

Information on Diocesan Programs _____ Spring 2012

(Ministries, Institutions, and Committees)

Opening Note:

By diocesan canon, one required component of the Spring Convocation Meeting is that “the convocation shall receive program reports and participate in a program evaluation process.”

Spring Ministry Reports typically focus on informing the convocations about the mission of the ministry, the way in which it is carried out, and the way in which it engages the mission of our diocese.

Information about funding, other than the budget passed at Council, is provided in the fall. At any time throughout the year, however, questions about funding may be directed to members of the Executive Board Finance Committee or to Alan Boyce in the diocesan office.

Please read the ministry reports in advance of the meeting. If there is an unfamiliar ministry described, or if there are questions about the work any of them are doing, contact information for the ministry is provided here. Delegates and alternates will be involved in program evaluation at the spring meetings, so it will be particularly important to prepare in advance.

To make suggestions about program reports for next spring, please contact Kate Garcia, Parish Services Coordinator, at 540-342-6797 or kgarcia@dioswva.org.

Save this information and bring it with you to future convocation meetings! At the convocation meetings in the fall, it will be helpful to refer back to these reports when reviewing the funding requests for 2013 from the various programs and ministries that will be shared with the delegates and alternates in advance of the preparation of a proposed budget. They will again be helpful as you consider a proposed budget at the January Convocation meetings.

The following ministries, programs, and committees did not submit a report; contact information is supplied for those who want to learn more about them.

- **Commission on Ministry:** The Rev. Susan E. Bentley; seb@rev.net
- **Daughters of the King:** Helen Campbell; helencampbell5735@gmail.com
- **Dispatch of Business:** Dennis Case; dcase@trinitystaunton.org
- **Ecumenical Officer:** The Rev. Becky Crites; beckett605@cox.net
- **Epiphany:** Cara Modisett; caraemodisett@cox.net
- **Episcopal Appalachian Ministries:** The Rev. Gordon Brewer, Jr; episcopalappministries@gmail.com
- **Fresh Start:** The Rev. Catharine Montgomery; gracememorialcathy@yahoo.com
- **Planned Giving:** Suzan Anderson; suzananderson@me.com
- **Province III:** The Rev. Barbara Seras; p3coordinator@earthlink.net OR The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell; npowell@dioswva.org
- **Secretary:** Alan Boyce; aboyce@dioswva.org
- **Standing Committee:** The Rev. Diane Vie; diane@stjohnslynchburg.org
- **Transitions:** The Rev. Gene Anderson; ganderson@dioswva.org
- **Treasurer:** John Hall; jhall@salem.k12.va.u
- **Virginia Council of Churches:** The Rev. Jonathon Barton; barton@vcc-net.org
- **Young Adults:** No Coordinator. Contact Alan Boyce; aboyce@dioswva.org OR The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell; npowell@dioswva.org
- **Youth Ministry:** No Coordinator. Contact Alan Boyce; aboyce@dioswva.org OR The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell; npowell@dioswva.org

Bishop Marmion Resource Center

What is the program's mission statement and/or purpose?

To serve our diocesan congregations by providing resources, consultations, and educational programs and workshops, and as staff support with the Education Consortium, to further enable and support the Christian Education and mission of the people of the diocese.

How does the program live out its mission statement and/or purpose?

- Maintaining a lending library of videos, DVDs, books, CDs, and sample curriculum, including obtaining and cataloging new resources
- Availability of coordinator by phone, email, or in person for consultation
- Staff support for the Education Consortium in planning educational events
- Maintaining an online catalogue and checkout system to make resources more accessible from any point in the diocese.

How does the program support the mission of the global church and the diocese?

The BMRC provides resources and information to support Christian growth, as well as materials to respond to global responsibility through the Millennium Development Goals. The BMRC has resources available to assist parishes and the members of their congregations in all aspects of Christian formation. Many of the materials ordered this year were purchased in direct response to parish requests.

How can convocations support your ministry?

- We continue to update the **Speakers' Bureau** and invite any who would be willing to present an informational talk or workshop to a parish group to send in contact and topic information that can be kept on file in the BMRC online catalogue.
- Contact the BMRC if your parish has materials to recommend or request.
- Please let participants know when you are using BMRC materials in your parish. Encourage them to drop in and browse as well!

Please share what you have learned or implemented based on feedback about your ministry received from convocation meetings last year.

The BMRC is well used, and the variety of resources available is helpful to parishes. Parishes appreciate being able to receive and return resources by mail. The most repeated request had been for a searchable, interactive online catalogue. The bmrc-online.org website offers folk from near and far information about the resources available to them through the BMRC.

Contact information for this ministry:

Kate Garcia
540-342-6797
1-800-DIO-SWVA
bmrc@dioswva.org

Boys' Home, Inc.

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? Boys' Home strives to help young men develop their potentials, mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Our focus remains constant - young men with great promise but limited opportunities.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? (For example, please ask one or more participants to provide a personal story of how the ministry impacted their life.) If you are looking for inspiration, then you need to read a book written by one of our students, Keith. The book, called ***Change for Good***, chronicles his move from his native Uganda to Richmond, Virginia, to live with his father, and then onto Boys' Home. Last year, Keith's experiences were the focus for Residential Education Day and he, his houseparents, and his public school teacher were honored. Though Keith's journey was a rocky one, he is now a typical teen who enjoys football and other sports, is consistently on the Good Citizens List at school, and often flashes a radiant smile. God is good, too.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? Boys' Home provides care and education for young men, ages 6-18 who need guidance in facing the challenges of growing up into responsible, contributing members of society. We offer these services without regard to the financial capabilities of families. Boys' Home provides generous scholarships and no child is turned away due to the inability to pay. Our residents represent a wide spectrum of cultures and places of origin.

How can convocations support your ministry? (For example, are you looking for volunteers or supplies? Are there projects that a parish could take on?) We welcome the opportunity to work with convocations and parishes. We offer a speaker's bureau and enjoy sharing our ministry's work with others. We encourage mission groups to come to our campus and work along side our residents - there are lots of projects on campus and at the Boys' Home Christmas tree farm in West Augusta. Parishes frequently stay involved by collecting Campbell's Labels for Education and Bixtops for Education to help support our Boys' Home School, grades 3-12. Parishes also collect spare coins for our Penny Power program or collect items from our Wish List. Christmas sponsors are also needed to ensure that Christmas is a joyful time for our young men.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? We are trying to improve our communication with parishes in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

Contact information for this ministry:

Janet D. Lemmer

540/965-7715

jdlemmer@boyshomeinc.org

Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Spouses, Partners and Survivors; and the HEED Fund

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? As appointed by the Bishop, I serve as chaplain through a pastoral ministry to our 154 retired clergy, spouses, partners, widows, and widowers residing in or canonically attached to the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. I also serve as coordinator of the HEED Fund, an acronym for the Henderson Endowment for the Elderly/disabled of the Diocese. The hope of the HEED Committee is that every parish church building in our diocese be accessible.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? In my chaplaincy I pray for, visit, e-mail, telephone, and communicate in other ways with the retired "flock." A directory of all the retired clergy, et al, is prepared yearly and sent to each of their households so that retired clergy, spouses, partners and survivors may keep up with each other and minister to each other. Christmas and birthday cards are sent each year, and in 2011 I attended funerals, and conducted funerals, as well as visiting in hospitals. A fall lunch with Bishop Powell and Dorothy Powell gave "the retired" present an opportunity to chat informally with our chief pastor. When I learn of illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths and difficulties, I inform Bishop Powell, and when appropriate, he does the same for me.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? Bishop Powell has asked that I serve as coordinator of the diocesan HEED Fund. This endowment, the result of a bequest to the Diocese by the late Reverend Doctor William D. Henderson, is for the assistance of the elderly and disabled of the Diocese. The HEED Fund gave grants in 2011 to St. Peter's-in-the-Mountains, Callaway, for an accessible entrance; the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Evans House, toward an accessible entrance; St. James, Roanoke, outdoor lighting and railing; St. Mark's, Fincastle, ramp railings; and St. Mary's, Bluefield, a wheelchair lift.

How can convocations support your ministry? The form for requesting a grant from the HEED Fund may be found on the diocesan website, or by contacting the Chaplain to the Retired. What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year?

The annual luncheon with the Bishop and Dorothy for the retired clergy, et al, was moved from Advent to early fall to avoid the possibility of cancellation due to inclement weather.

Contact information for this ministry:

The Rev'd Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver
540-556-8307
aypiper@aol.com

Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc.

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? Chaplain Service exists on behalf of the Protestant and Orthodox Christian Churches to initiate, coordinate, and provide ministry, including advocacy for justice and humane treatment, for adults and juveniles in the facilities of the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? We currently have Chaplains serving at 31 state adult correctional centers and at 3 state juvenile correctional centers. The Chaplains serve as Christian ministers to over 32,000 incarcerated men, women, and juveniles. They preach the Gospel, teach the Bible, provide pastoral care and crisis counseling, administer the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, and coordinate religious volunteers. One of the most successful programs that the Chaplains help coordinate is the Kairos prison ministry program. These are intensive spiritual retreats held in the prisons in which offenders are matched up with mentors from the community that demonstrate the unconditional love of Christ to them. Kairos is currently operating at Augusta Correctional Center, Keen Mountain Correctional Center, and at Wallens Ridge State Prison.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? Chaplain Service provides a presence for the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia in the state prison system. Because of the many religious programs provided by the Chaplains and religious volunteers, recidivism in Virginia is at one of the lowest rates in the nation. We also assist the Diocese by participating in offender re-entry programming efforts, ensuring a smoother transition back to society for the many offenders that are released from the state prison system each year. This makes for a safer and more just society.

How can convocations support your ministry? (For example, are you looking for volunteers or supplies? Are there projects that a parish could take on?) There is always a need for additional Kairos volunteers. Additionally, we have a discipleship program in the prisons called Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the "Disciple" program in the prisons of Southwestern Virginia, and funding/sponsorship is needed to purchase the workbooks for these prisons. Those that are interested in these or other opportunities may contact the office of Chaplain Service at (804) 358-7650 for more information. NOTE: Funding is desperately needed to help with partial compensation for the Chaplains serving in the state prisons within the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Parishes may wish to "adopt" or "sponsor" a local prison Chaplain.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? N/A (Chaplain Service as an inter-denominational ministry does not usually take part in convocation meetings, etc.)

Contact information for this ministry:
Reverend Cecil E. McFarland, President
(804) 598-3424
chapservva@aol.com

Chancellor of the Diocese

MARK D. LOFTIS
(540) 983-7618
loftis@woodsrogers.com

WOODS ROGERS <sup>P
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 16, 2012

Alan N. Boyce
Canon for Administration
The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
1002 First Street
Roanoke, Virginia 24016

In re: Chancellor's Annual Report

Dear Alan:

During the past year, I have had the privilege to serve as Chancellor at our Annual Council; to consult with the Bishop from time to time on matters as to which he has sought my advice; to attend and participate in Executive Board meetings, including providing legal advice to the Executive Board on certain matters and updating the Executive Board on legal issues of interest to the Diocese; to work with the Constitution & Canons Committee on amendments to our Diocesan Canons; to advise individual priests and parishes from time to time; and generally to consult with Diocesan personnel as needed on various legal matters.

In addition, during the past year I conducted two training sessions for clergy to review the changes to the clergy discipline process under the new Title IV (which took effect July 1, 2011). I have also spent substantial time advising and assisting the Bishop in a pending Title IV disciplinary proceeding. Additionally, I have provided assistance to the Standing Committee with certain canonical issues relating to the transition process.

It is a privilege to serve as Chancellor of the Diocese.

Very truly yours,



Mark D. Loftis

MDL:

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10 South Jefferson Street, Suite 1400
(540) 983-7600 / Fax (540) 983-7711
Offices also in Blacksburg, Danville, Lynchburg and Richmond, Virginia

Companions for Mission

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? To shepherd our companion relationships with the Diocese of Bradford, England, and The Episcopal Church of Sudan. We have a triangular companion relationship of long standing with Bradford and Sudan.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? We facilitate establishing link parish relationships between our parishes and those in Bradford, transmit a portion of our budget to support ministry (mostly educational) in Sudan, encourage additional donations for this purpose, provide information about Sudan and Bradford through workshops and displays at Council, and participate in the American Friends of The Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS).

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? We help people grow in their personal understanding of the concept of Christian unity and a sense of what it means to belong to and participate in the Anglican Communion. We provide a channel through which people can live out their understanding of global responsibility and interdependence. We support and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

How can convocations support your ministry? (For example, are you looking for volunteers or supplies? Are there projects that a parish could take on?) Convocation leaders can encourage participation in the Bradford parish links program and foster awareness and support of the committee's work.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? There were no responses to the feedback request made at last spring's convocation meetings. However, there was considerable favorable response to the heavy emphasis on our link relationships at Council 2012.

Contact information for this ministry:

Dennis Case (chair)

540-886-7470

dcase@trinitystaunton.org

Lynn Robertson (staff support)

540-342-6797

Lrobertson@dioswva.org

Connections

What is the mission statement and/or purpose of this ministry? *Connections* is a diocesan publication linking those who serve in similar or related positions around the diocese with the Evans House staff and with each other. *Connections* is intended to be pulled apart, copied, posted, and in all ways shared throughout parishes.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? Approximately 1,200 people each month receive *Connections*, including Active and Retired Clergy, Diocesan Volunteers, Youth Advisors, Surviving Clergy Spouses, Parish Secretaries and Administrators, Officers of Diocesan Institutions, Program Chairs, Christian Educators and Church School Superintendents, Diocesan Committees, Delegates and Alternates to Council, Seminarians, Vestry Members, and Treasurers. *Connections* is also available as a PDF download on the diocesan website each month.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and the diocese? Included in *Connections* are such items as diocesan announcements from the Evans House Staff Assistant; columns from our Bishop, the Deputy for Administration, the diocesan Transitions and Development Officer, the Bishop Marmion Resource Center Coordinator, the Youth Coordinator, and the Diocesan Services Coordinator; events on the diocesan calendar; a list of supply clergy; a directory of staff names and contact information; ready-to-post flyers for parish bulletin boards and newsletters describing upcoming diocesan activities, seminars and retreats available through the Phoebe Needles Conference Center, and other educational opportunities; reports from diocesan committees;; parish news, stories, transitions, and events; other reports and requests.

Wonderful works are going on in this diocese—your parish stories may inspire other congregations! In sharing ideas and stories across parishes and across leadership roles through *Connections*, parishes are given an opportunity to learn from one another and share best practices.

How can parishes/convocations support your ministry?

- Those who receive *Connections* are requested to share the information with parishioners.
- Everyone is requested to share parish news and events with the editor. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the preceding month.

Please share what you have learned or implemented based on feedback about your ministry received from convocation meetings last year. There has been some conversation about making *Connections* an electronic communication, and this has led to *Connections* regularly appearing on the diocesan website as a downloadable file. In general, feedback for the printed publication has been favorable—many of those who receive it keep the paper copy at hand for reference throughout the month. During previous convocation meetings, *Connections* was named in all convocations as being a valued ministry.

Contact information for this ministry:

Kate Garcia
kgarcia@dioswva.org
1-800-DIO-SWVA

Education for Ministry

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? Every baptized person is called to ministry. The EfM program provides people with the education and the opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service through the process of theological reflection.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? (For example, please ask one or more participants to provide a personal story of how the ministry impacted their life.) "Learning to use the theological reflection format to organize my thinking has helped me to be more intentional in recognizing where my thoughts, opinions, and beliefs are formed and informed. Even though this alone doesn't provide answers, when I do this, it does improve clarity and balance. This seems to me to be a critical necessity for successful theological reflection and it also pays benefits in my every day ministry." --Barbara Johnson

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? EfM gives participants an opportunity to think about, challenge, and develop their faith and ministry in a secure small group setting. The program strongly encourages using the knowledge and tools as we minister around us.

How can convocations support your ministry? (For example, are you looking for volunteers or supplies? Convocations can promote the EfM program as a beneficial commitment to one's faith pilgrimage.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? I didn't receive any feedback.

Contact information for this ministry:

Mary Page Gwaltney, Diocesan EfM Coordinator
540-797-1738
mpgwaltney@cox.net

Grace House on the Mountain

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? The mission of Grace House, an institution of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, is to embody a ministry of social justice and advocacy for the welfare of the people of God in Appalachia and to encourage people from different cultures to interact through shared educational and labor experiences in order to gain understanding, strength and a compelling sense of ministry that will enrich lives, proclaim the gospel, and foster the growth of Christian Community.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? Multiple homeowners have told us that had it not been for the help they received from the program and the workers who came and done repairs at their home, they feared they would not be able to stay there. Several families have needs to numerous to count here. Needs can range from a simple repair of their steps to the floors and walls of their home needing repair because they are about ready to fall through. The workgroups go into total strangers' homes on the first day and leave there feeling like they are leaving a family member.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? Grace House takes the needs here in the mountains of Southwest Virginia, presents them to the numerous workgroups, and assigns the groups a family or families to work with. The bond that grows between the two, allows both to realize the love God's children have for their fellowmen and helps the youth to learn about the struggles some families go through yet they keep their faith strong.

How can convocations support your ministry? The convocations can support Grace House by continuing to help get the word out about Grace House, sending volunteers here, encouraging congregations to join us and do a work. We can always use supplies. There are projects that a parish can take on, even if it is simple painting. Parishes should contact the Director, Anita Boyd, for more specific ideas.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? Grace House has grown as far as new groups, including churches in this Diocese, and I attribute that to it being publicized throughout the diocese. In addition, St. Mark's in St. Paul and All Saints in Norton held their fifth Sunday services at Grace House.

Contact information for this ministry:

Anita Boyd: Director
Grace House on the Mountain
5100 Pewter Drive
St. Paul, VA 24283
(276) 395-6588
aboydgrchse@yahoo.com

Higher Education Committee

What is your mission statement and/or purpose?

The purpose of the commission is to support the work of individual ministries throughout the diocese as they 1) welcome students of all backgrounds to join in prayer, worship, and fellowship, 2) provide regular Eucharistic services in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, 3) encourage spiritual exploration for students and faculty in safe, home-like environments.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? We provide ministry to college students throughout the diocese. In reality, our "ministry" is really several ministries. Three of them are based in a parish, and one is campus-based. All of them provide support to students in different sections of the diocese.

In Lexington, R. E. Lee Memorial has the oldest established ministry, to cadets at VMI and students at Washington & Lee. The focus of the ministry is a wellattended weekly Sunday evening Eucharist followed by dinner and time for reflection and fellowship. The ministry is fully integrated into the life of the parish, and students and parishioners participate together on the ministry steering committee, choir, youth programs, Sunday School, and as leaders in worship. Parishioners also serve as host families for cadets as they enter VMI. The director of the ministry is James Keane.

In Blacksburg, the Episcopal campus minister is the Associate Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, the Rev. Scott Russell, half of whose time is devoted to serving students and faculty at Virginia Tech. Canterbury House, owned by the parish, is a separate building which is both a gathering place for students and a home to six students who live there during the school year. As in Lexington, the focus of the ministry is a weekly (Wednesday evening) Eucharist with dinner and fellowship. The ministry also has a strong emphasis on social outreach.

In Radford, Grace Church supports the ministry at Canterbury House adjacent to the Radford University campus. Robert and Rev. Sarah Morris are the new directors as of August 17th, 2011. They provide a weekly Monday evening prayer service, dinner, and fellowship time as well as weekly "Stew and Brew" held on campus. Radford and Virginia Tech have had several co-events together throughout the academic year.

In Lynchburg, Nina Vest Salmon directs a growing campus ministry at Lynchburg College. They meet weekly for food, discussion and fellowship. Once a month a priest celebrates the Eucharist. Last year they participated in an alternative Spring Break trip to Belize. A yearlong fundraiser selling "Episco-Shovels" was held to help support the trip.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? See above

How can convocations support your ministry? (For example, are you looking for volunteers or supplies? Are there projects that a parish could take on?) First, convocations can familiarize themselves with the work of these ministries. If one of the college/university ministries is in your area, representatives from the convocation could visit it: you will be welcomed! Second, convocations can support these ministries financially through the diocesan budgeting process. Third, convocation members, individually and together, can pray for our college students and those who serve them and for the success of the church's outreach to all our young people. Though the question refers to Convocations, we do want to emphasize that individual parishes can provide outreach to students at area colleges. We invite parishes to consider doing this and to request financial support for their efforts through the Higher Education Ministries Commission.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? We did not receive any feedback from last year's meetings.

Contact information for this ministry:

Erin Harden
540-493-4571
eharden221@gmail.com

The Phoebe Needles Center, Inc.

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? “To serve people of all ages in southwestern Virginia by offering facilities and a variety of educational, spiritual, and renewal programs designed to nourish people in their spiritual formation.”

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? By providing the following programs to people within the Episcopal Diocese of SWVA and reaching out to those beyond our diocese: Summer Camp Program for Youth, Summer Camp Program for Adults, Center for Lifelong Learning, planning and hosting retreats and conferences, providing leadership and team building programs for youth and adults, renting the Center to churches, non-profits, school and college groups, government agencies, businesses, and private groups.

We get lots of feedback from the parents of campers, but last fall we received this from the parent of one of our staff: “The camp has had an incredibly positive influence on my daughter and others I’ve known who attended. Besides the desperately important and very difficult task of getting kids outside and away from TV’s, cell phones and computers, Phoebe Needles has taught my daughter many lessons. The children learn confidence, leadership, trust, mentoring, strong character, and compassion to name a few. My daughter has learned what a difference she can make in someone’s life. In a weeks time the staff has produced some almost miraculous changes in the attitudes of some of the difficult and sometimes ill-adjusted campers.”

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? As the camp and conference center for the diocese, all of our programs (listed above) seek to challenge and support Christian formation and our responsibility to act as faithful Christian people in our community, the nation, and the world.

How can convocations support your ministry? Utilize the Center. Encourage congregations to utilize the Center. Encourage individuals to utilize the Center. Woody Allen once said, “90% of life is showing up.” The most helpful way to support the Phoebe Needles Center is to use it. Encourage youth in your congregation and community to attend Summer Camp 2010, have your vestry retreat, women’s or men’s retreat, youth retreat, choir retreat, etc. Encourage adult members to attend the monthly Center for Lifelong Learning programs, “50’s More of Less” Camp, and other programs. Consider having a convocation-wide retreat or picnic at the Center. Let us know if there are programs we can host for your convocation or congregation. Give us feedback on the materials we put out through the various means of communication in our diocese. Add 1% to your church budget in support of the Center.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? We continue to work on improving our communication via electronic means. Our web site, Facebook page, and YouTube Videos are all update regularly.

Contact information for this ministry:

The Rev. John H. Heck, Executive Director
The Phoebe Needles Center, Inc.
732 Turners Creek Road
Callaway, Virginia
540-483-1518; 800-848-1677
PNCenter@gmail.com
www.PhoebeNeedles.org

Prayer Calendar

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? The bishop has directed that the Prayers of the People at each Eucharist celebrated in our diocese include specific prayers for our various parishes and ministries, our brothers and sisters in Bradford and Sudan, and the dioceses of the Anglican Communion listed in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. The Prayer Calendar provides the information needed to comply.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? The Prayer Calendar, published three times each year, is mailed to all parish offices and to all of the clergy of the diocese, plus various diocesan leaders and an assortment of people who have asked to receive it. In addition, it is available in the Ministries section of the diocesan website. The Prayer Calendar helps to remind us of our relationship with those at a distance in the wider church.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? The Prayer Calendar unites us to the global church in prayer and similarly serves to unify the parishes and ministries of our own diocese as we pray for one another.

How can convocations support your ministry?

- If convocational leaders become aware that a parish is not carrying out the bishop's directive about the use of the Prayer Calendar, perhaps they could encourage compliance.
- Keep the editor updated as to companion parish relationships.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? Four people responded to the evaluation last spring with "yes" to the question "Could this ministry better serve your parish?" All four were contacted and invited to provide more specific feedback. None did so.

Contact information for this ministry:

Emily Talbot-Guillote (editor)
540-520-6286
eptg1019@gmail.com

Lynn Robertson (staff support)
540-342-6797
Lrobertson@dioswva.org

River Adventure Program

What is your mission statement and/or purpose?

We believe the experience of God's presence in nature, in each other and in the gathered body of Christ is potentially transforming for the individual and the whole Church. Our purpose is to build experientially a Christian community in an outdoor environment, where youth and adults face the intensive demands of supporting each other in group activities that are physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually challenging. The experience seeks to enhance self-esteem, positive Christian values, and leadership abilities that individuals take home with them.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? (For example, please ask one or more participants to provide a personal story of how the ministry impacted their life.)

These comments are from camper participants from 2010 & 2011. They are teens in grades 7-12.

Anne Wright: The River Adventure Program allows you to meet new and awesome people and learn to work with others. By the end of the week those people are almost like family to you. This program allows you to realize how beautiful God's world is and brings you closer to Him. You learn that life isn't all about your cell phone and social life, but it's also about seeing the beauty in the simple things and making friends and memories that you will always remember.

Ray Johnson: The river trip expanded my horizons with what I was capable of. Never before did I know I could conquer raging rapids while still grinning at the end. I became so close to everyone on the trip, creating friends and ever lasting relationships. I grew closer to those I had known before and enjoyed great laughs with those around me that I had never or barely known. The camp not only brought on physical expectations and adventures but hours of singing and laughing. The River Adventure Program has been the best camp of my life.

Hunter Bell: Through this trip, i have made friends that i may remember forever, and gotten closer with those i already knew. It's indirectly brought out a new hobby, kayaking, that i don't think i ever would have discovered without it. A unique experience I can't wait to do again.

Jessica Wiegandt: The River Adventure Program has helped me to experience nature in an up-close and personal way. I have also met people that enjoy the river and being outside as much as I do. This week on the river brings kids closer than any other camp I had attended. I have made loving relationships with many of the other participants, and this trip has also strengthened my relationship with God.

Josie Wiegandt: I loved how when I did something really embarrassing, NO ONE laughed or talked about me behind my back... Being able to be myself and have other people like that helps me be me everywhere.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? Providing appropriate activities for youth that helps them stay connected to their faith is a pillar of this 35 year + program in the Diocese. Participants have participated in the program and come back in later years as volunteer staff, reinforcing their support of and commitment to the church and this diocese.

How can convocations support your ministry? (For example, are you looking for volunteers or supplies? Are there projects that a parish could take on?)

- Provide scholarship funds to enable campers to attend and encourage youth in your parish and community to participate
- Additional funding would support the purchase of needed boating and camping supplies enabling campers to participate.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? This year we are offering convocation-wide canoeing trips (one day events) that are open for anyone to participate. For additional details, see page 9 of the March Connections. (Go to www.dioswva.org. From the tabs at the top of the screen, choose "News" and then "Connections." On the Connections page, choose "March 2012" from the files listed in the right-hand column.)

Contact information for this ministry:

Maile S. Armstrong
540-947-5016
mailearmstrong@verizon.net

Small Churches

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? To support the work and mission of small parishes in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia by keeping in touch, passing along information, and sharing ideas.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? By fostering communication among small churches and planning events that small churches wish to have.

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? By seeking to enliven the life of our small churches which make up most of our parishes.

How can convocations support your ministry? Perhaps by having a small church “point person” for each convocation.

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? No changes made.

Contact information for this ministry:

Rev. Jonathan Harris
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Rev. Becky Crites
St. Johns, Glasgow; St. Thomas, Bedford
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Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg (WCL)

What is your mission statement and/or purpose? To be an accredited, non-profit provider of quality senior services, which promote independence and dignity, operated in a fiscally responsible manner, and guided by Christian ideals.

How does the ministry live out its mission statement and/or purpose? (For example, please ask one or more participants to provide a personal story of how the ministry impacted their life.) WCL continues to provide first-class retirement living for over 475 retirees in a fiscally sound environment as evidenced by audit reports, annual reports (as attached), and dashboard comparisons to other retirement communities in Virginia and the nation. We continue to be accredited by CARF/CCAC, continuously since 1982 when we were the 13th in the nation to receive that designation. Through our Foundation, we provide confidential Fellowship assistance to 26 people who have found need for a financial safety net. According to one of our recipients, "I never thought I would have to ask for financial assistance. I made plans all my life to make sure I would be taken care of in my retirement. But many of the investments I put in place to keep me secure in my retirement failed me. Thanks to the Fellowship Endowment at Westminster Canterbury, I know that I am safe here, for which I am very grateful."

How does the ministry support the mission of the global church and this diocese? Our focus is on meeting the needs of our residents in their later years through Continuing Care. We also have skilled beds for persons who need physical therapy following stroke, broken bones, etc. We have many members of our community who are still active in community affairs; we collect food for the Food Pantry before Christmas, and have participated in a Stop Hunger Now Drive for Haiti.

How can convocations support your ministry?

- a. By providing volunteers to be trained in pastoral care
- b. By contributions to the Fellowship Fund, the Employee Education Fund or the Chaplain's Discretionary Fund to assist residents and Employees who may find themselves in need.
- c. By making parishioners aware of this five star continuing care retirement community, which is governed 50% by Episcopalians and 50% Presbyterians
- d. By providing prayer shawls for all of our residents in Health Care

What program changes were implemented as a result of feedback from spring convocation meetings last year? We received no feedback.

Contact information for this ministry:

Joseph Payne, Senior Vice President
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