

06 Emmanuel, Bristol
13 St. Thomas, Christiansburg
20 St. John's, Waynesboro
27 St. Stephen's, Forest

May 2008

04 St. Peter's, Callaway
10 Peace in the Valley, Nellysford
11 Nelson Parish
17 Tazewell Cluster
18 St. Thomas, Abingdon
25 St. Paul's, Martinsville

June 2008

01 Trinity, Staunton
08 Vacation
11 St. Thomas, Bedford County
15 Christ, Blacksburg
22 St. Luke's, Hot Springs
29 Christ, Marion, & St. Paul's, Saltville

July 2008

06 Independence Day
13 Bradford, England
20 Lambeth Conference
27 Lambeth Conference

August 2008

03 Lambeth Conference
10 York, England
17 Vacation
24 Vacation
28 Blue Grass, Good Shepherd

September 2008

07 All Saints, Norton, & St. Mark's, St. Paul
14 St. Peter's, Altavista
21 St. John's, Wytheville
28 St. John's, Lynchburg

October 2008

05 St. Paul's, Lynchburg
12 Trinity Ecumenical, Moneta
19 Christ, Big Stone Gap
21 St. John's, Glasgow
26 Trinity, Buchanan

November 2008

02 Emmanuel, Covington
09 Christ, Martinsville
16 St. Andrew's, Clifton Forge
23 Christ, Buena Vista
30 Thanksgiving

December 2008

07 Emmanuel, Staunton
14 St. Barnabas, Lynchburg, & Trinity, Lynchburg
21 Christmas
28 New Year's

January 2009

04 Grace, Radford
11 Trinity, Richlands
18 Christ, Roanoke
25 ANNUAL COUNCIL

February 2009

01 St. Mark's, Fincastle
08 St. Paul's, Bear Mountain
15 Good Shepherd, Folly Mills
22 Christ, Pearisburg

March 2009

01 Ascension, Amherst, & St. Mark's, Clifford

Looking Ahead at Evans House

December

20 Finance Committee, Evans House, 10--11

24--Jan. 1 Christmas and New Year's, Evans House closed

January

03 Executive Board Meeting

09--11 Education for Ministry Training at Evans House

11 January Convocation Meetings

18 Snow date for Convocation Meetings

22 Legacy Society Dinner, 6--8:30 PM, Hotel Roanoke

23--25 Annual Council

29 Trustees meeting, 11AM --12 PM

Legacy Society Members-- Mark Your Calendars!

The next Legacy Society dinner will be held January 22, 2009.

Bishop Powell hosts this event to honor members of the Legacy Society of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

The keynote speaker will be the Very Rev. Ian Markham, Dean and President, The Virginia Theological Seminary.

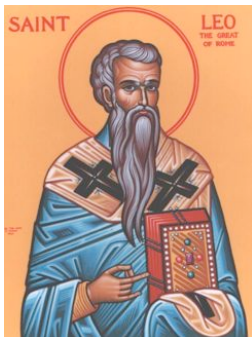
If you are interested in learning more about the Legacy Society and/or becoming a member, please contact Planned Giving Coordinator Bill Lindsay at blindsay@dioswva.org.

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The mission of the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
is to challenge and support the
creativity of our congregations
in Christian growth
and global responsibility.



Leo I (440-461) and Gregory I (590-604) are the only two bishops of Rome commonly called "the Great." Leo, at a time when the capital of the Empire had been moved to Constantinople and the government even in Italy no longer had its headquarters at Rome, was the most important official in the city. To him fell such prosaic tasks as supervising the distribution of grain imports and reorganizing the municipal fire department. When Attila and the Huns invaded Italy in 452, he negotiated their withdrawal, and when Gaiseric (or Genseric) the Vandal

captured Rome three years later, it was Leo who prevented the total destruction of the city. It is perhaps not surprising that the theory of papal supremacy gained much ground in his day.

In his day there were disagreements about the correct way to state the truth that Jesus Christ is both God and man. In 449 Leo wrote a letter (known as the Tome of Leo) to Bishop Flavian of Constantinople, in which he affirmed that Christ has two Natures in one Person. The letter was read in 451 by the Council of Chalcedon (the fourth Ecumenical Council) and judged by them to be sound doctrine. It contributed much to the creedal statements of that council.

Leo's influence on church government will naturally get mixed reviews. But for his defense of the belief that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, all Christians may thank God.

*O Lord our God,
grant that your Church,
following the teaching of
your servant Leo of Rome,
may hold fast the great
mystery of our redemption,
and adore the one Christ,
true God and true Man,
neither divided from
our human nature
nor separate from
your divine Being;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Amen

Leo the Great

Bishop of Rome, 461

November 10