

# Connections

*linking diocesan leaders*

Vol. 08, issue 08  
August 2008

## Around the Diocese

### • Diocesan Disaster Plans Rate ERD Honorable Mention

In September 2007, Episcopal Relief and Development announced a competition to select the best diocesan disaster preparedness plans. The three top plans would receive cash awards with funds to be used for preparedness programs. Our diocesan and parish guidance plans were submitted for ERD review in March 2008.

In June, Abigail Nelson, ERD's Senior Vice President for Programs, announced in a letter to this diocese that we had received a rating of Honorable Mention. The final results are:

First Place: Lutheran Episcopal Services of Mississippi

Second Place: The Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee

Third Place: The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Honorable Mention: The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas and The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

Among the ERD feedback comments for our diocesan plans was: "The commendable 'can do' spirit evidenced in this plan brings stamina to the diocesan church family and shows earnestness in the detailed planning and structure at the diocesan level."

--Bill Lindsay

*Program Coordinator for Planned Giving,  
Disaster Preparedness, and Grant Applications*

• **Bishop Powell invites all who are interested to a post-Lambeth Conference meeting on Thursday, August 21, at St. Paul's, Salem.** From 2-4 PM, clergy and spouses will meet with Neff and Dorothy Powell. From 7-9 PM, lay members (plus any clergy who missed the earlier session) have an opportunity to hear the bishop reflect upon his experiences at Lambeth. Bishop Powell will gladly schedule similar parish forums upon request.

"Around the Diocese" continues on page 16

## DATES AND UPDATES

### Looking Ahead in August

03-09 Training for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Emmanuel, Bristol

5-6: Bradford Bash Lock-In; St. John's Roanoke, 5 p.m.-11 a.m.

6 Diocese of Bradford Lunch & Learn; Evans House Diocesan Offices, noon-1 p.m.

12 "The Blue Ridge Parkway", CLL seminar at Phoebe Needles

16 Stewardship Development Institute; Phoebe Needles, 9:30-4

### The Bishop in August

03 Lambeth Conference

10 York, England

17 Vacation

24 Vacation

28 Blue Grass, Good Shepherd

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

Aug. 13, 25      Sept. 10, 24

Oct. 8, 22      Nov. 12, 24

Dec. 9, 19

**"Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a living presence."**

--Samuel Taylor Coleridge



# DIRECTORY OF THE OFFICES OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

1-800-346-7982 (DIO-SWVA) ~ 540-342-6797

FAX 540-343-9114 ~ [www.dioswva.org](http://www.dioswva.org)

Visit us at 1000-1002 FIRST STREET in Roanoke. Send mail to PO BOX 2279, ROANOKE, VA 24009

## The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell

Bishop

[npowell@dioswva.org](mailto:npowell@dioswva.org)

extension 116

*Bishop Powell's sabbath is Monday.*

## Lynn Robertson

Bishop's Secretary

Data Resources Manager

Editor, ***Prayer Calendar***

[lrobertson@dioswva.org](mailto:lrobertson@dioswva.org)

extension 117

## Alan Boyce

Deputy for Administration

[aboyce@dioswva.org](mailto:aboyce@dioswva.org)

extension 113

M-F; 8-4

## Jenny Dye

Diocesan Services Coordinator

*Jenny is currently on maternity leave. During this time, please direct questions to [aboyce@dioswva.org](mailto:aboyce@dioswva.org).*

## The Rev. Gene Anderson

Transitions and Development Officer

[ganderson@dioswva.org](mailto:ganderson@dioswva.org)

extension 122

Thursday; 9-1

Gene may also be reached at 540-776-9096.

## Christie Meredith Wills

Communications Officer

Editor, ***Epiphany***

Web Page and Email Contact

[cwills@dioswva.org](mailto:cwills@dioswva.org)

extension 119

## Jim Robertson

Accounts Payable and Procurement

Coordinating Volunteer

[jrobertson@dioswva.org](mailto:jrobertson@dioswva.org)

extension 120

## Bill Lindsay

Program Coordinator for

Planned Giving, Disaster Preparedness,  
and Grant Applications

[blindsay@dioswva.org](mailto:blindsay@dioswva.org)

extension 110

M-F; 12:30-5

## Aimee Bostwick

Youth Ministries Coordinator

[abostwick@dioswva.org](mailto:abostwick@dioswva.org)

extension 121

## The Rev. Dr. Bob Copenhaver

Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Spouses, and Survivors

Retired Clergy Insurance Contact

[aypiper@aol.com](mailto:aypiper@aol.com)

540-556-8307

## The Rev. John Heck

Director of Phoebe Needles Center, Inc.

[johnheck@gmail.com](mailto:johnheck@gmail.com)

800-848-1677

## Vicki Dotten

Director of Grace House

[Grchse@aol.com](mailto:Grchse@aol.com)

276-395-6588

Fax: 276-395-6588

## The Rev. Becky Crites

Ecumenical and Inter-religious Officer

[beckett605@cox.net](mailto:beckett605@cox.net)

## Kate Garcia

Active Clergy and Lay Insurance Contact

Editor, ***Connections***

Bishop Marmion Resource Center Coordinator

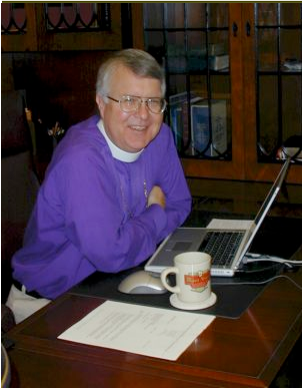
[kgarcia@dioswva.org](mailto:kgarcia@dioswva.org)

extension 111

M-F; 9—3:00

Please send BMRC requests to [bmrc@dioswva.org](mailto: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.***



## On the Road to Lambeth

*"... the worship will be glorious, the prayer meaningful, and the discussions from the heart. There will be endless opportunities to build bonds of affection in the Anglican Communion."*

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing this month's **Connections** letter from Bradford, England, where I am finishing the second of two pre-conferences in preparation for the Lambeth Conference.

The first pre-conference was hosted by the Diocese of Salisbury in the shadow of the stunningly beautiful Salisbury Cathedral. The Diocese of Salisbury has had a companion relationship with Sudan for 35 years, just a little longer than our diocese has. Almost all of the bishops of Sudan were present. Also present with me were the Rev. Dr. Ellen Hanckel, rector of Christ Church, Martinsville, and chair of our Companions for Mission Committee, and her husband, Scott Derks. The Rev. Dr. Rich Jones, a priest of this diocese, professor at Virginia Seminary, and president of AFRECS (American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan) gave one of the presentations. In Salisbury there were presentations and workshops along with ample opportunities for the casual conversations that are so important in building bonds of affection among Anglicans.

Dorothy and I took advantage of our time in Salisbury to worship at the Cathedral each morning and to tour Old Sarum, Stonehenge, and

Winchester Cathedral with a local couple on our one free day.

From Salisbury Dorothy and I traveled to the Diocese of Bradford with the four Sudanese bishops and their wives who are from dioceses in Northern Sudan. Southwestern Virginia's link with Sudan has always been a three-way link including the Diocese of Bradford. The most memorable event at this meeting was a large gathering for baptisms at the Whare River as it passes by Bolton Abbey. David James, Bishop of Bradford, baptized a number of candidates in the river and featured the faith journeys of two of the Sudanese bishops in his sermon. We all spent the next day in the Lake District, including a ride in a steamer on one of the lakes. I mention this event because it was the first time that the Sudanese had ever been on water.

The Lambeth Conference will begin for the bishops on Thursday, July 17, with a three-day retreat led by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Canterbury Cathedral. The Conference will open officially at a eucharist on Sunday morning, July 20, at Canterbury Cathedral.

You will read about controversy at the Lambeth Conference in the papers. You will see stories about Bishop Robinson. There will be talk about how the Anglican Communion is

breaking up. Controversy sells newspapers and attracts people to TV news shows, so you can expect these matters to be featured in the media. Remember that controversy has been a hallmark of the Lambeth Conference since the first one, 141 years ago. At that meeting only a bare majority of bishops attended because of concern that a central governing body was being created and that American bishops had been invited. (There was some doubt about whether the American bishops were valid bishops.)

My one concern is that the Archbishop will push too hard and too fast to finish work on his dream for an Anglican Covenant. If we are to have an Anglican Covenant to give shape to our common life, I believe the matter needs to be considered thoughtfully over many years of discussion and negotiation among the 38 autonomous provinces, with the participation of bishops, other clergy, and laity—both men and women.

Some parts of the Lambeth Conference will be difficult, particularly for the Americans. At the same time, the worship will be glorious, the prayer meaningful, and the discussions from the heart. There will be endless opportunities to build bonds of affection in the Anglican Communion. In the end, I have no doubt that God will still be in charge.

Please hold the Lambeth Conference in your prayers as you are in mine.

Grace and Peace,



## Taking Small Steps

*"...you will discern a plan that will take you forward..."*

*Alan Boyce  
Deputy for Administration*

matter where I find myself.

The wisdom that I captured from our conference leaders and from speaking with some of the clergy that have gone through the program successfully is almost too simple even to mention, but it was pretty profound for me. My hope is that this insight might connect dots for you as well.

The wisdom is to approach our goals by taking small steps--small steps that are achievable and doable. There will be setbacks. Others may lay some land mines along the way. But the main thing is to keep taking small steps toward our goals.

ABOVE ALL, it will most assuredly help if we invite God along on our journey. God Bless!

This is about small steps. I am beginning to see the wisdom of taking small steps rather than taking huge leaps. Two recent discoveries have helped me arrive on this path.

I ran across a quote that said in effect that I shouldn't try to do one thing 100% better.

Rather, I should strive to do 100 things 1% better. This connected dots for me, since I'm the type that has, in the past, tried to eat that proverbial elephant in one huge bite. It has always been somewhat of an all or nothing effort for me. However, this approach has never worked for me.

In late June, I attended a CREDO gathering. It was the 6th Lay Employee CREDO event. I understand it represented the 151st CREDO session.

Clergy have been taking advantage of this experience for many years now. If you are enrolled with the Church Pension Fund as a clergy or lay employee, you will eventually receive an invitation to attend. I encourage you to attend when the invitation is offered.

CREDO is a rather intense eight-day session. The fruit is that you will discern a plan that will take you forward when you leave your CREDO community.

My plan had three very clear goals. First--it should come as no surprise, given my recent health issues--I want to improve my health. Second, it clearly came to me that I need to simplify my life and get rid of a lot of crap--visible and invisible. Finally, I want to exercise my ministry confidently and joyfully, no



# 2008 Diocesan Events Calendar

The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

As of July 16, 2008

## August 5-6

### Bradford Bash Lock-In

St. John's Roanoke, 5 p.m.-11 a.m.

**This event is for:** 8th-12th graders

**Focus:** Curious about what it is like to be a teen in England? Celebrate the chance to meet teens from England and show off Southwestern Virginia flair.

**Cost:** \$15 includes dinner and breakfast,  
[dioswvayouth.wordpress.com](http://dioswvayouth.wordpress.com)

**Contact:** Aimee Bostwick, [abostwick@dioswva.org](mailto:abostwick@dioswva.org)

## August 6

### Diocese of Bradford Lunch & Learn

Evans House Diocesan Offices, noon-1 p.m.

**This event is for:** Everyone

**Focus:** Learn more about our teenage and adult friends in our companion diocese of Bradford, England. Bring a bag lunch.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Lynn Robertson, [Lrobertson@dioswva.org](mailto:Lrobertson@dioswva.org)

## August 16

### Stewardship Development Institute

Phoebe Needles Center, 9:30-4 p.m.

**This event is for:** Parish stewardship officers, Christian education leaders, clergy

**Focus:** A development day for parish stewardship leaders. This year's topic: "Building Households of Faith – Stewardship is a Family Affair." Learn how parishes can strengthen families by talking about money.

**Cost:** \$20 includes lunch and materials

**Contact:** Alan Boyce, [aboyce@dioswva.org](mailto:aboyce@dioswva.org)

## September 10

### Parish Secretaries & Administrators Luncheon

Evans House Diocesan Office, noon-2 p.m.

**This event is for:** Parish secretaries and administrators

**Focus:** An appreciation luncheon for the ministry of parish secretaries.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Lynn Robertson, [Lrobertson@dioswva.org](mailto:Lrobertson@dioswva.org)

## September 19

### Parish Webmaster Training Day

Evans House Diocesan Office, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**This event is for:** Parish webmasters

**Focus:** The diocese has negotiated the opportunity for parishes to host their church web sites at no additional cost to parishes. In order to utilize this benefit, parish webmasters must attend this training workshop. Space is limited but all those involved in parish web site maintenance are encouraged to attend. *A communications ministry of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.*

**Cost:** \$40 per parish

**Contact:** Christie Wills, [cwills@dioswva.org](mailto:cwills@dioswva.org)

## September 20

### Parish Staff Musicians Brunch

Evans House Diocesan Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**This event is for:** Parish staff musicians

**Focus:** An appreciation brunch for the ministry of parish music staff. The brunch will be followed by an optional planning session for Council 2009's music.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Lynn Robertson, [Lrobertson@dioswva.org](mailto:Lrobertson@dioswva.org)

## November 1

### Diocesan Art Day

St. John's, Roanoke

**This event is for:** Everyone

**Focus:** Whether you're a novice or a skilled artist, enjoy a day of community and reflection-centered art. Workshops to include digital photography and textile arts, among others.

**Cost:** \$20 includes lunch and materials

**Contact:** Christie Wills, [cwills@dioswva.org](mailto:cwills@dioswva.org)

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

540-342-6797

800-DIO-SWVA



## Mutual Ministry--Huh?

*"Mutual Ministry Valuation is an attempt to encourage/suggest/direct our parishes to be more effective in serving the Lord at this time in their particular place."*

—Gene Anderson  
Transitions and Development Officer

In our diocese we encourage parishes to undergo on a regular basis something called Mutual Ministry Valuation. Before talking about that, I need to talk about some church history.

It hasn't been too long ago that the minister of a parish was expected (actually, demanded) to be the person who 'did the ministry.' If someone called on the sick in hospitals, it was he [this is not sexist: at that time there were no "she" ministers in the Episcopal (and most others) Church]; if someone was going to take communion to the homebound, it was he; if someone was going to instruct on confirmation, it was he; if someone was going to choose the Sunday School curriculum, it was he; if someone was going to tell the vestry what they should do about a particular issue, it was he. And so forth.

And then, things changed, here and other places. When I was in seminary (this was in the early 60's), two groundbreaking books were published on 'Lay Ministry in the Church.' Their thrust was to point out – using documents from the first 5 centuries of the church – that one of the reasons for the enthusiasm and vitality of

the early church was the fact that most ministry was done by the laity. The role of the clergy was to educate, to celebrate at worship services, with much lay participation, and to be leaders.

By the Middle Ages (sometime between 800 and 1300 AD), laity were replaced as the people who did ministry. Doing ministry was the clergy's job. This model was NOT broken by the Reformation, although many Reformation writers suggested it should be.

Fast forward (a VHS tape term) to the late 20th Century and the increasing demand by people that authority be shared (e.g., baby boomers) and be accountable. Increasingly, lay members of the church have requested, pushed, demanded, and succeeded in being involved in all the decisions of the church (well--most of them have), almost based on an identification of what generation they were born in (keeping in mind we have 5 generations in the Church now, for the first time in history).

So all these changes have led many clergy (almost all of them ordained after late 1960's) to talk about shared, or "mutual" ministry. It is a realization that--in this person's opinion--about 85–90% of

the ministry done by any church is done by the laity.

As a result, the rector's role has slowly become that of a leader who assists, encourages, affirms, educates, and (sometimes) browbeats the laity to accept their responsibility to be Jesus' disciples in the world. (This role of rector may often irritate people no end, but that's another article.) This role change often happens because the rector realized he/she is NOT in the world very much, but works with and for people who ARE in the world. So in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, we encourage parishes (rector, vestry, and laity) to periodically undergo a **Mutual Ministry Valuation (MMV)** to attempt to examine the ministry of the laity and clergy in a particular place and to identify, clarify, and sometimes re-define what has been valuable about the recent ministry and what needs to be done to increase the ministry of all the members of the parish, rector included, to be more effective in the future.

MMV is an attempt to encourage/suggest/direct our parishes to be more effective in serving the Lord at this time in their particular place.

At least part of this change in direction, in my opinion, is because of the old adage, "If you keep doing what you've always been doing, you're gonna get what you've already got." It is also, in part, because the parish that is not looking at how effective its ministry is in its community will become irrelevant in its community (e.g., "the church as country club" syndrome). It is also, in part, because Jesus always took his disciples apart to

## Say A Prayer, Change the World

Morehouse Publishing, an imprint of Church Publishing Incorporated, has launched a campaign urging women to "say a prayer, change the world" by submitting prayers for possible inclusion in the upcoming publication, **Lifting Women's Voices: Ending Poverty through Prayer and Action**.

According to Morehouse, the book "will reveal how Anglican women worldwide are deeply connected by global issues, even across cultural and economic divides -- and affirm that nurturing our inner lives of prayer offers us the courage to care and advocate not just for ourselves, but for our sisters throughout the Anglican Communion."

Submissions are due September 15, and prayers should be emailed to [prayers@cpg.org](mailto:prayers@cpg.org).

Requests for electronic files that can be used as posters, flyers and postcards to promote the project should also be sent to [prayers@cpg.org](mailto:prayers@cpg.org).

Royalties from the sales of **Lifting Women's Voices** will benefit the International Anglican Women's Network and Episcopal Relief and Development. Publication is slated for May 2009.

--from [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)



("MMV--Huh?" continued from page 6)

discuss how they understood hisministry and how they were doing in carrying it out. It is also, in part, to encourage all parish members to live in the reality that their main purpose for existence is to bring other people to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ and to bring the Kingdom to reality in their own little community.

### Mutual Ministry Valuation.

Have your parish members been involved in doing one recently? Remember, "If you keep doing what you've always been doing, you're gonna get what you've already got."

Got new disciples lately?

*Gene R. Anderson*

Parishes interested in learning more about Mutual Ministry Valuation should contact The Rev. Gene Anderson at 1-800-DIO-SWVA or [ganderson@dioswva.org](mailto:ganderson@dioswva.org).

## Parish Transitions

--The Rev. Gene Anderson  
Diocesan Transitions and  
Development Officer

- † St. Thomas Church, Abingdon, is seeking a part-time Youth Coordinator.
- † Ascension, Amherst, has formed their search committee.
- † Emmanuel, Bristol, has called **The Rev. Dr. Mark Frazier** from DeWitt, New York, as their new rector starting July 13.
- † St. Mark's, Fincastle, has called **The Rev. Craig Dolack** from Savannah, Georgia, to be their new rector beginning August 15.
- † Christ, Pearisburg, is seeking a new priest.
- † Good Shepherd, Galax, has called **The Rev. Helen Beasley** to be their part-time rector beginning in July.

- † Christ Church, Marion, has called **The Rev. Dr. Chris Mason** as their part-time priest.
- † All Saint's, Norton, and St. Mark's, St. Paul, are in conversation with a candidate for the position of part-time rector.
- † The Grace Church, Radford, search committee is in conversation with rector candidates.
- † St. Paul's, Salem, has called **The Rev. R. Bradley Laycock** to be their Priest in Charge.
- † Trinity, Staunton, has called **The Rev. Dr. Paul Nancarrow** from St. Louis Park, MN, to be their new rector beginning September 1.
- † St. John's, Wytheville, has called **The Rev. Kent Tarpley** from Belfast, ME, to be their new rector, beginning July 27.

as of July 17, 2008



## "...That They All May Be One."

*Discovering the Gifts We Bring to One Another*

--The Rev. Becky Crites  
Diocesan Ecumenical and Inter-religious Officer

So far 2008 is quite a year for ecumenical relations. Recently the General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) approved the Interim Eucharistic Sharing agreement. And in June, the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved an agreement which moves our dialogues into a new realm of possibility. This is just one step in their process of adoption, as it will move to each of the 173 regional presbyteries for ratification. For us, our 76th General Convention will consider this agreement in July 2009. Stopping short of full communion and the interchange of clergy, it does allow Presbyterian and Episcopal clergy to perform ministerial functions in each other's congregations, "when requested and approved by the diocesan bishop and local presbytery."

This is an exciting development in our formal talks with PCUSA. Episcopal News Service noted the following parts of the agreement:

"The agreement says that the denominations acknowledge:

- ...one another's churches as churches belonging to

the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church."

- ...[that] in our churches the Word of God is authentically preached and the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist are duly administered."
- ...one another's ordained ministries as given by God and instruments of grace, and look forward to the time when the reconciliation of our churches makes possible the full interchangeability of ministers."
- ...personal and collegial oversight (*episcopate*) is embodied and exercised in our churches in a variety of forms, episcopal and non-episcopal, as a visible sign of the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, mission and ministry."

Further, the agreement also states that the two denominations will:

- continue to discuss the areas such as diaconal ministries, historic episcopate, the office of elder, etc., "that would lead to full reconciliation of our ministries and interchangeability of our ministers."
- encourage diocesan bishops and presbyteries "to provide regular occasion planning, discussing, resourcing for

missional, educational, and liturgical life together," and to explore possibilities for new church development and redevelopment together.

- develop a process to support and implement the above recommendations.

Please take some time and consider the above statements, as they are good food for thought. Notice especially the statement on ordained ministries. This will be a much longer discussion as there are great differences in the way each denomination expresses its lay and ordained ministry. As Bishop Epting, Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, reported to ENS when this agreement was announced, "During this dialogue the issue has always been about ministry and it's pretty clear we are both committed to our own versions of ordained ministry." But for the moment I lift up for you this hopeful new way of walking with our Presbyterian brethren and discovering the gifts each bring to the other.



For those who are interested in interfaith discussions, a recently released book may be a valuable resource for you. ***Interactive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook***, edited by Rev. Bud Heckman with Rori Picker Neiss, is a practical book on the interfaith movement. Mine is on order so I have not read it, but it comes highly recommended.



**The Center for  
Lifelong Learning  
at Phoebe Needles  
offers monthly seminars  
with lunch.**

**Upcoming Seminars:**

**August 12:**  
**"The Blue Ridge Parkway"**  
 Mindy DeCesar  
 District Ranger

**September 9:**  
**"Myths of An Aging Mind"**  
 Al Hagy, MD

**October 14**  
**"Connecting for Change"**  
 Jim Bier

**November 11**  
**"The Dead Sea Scrolls"**  
 Bill Lindsay

**December 9:**  
 To Be Announced

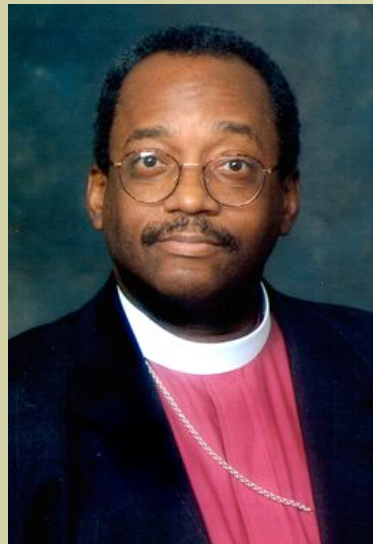
**Cost**  
**\$7 for members**  
**\$15 for non-members.**



**Advance reservations  
are requested.**

**To learn more, or to register,  
email [pncenter@gmail.com](mailto:pncenter@gmail.com)  
or call 540-483-1518.**

*Save the date and mark your calendar! Don't miss this opportunity!*



**The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry**  
*Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina*

**Tuesday, September 23, 2008  
7:00 PM**

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
1 Mountain Ave SW ~Roanoke, VA**

The Outreach Committee of St. John's, Roanoke, is pleased to present Bishop Curry as our speaker. He is a graduate of Hobart College and Yale University Divinity School. In his three parish ministries in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland, Bishop Curry has had extensive involvement in crises control ministry, founding of ecumenical

summer day camps for children, preaching missions, the Absalom Jones initiative, creation of networks of family day care providers, creation of educational centers, and the brokering of millions of dollars of investment in inner city neighborhoods. We are very fortunate to have the bright, entertaining, and much-sought-after Bishop Curry.

Join us in the Gathering area at St. John's, Roanoke, and be prepared to be inspired!

*Please keep diocesan volunteers in your prayers during*

**AUGUST**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Please pray today for Karen Moretz
4 Please pray today for Ruth Morrison	5 Please pray today for Bill Williamson	6 Please pray today for Avis Aheron	7 Please pray today for Scott and Ellen Aqner	8 Please pray today for Esther Williamson
11 Please pray today for John Hall	12 Please pray today for Suzan Anderson	13 Please pray today for Abby Welsh	14 Please pray today for Jackie Arthur	15 Please pray today for Holly Mills
18 Please pray today for Carey Harveycutter	19 Please pray today for Bob McClanahan	20 Please pray today for Judy McCartney	21 Please pray today for Jim Robertson	22 Please pray today for Pam Wiegandt
25 Please pray today for Elizabeth Nichols	26 Please pray today for Camille and Bill Senter	27 Please pray today for Frances Stebbins	28 Please pray today for Dorothy Powell	29 Please pray today for all volunteers, past and present

# Giving Thanks in Three Tenses

*Blessings come full circle for Pedlar Mills parish.*

From the minutes of the St. Luke's Auxiliary, November 1962, as recorded by Kitty Anderson, Acting Secretary:

The meeting was called to order by our President Mrs. G.T. Pleasants who asked Miss Phyllis Lea to give the devotions.

Mrs. George Rosser read a letter from Mrs. Ambrose Wilson (Treasurer, United Thank Offering) thanking us for our donation and telling us how these offerings are placed. She said in the last stage of its journey it may build hospitals, help students, open churches and schools or purchase land. Whatever its destination or use, its journey began because a woman was thankful and offered her prayers of thanksgiving.

At the next meeting, on December 12, 1962, Mrs. George Rosser presided in the absence of Mrs. Pleasants. The Auxiliary did not meet again until March 13, 1963, due to inclement weather in January and February. The March meeting opened with a memorial prayer for Mrs. Pleasants, given by Mrs. Anderson.

The minutes of a ladies auxiliary from forty-five years ago may seem like dry reading. True, the pages of the notebook are dry, but not yet brittle. The astute may see a potential story behind these few paragraphs--but there is more than one story behind these notes, and perhaps some that I have not yet discovered.



*St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Pedlar Mills*

Mrs. Pleasants had been in perfect attendance in 1962 until December. Perhaps she was under the weather a bit that month, which would not have been unusual for an older woman in early winter. Her absences in January and February of 1963 were unremarkable since there were no meetings due to the inclement weather. Reading that the March meeting opened with a memorial prayer for Mrs. Pleasants, I wondered if the cause of her absence in December had progressed into critical illness and then death?

Actually, this is *not* what happened.

On the evening of February 15, 1963, one of Amherst County's most historic homes, Haywood Plantation, burned to the ground. It was one of seventeen structures

featured on Amherst County's Jamestown Festival Tour in 1957, on the occasion of Virginia's 350th anniversary of English settlement. St. Luke's Episcopal Church had also been on the tour, as well as being one of the churches chosen for a community church service commemorating the anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Pleasants were not only members of St. Luke's, but very active participants, Mr. Pleasants being on the vestry and holder of the church records, and Mrs. Pleasants being president of the Women's Auxiliary. They also owned Haywood Plantation. Both died in the February 1963 fire. The church records also burned.

The loss of the Pleasants and the church records were considerable for this small church. Some remnants of church records have been located, among them the notebook of minutes for the Women's Auxiliary from which I have drawn the above noted minutes. Snippets of financial statements from the 1950s have also been gathered. Newspaper clippings had been saved by Miss Parr. Mr. Thomas Wallace, IV, has also gathered some records, and curated those accumulated since them. My work as director of the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society has provided me with easy access to many of the county's historical events, such as the Jamestown anniversaries and loss of county historic structures.

Why have I included the remarks about the United Thank Offering?

Today, in the summer of 2008, UTO has blessed St. Luke's with a return on these gifts offered by  
*"Giving Thanks" continued from page 10)*

the Women's Auxiliary of many years ago. A grant provided to us by UTO will enable the church to have a well and septic system. Future growth of the church will require having basic necessities

to offer to the congregants, and the church has struggled without these. With these necessities St. Luke's will be able to offer congregants and community a place of modest comfort to gather

and commune. A new beginning, a church reborn.

I look forward to apprising the diocese of future activities at St. Luke's, Pedlar Mills.

--Holly Mills  
St. Luke's, Pedlar Mills

## **Mountain Grace Expands: Ohio Parish To Host Multi-Diocese Conference on the Life and Witness of Episcopalians in Appalachia September 12-13 in Athens, Ohio**

Six dioceses are invited to this year's **Mountain Grace** conference on the life and witness of Episcopalians in Appalachia. Being Church/Being Appalachian is this year's theme, transcending the stereotype of the Episcopal Church as alien to Appalachian culture.

Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio, will host **Mountain Grace V** in the heart of a rural and coal-mining region where Christians are combining spirituality, environmental science, and innovative economics to move from poverty to abundance.

Launched as a one-day event by the Appalachian deaneries of Southern Ohio in 2004, Mountain Grace has grown into a vibrant annual gathering for Episcopalians from all over the Appalachian region. Participants are expected from Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio. This year an optional banquet on Friday night extends the fun, making Mountain Grace even more of a family reunion. Participants will also have the chance to see an exhibit of art quilts at Athens' famous Dairy Barn gallery.

"People come to have fellowship, do networking, and to gain ideas and inspiration from others doing ministry in rural and urban Appalachian settings," says conference organizer Mike Maloney, who serves as interim director of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries as well as the Appalachian consultant to the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

The conference includes workshops on sustainable community development, environmental advocacy, and Appalachian music. A workshop led by Paul Clever will explore local food networks as a case study of the spirituality and the practice of abundance.

Bishop Michie Klusmeyer of West Virginia and Southern Ohio's Suffragan Bishop Ken Price, a son of West Virginia, will team up to lead a workshop on fitting Episcopal worship and ministry to its Appalachian context. The closing Eucharist, with Bishop Klusmeyer preaching and Southern Ohio's Bishop Tom Breidenthal celebrating, will embody that theme of contextualizing ministry, graced with mountain music led by Charlie and Phelia Lewis, and altar hangings and stoles of Appalachian design.

The sponsors of Mountain Grace V are the Dioceses of Southern Ohio and West Virginia, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, Southern Ohio's Commission on Congregational Life, and the Episcopal Community Services Foundation. Write or call EAM's Mike Maloney at 513-531-8799 or [meamon@aol.com](mailto:meamon@aol.com) for a conference brochure and registration form, or register online at [www.episcopal-dso.org](http://www.episcopal-dso.org).

The fee for Saturday's events, meal and workshop is \$35. . The total cost for Friday banquet plus Saturday sessions is \$70, not including lodging. Scholarships are available for Saturday conference fees by request to the Episcopal Community Services Foundation (ECSF). Please contact Ariel Miller at [ecsfsouthernohio.org](http://ecsfsouthernohio.org) to enquire. Another source for conference scholarships is the Elledge Scholarship Fund at [www.visit-EAM.org](http://www.visit-EAM.org).



# Youth Ministries News and Updates

*"If you've got the summertime blues-- well, we've got a cure! "*

*-Aimee Bostwick  
Diocesan Youth Coordinator*

• **Sarah Bentley, Youth Mission Team member and graduated senior, was one of 13 youth to attend this year's Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) in San Antonio.** Early in the trip, Sarah shared some of her experiences:

*At 2:30 on a Monday afternoon ten youth and three adults from DIO SW VA (as we affectionately call our diocese) watched as a green and blue fifteen passenger van pulled into the Evans House parking lot. When the doors creaked open and five people climbed stifflegged from inside, I met a Monocan Indian for the first time. Introductions were made and our delegation of five adults, and thirteen youth set off for the International Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) in San Antonio, Texas. I had no idea what I was in for when I volunteered to pack into the van with our new Native American friends.*

*Sitting in the first row behind Sharon and Dean, two adults, I introduced myself and before I*



*Chris Acquafredda (St. Stephen's, Forest), Sarah Bentley (St. James, Roanoke), and Marsh Baker and Jacob Church (both of St. John's, Bedford)*

*knew it I was in deep conversation.... well, to be honest, I didn't do too much talking myself. Eager to see how different these Indians were from what I saw at the Explore Park, I was in for quite the shock. Sharon explained there are eight tribes of Native Americans in Virginia (which I can now name on command) and a cornucopia of other information that had me riveted.*

*This is all to say that by the time I arrived at EYE, after a two hour*

*drive to Greensboro, spending the night in a church there and two plane rides, the trip was already well worth while. A huge sign proclaiming "Deep in the heart.." greeted us in the San Antonio airport along with the Dioceses of Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia.*

*Once on the campus of Trinity University, where EYE is being held, we met youth, adults, priests, and bishops from nearly every state. At first intimidated, the enormity of the event became apparent when I arrived at the opening program along with over 1,600 other youth and looked across Laurie Auditorium at some 32,000 hands waving as we sang together. At that moment I felt the presence of God ripple through my being, throughout the room and in my life.*

*Love and peace from San Antonio. May the energy here ripple out to you, wherever you are!*

*--Sarah Bentley*



*Diocesan EYE participants brighten Texas landmarks*

- **Aimee and the EYE-ers returned in time to greet this year's Bradford guests, who arrived on July 18.** The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia has a companion diocese in Bradford, England, and an exchange between our youth has been going on for more than 30 years.

- **Six youth and two adults from the Diocese of Bradford will be joining DIO SWVA participants on a mission trip to New Orleans July 26 through August 3.** Work this year will continue the rebuilding process, including landscaping, painting, hanging drywall, and various other renovation projects. Participants not only have valuable skills in construction but are also willing to "work harder than you ever thought possible." Please keep the mission trip participants in your prayers!

- **It's a Bradford Bash on Tuesday, August 5th, 2008!** If you've got the summertime blues--well, we've got a cure! All youth going into 8th-12th grades are invited to attend this event. Join us for a lock-in with the Bradford youth. Music will be provided by Sam Hensley (our musician for SYE this year). It will be an evening of incredible worship, music, games, and building relationships with our friends from across the Big Pond.

Come become a part of the Bradford Youth Exchange story! The cost is \$15.00 and the deadline to register is Monday, August 4th.

## Youth Week at Kanuga



Alex Foster, Laura Hall, and Emily Heymann (all of Christ, Roanoke) were some of the youth participants during Youth Week at Kanuga. This year's theme for the Senior High youth revolved around the Olympics--The Fellowship of the Rings. Here the girls show off their DioSWVa garb.

Youth Leader Laura Harden (also of Christ, Roanoke) wrote:

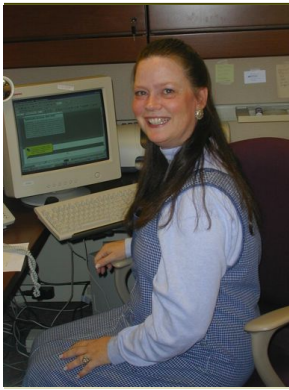
*"As a first-timer to Kanuga, I had no idea what to expect. I had only heard wonderful things about this place. The drive there was glorious--youth in my car were taking driving-down-the-road pictures of the beautiful mountains. We were welcomed and escorted to our cabin by smiling, familiar staff from DIO SWVA. The rest of the week was filled with great things. Adult workshops focused on youth groups, worship, sabbath, music, and FUN. The main ideas are to make youth group fun and exciting, and to get youth hooked. Then you can have serious on-topic discussions. Each conference had its own musician and the adults loved having Sam Hensley do music and workshops. We had a contra dance on Thursday, which was a new experience for many that everyone enjoyed. This was a great week to meet youth leaders and priests from all over the United States. It was also a time to learn, hike, swim, reflect, and talk with others on screened-in porches and on the rocking chair porch."*

The fun will begin at 5:00 pm at St. John's, Roanoke, and pick up will be at 11:00 am on Wednesday. Dinner will be provided on Tuesday evening.

What to bring: sleeping bag, pillow, sleeping pad, toiletries, change of clothes. Guys, please bring your favorite bag of chips to share. Girls, bring your favorite two-liter of soda. Thanks, everyone!

To register please fill out the registration form at <http://dioswvayouth.wordpress.com/> and return it to Aimee Bostwick. Call Aimee at 1-800-DIOSWVA if you have questions, or email her at [abostwick@dioswva.org](mailto:abostwick@dioswva.org).

- **Take advantage of a Lunch and Learn opportunity on Wednesday, August 6, from 12:00-1:00 PM at Evans House in Roanoke.** Fiona Beevers, of the Diocese of Bradford, will be sharing with us about the third leg of our companion dioceses--Sudan. She has traveled there with her fellow Bradfordites to see firsthand the work of DioSwVa and the Diocese of Bradford in Sudan. Come see her pictures and hear her stories!



## 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*

August is a good time to take a look at the spaces your parish uses for Christian formation activities in preparation for new beginnings in the fall.

**Episcopal Teacher**, the quarterly newsletter of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Seminary, suggests that while you may already have paper, markers, crayons, staplers, colored pencils, scissors, tape, glue, and glitter in your supply closet, summer's end is the perfect time to find specials on any of these items that need restocking. Pipe cleaners, craft foam, clay, paint and brushes, cotton balls, a hole punch, and newspaper (for messy projects) are good staples to have on hand as well.

Parishioners may be willing to donate useful items. Fabric, ribbon, and yarn brighten bulletin boards and costumes. Brown paper bags can become masks, baskets, palm leaves, and pinatas. A few artificial plants can help create a stage setting or--paired with comfy cushions--a cozy reading corner.

When you've assembled your materials, a sign-up sheet in the parish hall offers folk of all ages and abilities the chance to be involved in refurbishing Sunday school classrooms and nurseries--from washing classroom curtains to sorting through the magic markers to see which ones still work. If you've got a helper in mind, give him or her a call and issue an invitation!

Begin your work party with a prayer. Consider sharing a simple meal together while you discuss what the group hopes to achieve in these areas of the building. Individual rooms will be decorated by the teachers and young folk who use them, but your team can make these spaces more welcoming and usable. What needs repainting, recycling, repairing, or replacing? Does each classroom have needed supplies, conveniently organized? Are there connecting halls in which murals or bulletin boards might reflect a theme for the area? Are nurseries, classrooms, and bathrooms clearly marked? And, as one young friend remarked, "Do the baby dolls have clothes?"

As your day winds down, ask participants to "sweep" these rooms one more time--this time, with a glance. Stop to recognize what's been accomplished *by* your parish family *for* your parish family. End the day with thanksgiving for the workers, as well as for the children and young people who will be nurtured there, bringing in turn their gifts and ministries to the parish.

When you're ready to plan classroom activities, drop into the BMRC to check out craft, song, skit, and story books, as well as to review curricula. We're here to serve, in the BMRC and throughout Evans House.

### **A Prayer For Cleaning**

*Thank you, Lord,  
for cleaning supplies--  
Brooms and mops,  
Soap and water,  
Buckets and sponges and cloths.*

*Thank you for our daily need  
to clean things,  
Reminding us that only you  
Can cleanse our hearts  
or our world.*

*Yet our lives can help you  
clean things.*

*Use us as you choose,  
For cleaning toilets or cultures,  
Houses or hearts.*

*Then keep us in the corner  
of your house,  
Beautified and sanctified  
By the one who made us and  
who uses us.*

*Amen*



*Photo and text © James L. Swindle.  
Used by permission.*

### **Praise God with Paper Bags,**

by Anita Reith  
Stohs, is an excellent resource of reproducible craft ideas with specific Bible lesson connections. Use



donated brown paper bags to create everything from angels and banners to wind socks and wreaths.

Find it in the BMRC!



# Charter Chat

## Children's Worship Service A Success!

*Sunday, May 4, was a day for the kids and by the kids at Emmanuel, Staunton's, Sunday morning worship service.*



The Children's Worship Service evolved from an interest in reviving an old Emmanuel tradition of "Youth Sunday" and combining it with the ancient celebration of Rogation Sunday, when the church has traditionally offered prayer for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labors of humankind. More than thirty of Emmanuel's children worked for weeks to prepare this special service.

The children of Emmanuel took a lead role in the celebration of Rogation Sunday, which is the traditional day for asking God's blessings at the end of Easter season. In addition to ushering and carrying forward the elements, children led the procession,

performed songs, and put on a play with the theme that there are many people who deserve thanks for the food we eat--parents, grocers, bakers, millers, and farmers--as does God, for providing the sun and rain without which no life would be possible.

After the service, the congregation enjoyed a fine sunny day for cookies and lemonade on the lawn outside. Thanks to Gena Adams, Mary Evans Lott, and Musical Director Sarah Grove-Humphries for coordinating this memorable event.

*--from the Emmanuel Messenger, Volume 1, Issue 4, and <http://home.mindspring.com/~emmanuelstaunton/>*

## What Can We Do in the Summer?



*Summer is a time for taking imaginary and realistic journeys as near as the next room--or as far away as Palestine, where children will need passports and airline tickets, sandals, robes and headdresses made from muslin or old sheets. Explore other lands by tasting ethnic foods and singing ethnic songs, viewing scenic slides, simulating a "dig," and making scrolls. Travel to the River Jordan to meet John the Baptist, to the Sea of Galilee to follow the fishermen as they follow Jesus, to trek across the desert with Abraham or through Egypt and the wilderness with Moses, travel to Greece by boat with Paul, or to other nearby lands to establish churches or become missionaries, going wherever the gospel takes you.*

*Try a trip to the sanctuary. Name the objects, such as pulpit, pew, lectern, altar, organ, baptismal font, and cross. Look at the stained glass windows or other objects of beauty. Visit the outside of the church to view the features of the building that say "I am the church."*

*Visit the church-at-work. Observing people who work at church ushering, singing in the choir, praying in groups, typing, teaching, or cleaning will help children understand the concept, "The church is people." A planned visit to the priest's office could be an opportunity to hear a story and ask questions.*

*--from **What Can We Do in the Summer**, by Elaine M. Ward*

*Find it in the BMRC!*

- **Active and retired clergy and spouses are encouraged to attend the Planning for Tomorrow/Enriching Your Retirement conference at Hotel Roanoke on October 24-25.**

Visit [www.cpg.org/productservices/conferences.cfm](http://www.cpg.org/productservices/conferences.cfm) for more information. The site also has links for questions like "why attend?" "cost," etc. Invitations will be sent directly from Church Pension Fund 8 weeks before the event. Stokes Liles is the Church Pension Fund contact. He can be reached for questions/comments at (800) 223-6602, weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern), ext. 6278.

- **St. John's, Roanoke, invites all who are interested to the 2008 Dodson Distinguished Speaker Program, on Monday, October 27.** At noon there will be a local pastor's luncheon for Episcopal priests. That evening everyone is invited for a dinner and lecture at St. John's. This year's speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Dan Matthews, rector emeritus of Trinity-Wall Street in Lower Manhattan.

- **Westminster Canterbury is opening a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Program in Lynchburg.** The program is being offered in cooperation with Goodwin House, Alexandria, Virginia. Applications are being accepted for one intern position during 2009.

## Building Households of Faith Stewardship is a Family Affair



Saturday, August 16, 2008  
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Phoebe Needles Center  
Callaway

How can parishes strengthen families by talking about money?

- Additional workshops to include:
- Stewardship ideas that work
  - Legacy stewardship

This event is for all parish stewardship chairs, Christian educators, and clergy. Mail in your \$20 registration (includes lunch) by August 8 to Evans House, Diocese of SW VA, P.O. Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009

CPE seminars will take place from January 8 through April 16. The Goodwin House Winter CPE Extended Unit seminar day will be Thursdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Eighteen additional hours of ministry per week are required. The Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg CPE Chaplain Intern will serve those 18 hours of ministry at Westminster Canterbury, Lynchburg.

The tuition for the unit is \$650 and there is an application fee of \$35. To be considered, complete the ACPE application found on the ACPE webpage ([www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)) under forms. Return the completed application to The Rev. Dan Duggan, Director of CPE, Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 Jefferson St., Falls Church, VA 22041 or email the materials to

[dduggan@goodwinhouse.org](mailto:dduggan@goodwinhouse.org).

If you email the materials, send the \$35 application fee made out to the Goodwin House CPE Program to the address above for Rev. Dan Duggan.

For more information, contact The Rev. Karen Kelly at Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg, 501 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503. Call her at 434-386-3303 (office) or 434-221-4860 (cell). If you know of anyone who is required to participate in a CPE program or who is interested in brushing up on chaplaincy skills in a senior residential community, this is an ideal opportunity.



• **The Diocesan Directory is now posted on BaseCamp.**

Parish Secretaries, Administrators, Wardens, Treasurers, and Clergy--you are particularly asked to log in and look over the sections about which you have knowledge. Feel free to make corrections by clicking the "Edit this page" button at the top of the page and then typing in the new information. The idea is to have a correct, up-to-date directory always available, while also conserving paper. If you don't want to make corrections yourself, email them to Lynn Robertson at [Lrobertson@dioswva.org](mailto:Lrobertson@dioswva.org).

**Safeguarding God's Children:**

We now have 29 (!) people certified as trainers. Consult the list in the "Healthy and Wholesome Youth Ministries" section of the **Directory: Diocesan Committees and Boards** Writeboard here on BaseCamp. Contact one of these folks to arrange for training for your parish staff, youth leaders, Vacation Bible School teachers, Sunday School teachers, etc.

• **Lynn's Weekly Update is now being posted on BaseCamp rather than emailed--another great reason to log in regularly!**

Watch for it on Wednesdays, and email Kate Garcia at [kgarcia@dioswva.org](mailto:kgarcia@dioswva.org) if you need help logging in.

• **Looking for the Bishops' Lambeth Blog?**

Here's where to find it: [episcopalchurch.typepad.com/lambethjournal](http://episcopalchurch.typepad.com/lambethjournal) . Bishop Powell was chosen to be one of the eight "blogging bishops!"

• **If those free calendars for next year are beginning to arrive in your mailbox, please send them to The Seamen's Church**

**Institute, 241 Water Street, New York, NY 10038.** Visit the Institute's website [www.sci@seamenschurch.org](http://www.sci@seamenschurch.org) to learn more about the many areas, such as Ministry on the River and Seafarers' Rights, in which this organization is involved.

• **The Rev. Roger Bowen, a retired Episcopal priest canonically resident in the Diocese of Texas but currently living in Staunton, is looking for gently used violins or other instruments (trumpets, clarinets, etc.) to take to Haiti, where he works with Episcopal schools.**

He writes:

*At a Haitian priest's request, U.S Episcopal schools' student musicians and teachers are assisting the birth of an orchestra in Haiti's rural, central plateau. Do you have a child who once practiced an instrument, but that violin or horn is in a closet or the attic now? If you bring it to your parish office, your priest could get it to the diocesan offices and I will gladly retrieve any donations. You'll make that instrument happy...not to mention a Haitian child who wants to learn.*

Email Rev. Bowen about musical gifts at [proger.bowen@gmail.com](mailto:proger.bowen@gmail.com).

• **Anthony Santoro, a Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies at the University of Heidelberg, is interested in learning what individual parishes and parishioners are saying about the death penalty in Virginia.**

The focus of his doctoral research is the question of "community" as it arises in religious discourse on this issue.

He writes:

*I would like to put together a statewide Bible study/parish discussion survey, so that I can attend and perhaps participate in topical studies/discussions considering either capital punishment specifically from the church's perspective, or crime and punishment/issues of justice more generally.*

*Any pastors that are unable to host a study/discussion but would consider permitting me to obtain copies of relevant church publications, such as sermons/homilies, bulletin inserts/newsletters or other material that concerns issues of crime and punishment, justice, the role of the church in society, or the nature of and proper Christian response to transgression from the perspective of your faith tradition, please feel free to contact me.*

*I should probably state upfront that I personally am an abolitionist, and have worked against the death penalty in Virginia, including with Jack Payden-Travers on a number of occasions. The purpose of my project is not activism or advocacy, however; rather, it is research, and I am committed to taking as neutral and objective a position as possible.*

*I would be sincerely grateful for any assistance that can be provided. I can be reached via email ([ams2fx@gmail.com](mailto:ams2fx@gmail.com)) or on my cell (757-338-5755).*

## 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](http://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 Jennipher Lucado in celebration of Nathan Thomas Lucado's second birthday

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

☐ October 8: Charles and Frances Stebbins; in honor of their granddaughter, Kellie E. Bordelon's 19th birthday

☐ 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.



## Financial Commitment Programs That Work

This month we look at financial commitment programs. It is very

helpful to select the one you plan to use four to six months before you plan to use it. This lessens the anxiety level for the stewardship committee and lets you plan formation activities that support this work in the months leading up to it. It gives you time to be creative, well-organized, and even have fun doing it. The following outline provides some basic essentials to help you choose.

### Goals to be Achieved by a Commitment Program

--Provide a conversion opportunity. This will most likely involve a confrontation with or comparison of the messages of the culture versus the invitations from the Kingdom of God. This is the most important goal.

--Provide a "round trip" for the commitment device. In other words, deliver a commitment device (pledge card) to members of the congregation and get it back to church leadership.

--Provide an estimate of income that enables church leadership to plan activities for the coming year.

### Methods that Work Well

--Every Member Canvass: Canvassers call upon prospective givers/pledgers, talk about the

mission and work of the congregation, its role in the lives of those being visited, the canvasser's own witness, and invite a financial commitment. Twenty years ago this was the most effective method. Today it is less so, but still a powerful strategy. Training for canvassers required.

--Stewardship Banquet, Festive Meal, or Deuteronomy Feast: Whatever you call it, it is a meal for the congregation complete with special activities for the children, an engaging speaker, time for witness to the value of the mission and ministry of the congregation in the lives of members and the community, and an invitation to give as God is calling us to give. Training for table hosts required.

--Cottage Meetings: These small group meetings in members' homes provide opportunities for conversations about the work God is calling the congregation to do. They are an excellent idea for congregations engaged in vision/mission review and future planning. They can be disastrous for congregations experiencing conflict. Training for hosts and discussion leaders required.

--Personal Notes: Think of it as an every member canvass on personal stationery. These are personal notes, written by members of the congregation to other members, not to be confused with the letter composed by the rector or senior warden mail merged through the computer (or, even worse, copied on the copier) and sent to everyone. Letter writers tell why they give and ask others to respond to their own call

from God. Training for letter writers is critical.

### Best Kept Secret to Commitment Program Success

Worker Training Includes:

--Opportunity to Engage the Gospel - a specific type of Bible study

--Opportunity for workers to examine their own reasons for giving to God

--Opportunity to reflect on what it is that God would have them do

--A challenge to do what it is God would have them do

--Opportunity to make their commitment first

### Other Secrets to Success

--Design commitment programs that further the vision, mission, and plan for your congregation.

--Use a different commitment program every year.

--Teach something new every year.

--Write a new stewardship prayer EVERY YEAR.

--The best materials are those that your congregation invents for itself. This includes the commitment device (pledge card).

--When recruiting a committee, recruit skills, not just people you think will say "yes."

--from [www.episcopalchurch.org/stewardship](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/stewardship)

**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 July 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](mailto: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/
Abingdon, St. Thomas	yes	yes	yes		
Altavista, St. Peter's	yes	yes	yes		
Amherst, Ascension	yes	yes	yes		
Amherst, St. Paul's	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Arrington, Trinity	yes	yes	yes		
Bedford, St. John's	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		
Bristol, Emmanuel	yes	yes	yes		
Buchanan, Trinity	yes	yes	yes		
Buena Vista, Christ	yes	yes	yes		
Callaway, St. Peter's	yes		yes		

Parish	2008 Parish Officers Report Due 2/01/08	2007 Parochial Report Due 3/1/08
Christiansburg, St. Thomas	yes	p.1 inc.
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 S	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	
Lynchburg, St. John's	yes	yes
Lynchburg, St. Paul's	yes	yes
Lynchburg, Trinity	yes	pp. 1 & 2 inc.
Marion, Christ	yes	yes
Martinsville, Christ	yes	
Martinsville, St. Paul's		
Massies Mill, Grace		p. 1 inc.



## Clergy Supply

The following clergy have indicated availability for supply work in our diocese. Please contact [kgarcia@dioswva.org](mailto:kgarcia@dioswva.org) with changes.

Additions and changes are italicized.

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

Beauchamp, Robert  
444 Apricot Lane  
Galax 24333  
(276) 237-0638

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

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

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

Furgerson, John  
11 Whitmore 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  
20 Frontier Ridge Ct., Apt. 4205  
Staunton 24401  
540-886-0933

Please note:

Clergy Supply Rates: The diocesan standard for Sunday Supply as Guest Celebrant and/or Guest Preaching is \$125 for one service; \$175 for two services; \$225 for three services. The diocesan standard for Assisting is \$75 for one service; \$125 for two services, \$175 for three services. The diocesan standard for Guest Retired Bishops confirming is \$150. **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](mailto: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 Wytheville, St. John's  
28 St. John's, Lynchburg

### **October 2008**

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

### **November 2008**

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

### **December 2008**

07 Emmanuel, Staunton  
14 St. Barnabas, Lynchburg, & Trinity, Lynchburg  
21  
28 Christmas

### **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**

### **August**

03—09 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training, Emmanuel, Bristol

5-6: Bradford Bash Lock-In; St. John's Roanoke, 5 p.m.-11 a.m.

6 Diocese of Bradford Lunch & Learn; Evans House Diocesan Offices, noon-1 p.m.

16 Stewardship Development Institute; Phoebe Needles Center, 9:30-4 p.m.

### **September**

10; Parish Secretaries Luncheon; Evans House Diocesan Office, noon-2 p.m.

20 Parish Staff Musicians Brunch; Evans House Diocesan Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Mark your calendar for FALL MISSION DAYS**

**Oct 5-Lynchburg Convocation-**  
St. Paul's, Lynchburg, 2:30 pm

**Oct 12-Roanoke Convocation-**  
Trinity, Moneta, 2:30 pm

**Oct 19-Abingdon Convocation- St.**  
Thomas, Abingdon, 2:30

**Oct 26-New River Convocation-**  
Christ, Blacksburg, 3:00 pm

**Nov 2-Augusta Convocation-**  
Emmanuel, Covington, 3:00 pm

Fall Mission Day materials will be emailed to clergy delegates, lay delegates, and alternates in advance of the meeting so that they may become familiar with these in advance. Printed copies will be available at the meeting.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA  
Connections  
P. O. Box 2279  
Roanoke, VA 24009

NON PROFIT  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
Episcopal Diocese of  
Southwestern Virginia

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

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



St. Dominic, the founder of the Friars Preachers was born of a Castilian family, and his early years were uneventful. When he was about twenty-six he became one of the canons regular who formed the cathedral chapter at Osma; in 1206 the turning-point of his life came, when his bishop, Diego, became unofficial leader of a papal mission to the heretical Albigenses, who were firmly established in Languedoc. The bishop chose Dominic as his companion; they lived simply and in poverty, and undertook discussions for which they prepared very carefully. These methods contrasted with the formality and display of the

official missionaries, and a house of nuns founded at Prouille became the center of the new preachers. Despite the death of Bishop Diego and the tumult of civil war in the area, Dominic and his few followers persevered in their mission of converting the Albigenses by persuasion addressed to the heart and mind.

In 1215 Dominic was able to establish his headquarters in Toulouse, and the idea of an order of preachers began to take shape: a body of highly trained priests on a monastic basis, bound by vows with emphasis on poverty, but devoted to the active work of preaching and teaching anywhere and everywhere. The enterprise was formally approved at Rome in 1216. Dominic travelled tirelessly to superintend the nascent order, preaching as he went.

All the evidence goes to show that St. Dominic was a man of remarkable attractiveness of character and broadness of vision; he had the deepest compassion for every sort of human suffering; he saw the need to use all the resources of human learning in the service of Christ; his constant reading was St. Matthew's gospel, St. Paul's letters and the Conferences of St. John Cassian. The order that he founded was a formative factor in the religious and intellectual life of later medieval Europe; its diffusion is now world-wide. His emblems are a star and a dog with a torch in its mouth.

--Donald Attwater, *The Penguin Dictionary of Saints*, Penguin Books, 1963.

O God of the prophets,  
you opened the eyes of your  
servant Dominic to perceive  
a famine of hearing the word  
of the Lord, and moved him,  
and those he drew about him,  
to satisfy that hunger with sound  
preaching and fervent devotion:  
Make your church, dear Lord,  
in this and every age, attentive  
to the hungers of the world,  
and quick to respond in love to  
those who are perishing;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Dominic, Priest and Friar  
August 8

—From *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*