

Connections

linking diocesan leaders

Vol. 08, issue 10
October 2008

Around the Diocese

• Legacy Society Members Should Mark Their Calendars!

January 22, 2009, is the date of the next dinner hosted by Bishop Powell to honor members of the Legacy Society of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. The keynote speaker will be the Very Rev. Ian Markham, Dean and President, The Virginia Theological Seminary.

Invitations will be mailed out later, but mark your calendars now. If you are interested in learning more about the Legacy Society and/or becoming a member, please contact Planned Giving Coordinator Bill Lindsay at blindsay@dioswva.org.

• **Dial 211 For Any Problem:** If you or someone you know has a serious problem--one that is not life-threatening requiring a call to 911--the number to call is 211. Victims of domestic violence, those looking for affordable healthcare or a support group for drug addiction, persons with financial problems, or just someone who would like to be a volunteer in the community are typical of the calls handled daily (and nightly) by the professional staff that answers.

211 Virginia is an all-purpose helpline staffed by trained call specialists 24/7/365. They have access to one of the largest data bases of health and human services in Virginia. The calls they receive deal with the whole spectrum of human needs, and they offer referrals to the many agencies and organizations that can provide the assistance needed. Their services are always free.

Following major disasters, the 211 specialists provide information on community response, access to disaster support services, and assistance in contacting family members in another state.

211 Virginia is a nonprofit organization and part of the Council of Community Services. For complete information, visit their website: www.211virginia.org.

DATES AND UPDATES

Looking Ahead in October

5-Lynchburg Convocation
St. Paul's, Lynchburg,
2:30-4:30 PM

12-Roanoke Convocation,
Trinity, Moneta, 2:30-4:30 PM

16 Fall Clergy Day

17 Mass on the Mountain, Bear
Mountain

19-Abingdon Convocation, St. Thomas,
Abingdon, 2:30-4:30 PM

23 Province III Council Meeting,
Martinsburg, WVA

24--25 Planning for Tomorrow
Conference, Hotel Roanoke

26 Twelfth anniversary of Bishop
Powell's consecration

26-New River Convocation, Christ,
Blacksburg, 3:00-5:00 PM

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

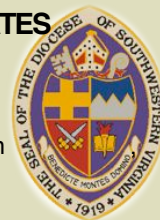
Oct. 8, 22

Nov. 12, 24

Dec. 9, 19

**"The feeling remains that God is
on the journey, too."**

~Teresa of Avila



DIRECTORY OF THE OFFICES OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

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FAX 540-343-9114 ~ www.dioswva.org

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

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Bishop

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Bishop Powell's sabbath is Monday.

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M-F; 8-4

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M-F; 12:30-5

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Editor, ***Connections***

Bishop Marmion Resource Center Coordinator

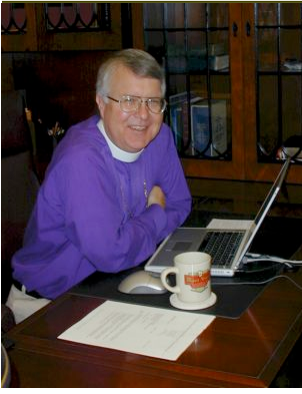
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extension 111

M-F; 9—3:00

Please send BMRC requests to bmrc@dioswva.org

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



How Does Your Parish Grow?

"Just as no one size leads to growth, neither does one program or approach automatically lead to growth. And if you are living in a community with a steady decline in population, just staying even is heroic. "

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the season of the year when there is renewed excitement and energy in our congregations, making now a good time to think about church growth. I know that numbers aren't everything, but some growth in numbers is encouraging. Growth shows evidence of carrying out the promise we make at baptism and confirmation to "proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ."

The September 14 issue of *The Living Church* has an article on church growth. A good number of churches from throughout the Episcopal Church are covered, including four of our own congregations: Christ Church, Big Stone Gap; Christ Church, Pulaski; Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta; and St. John's, Lynchburg. Although these four are not the only growing churches we have in the diocese, I was pleased that these four represent a cross section of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia—two of our smaller churches, one of our ecumenical churches, and one of our largest churches, reminding us that no one size automatically leads to growth.

I asked the rectors of these parishes if they would share what they think has helped lead to growth. Here are some highlights from their responses:

Michael Sullivan said, "The people of St. John's have re-envisioned what ministry means by focusing on Christ's hospitality. As a resource size parish, it's easy for anyone to get lost in the shuffle so we've created multiple small group opportunities. We've also invested mightily in our web site and communications to make sure we clearly communicate."

Gary Scheidt was quoted in *The Living Church* when talking about being three separate denominations in one congregation saying, "The truth is we do everything together. And that gives us strength."

Vickie Houk reported that they are experiencing growth from people returning to the Pulaski area after being gone for some number of years as well as from people retiring to the Pulaski area. They are also attracting folks who are working at Virginia Tech or Radford University and find Pulaski affordable and quiet.

She concluded by saying, "About ten years ago we stopped concerning ourselves about things a larger church can provide...and rejoice and celebrate who we are."

Just as no one size leads to growth, neither does one program or approach automatically lead to growth. And if you are living in a community with a steady decline in population, just staying even is heroic.

Finally, as Gary Scheidt also noted, nothing beats word-of-mouth enthusiasm.

For more details and more insights, call these clergy and talk to them. Or you might want to share ideas among your neighboring churches. Together we can continue to serve our communities and the world in the name of the risen Christ.

Grace and Peace,



Stewardship, Storms and Happy Endings

"Ponder this...what ministries might be possible for 2009 based upon Resolution #9?"

*-Alan Boyce
Deputy for Administration*

"It was a dark and stormy night." What a great line! What an opener for a story! The Good News thankfully is that we do know by our faith that the sun will come out as well. Many a time hiking on the Appalachian Trail for many weeks in a row, I have witnessed the sun and the rain clouds in a mighty and cosmic battle over who would rule the hour and the day. Despite the rain, I knew that the sun would come out. Enjoy the sun, I would say to myself, because I knew eventually that it was going to rain. (Read on to discover what the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" song and our new diocesan Delegate Participation Cycle have in common when we sing and participate within Resolution #9 of the 88th annual Council).

As I write this, the economic news is sounding rather bleak. Great storm clouds are gathering. The smiley faced VIPs you see on television every day that get to ring the closing bell on Wall Street no longer have that happy expression from a

good stirred, but not shaken, martini. Rather they have that same look of the deer in the headlights that I witness on my many travels to and from the Phoebe Needles Center. The paid television pundits are clearing their throats and offering up all sorts of pundatious (my word) and well lobbed and lobbied opinions about what is happening. At least one Executive Board member cautioned us three times in one recent meeting to "be careful, things are looking bleak." I look up often to see if the sky really is falling.

"A budget is a plan for the allocation of financial commitments to mission and ministry," says Terry Parsons. She has come to visit us three times in as many years to coach and coax the people of this diocese about the abundance that is among us. As the direct result of former funding shortfalls in our diocese, we all collectively recognized that we had a thing or two to learn about stewardship. Thus, we held our

second Annual Stewardship Development Institute at the Phoebe Needles Center this past August 16. Thirteen of our parishes sent representatives to this diocesan offering.

The thing I like best about Terry Parsons is her courage and her passionate conviction that good ministry is to be supported. She is fearless when she challenges us to seek the higher road of recognizing and achieving abundance rather than the low and scary road of giving into and settling for scarcity.

This spring (and last spring as well), delegates to diocesan Council received a lot of specific information about the mission and ministries of our diocese. This year in particular we heard more from those that receive grants from the Program Grants Committee (because that is what you asked for last spring). Last year, we heard more from our Youth Ministries, our Bishop Marmion Resource Center, the Phoebe Needles Camp and Conference Center, Grace House on the Mountain, and our Higher Education Ministries.

Our new Delegate Participation Process Cycle provides us with a much higher level of information sharing about mission and ministry in the diocese. Delegates are elected earlier so that they may learn about diocesan mission and ministry in the spring, fall, and January

Convocation meetings leading up to annual Diocesan Council January 23-25, 2009. This cycle is spun so that we may ALL learn and share our personal interest in collective mission and ministry. The cycle is spinning understanding forward from generation to generation.

And.....here we are in the place in the cycle where it is time to actually receive financial commitments to our diocesan budget. Parish financial commitments to these and other diocesan ministries are due no later than December 15.

We have a guide to help us with the amount of our financial commitment. The 88th annual Council of the Diocese passed Resolution 9, suggesting minimum levels of giving for parishes. Based upon a parish's budget size, the suggested level of giving to the diocese is set at 10.00%, 12.00% or 14.00%.

A tremendous amount of time and effort was spent on the development of this resolution (the better part of a year in the making). An earlier version of the resolution called for the appropriate percentage to be applied to a SINGLE year of parochial report data. Wise leaders suggested that the appropriate percentage be applied to an average of THREE years of parochial report data in order to smooth out the bumps in the road that parishes and

the diocese might feel in these changing times. Right now, things feel bumpy. I'm glad we chose to average out those numbers.

Page 9 of the fall convocation booklet makes reference to the 2009 ministry requests of our diocesan ministries. There is a supplemental booklet, entitled "2009 Ministry Requests," that has already been prepared for and received by the Executive Board. I note with great excitement that we have a new budget item for 2009. We now have the opportunity to walk the talk that we began several years ago. We have a \$20,000 funding request for Young Adult Ministries. The Ministry Requests booklet will also be available online at www.dioswva.org.

Additionally, surveyors of the budget details might want to note that 2009's health insurance rates will increase 9.00% over 2008's rates, and the Personnel Committee of the Executive Board has just recommended, and the Executive Board approved, a 4.50% cost of living increase advisory for the staff in the diocesan budget and as an advisory to our parishes in their budget deliberations.

Ponder this. Pledges to the 2008 diocesan budget total \$857,428. What might be possible for 2009 based upon Resolution #9? Doing the math from the past historical data years of 2004,

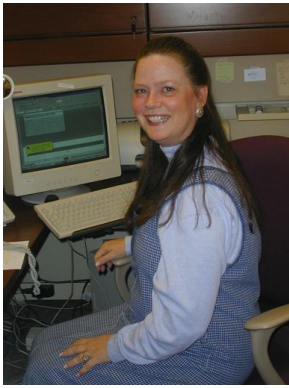
2005, and 2006, we could anticipate pledges that would total \$941,150.

Now it is your turn as leaders of our diocese. The cycle calls for your parish to make a financial commitment to the mission and ministry of the diocese. Please go back to your vestry and prayerfully consider how God is calling your parish to support our diocesan life.

With that information in hand, the Executive Board will exercise its leadership and prepare a plan for the allocation of your financial commitments at the January 3, 2009, meeting. The resulting proposed budget, both detail and summary, will be distributed to delegates for preliminary discussion at January convocation meetings, prior to the 90th annual Council to be held January 23-25, 2009.

Terry Parsons would challenge us to "rebuke scarcity and embrace abundance." Thus, despite this "dark and stormy night," the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and the Delegate Participation Cycle lived happily ever after....





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

I'm beginning to realize that all my various "hats" as a diocesan staff member involve resources in some way. This month, and probably next month too, one of the resources most on my mind is insurance coverage. That's because Open Enrollment for medical insurance is cycling around in November.

If you are a member of a parish with a clergy person working full-time, that clergy person receives medical insurance benefits through the Church Pension Group (CPG), under the umbrella of an organization called the Church Medical Trust. Currently in our diocese, clergy are offered their choice of four medical plans, which include vision, behavioral health, and prescription coverage.

Paid parish employees who work twenty hours a week or more are eligible for the same coverage as clergy, whether parishes offer to pay for all, some, or none of the cost. Further, it is Church Pension Group's policy that when the clergy person *is* covered through CPG and when coverage *is* offered as a benefit to parish lay employees, lay coverage must be offered through CPG.

That's a complicated sentence. It brings up lots of questions What if our clergy is part-time? What if our lay employees have coverage through a spouse or military benefits? What if we don't offer insurance as a benefit to lay employees?

The answer to all of those is that while your parish is not bound by the CPG policy, the lay employees are still eligible for the benefit at their own cost. During Open Enrollment, lay employees can be added without extensive paperwork or qualifying doctor visits. Each employee may choose any one of the four plans offered--it doesn't have to be a group decision.

Because there's no database of lay employees, CPG and I rely on those of you reading this to be sure that parish staff realize that they have this option. Folk who are currently enrolled will be contacted directly about their Open Enrollment options, but those who are not will need to learn about it from you. This may be a way for someone who is struggling with a need for insurance to meet that need, so help them to get in touch with me at Evans House.

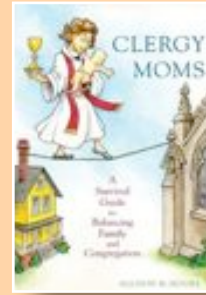
The coverage is sound, and the cost of the four plans for 2009 has been posted on BaseCamp. If you're a treasurer or a vestry member, that information may be useful to you as you begin planning your budget for the upcoming year.

Whatever your role, if you have any questions, please let me know!

We're here to serve, in the BMRC and throughout Evans House.

Kate

New in the BMRC

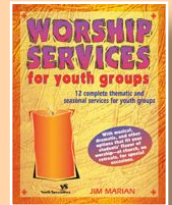


Clergy Moms: A Survival Guide to Balancing Family and Congregations

Allison Moore uses accounts of experiences gathered

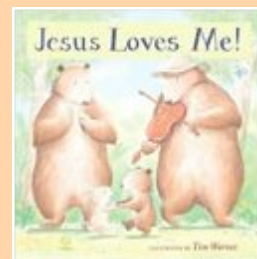
through interviews and surveys of clergy and their family members, in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and in other Protestant denominations. Her theology of vocation nourishes and protects faith and family life.

This book was recommended and donated by The Rev. Kathy Chase.



Worship Services for Youth Groups is just one of many new youth resources donated to the BMRC by diocesan youth coordinator Aimee Bostwick. Jim Marian has put together a dozen services for teenagers involving prayer, scripture, readings, drama, and more for youth groups to try

throughout the year.



Jesus Loves Me is a familiar tune, but Tim Warnes'

board book beautifully illustrates some newer verses as well, with the Bear family singing as they go about their day's activities:

*"Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live."*



YES! I want to help support Children@Council!

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Parish and Town _____

Children@Council



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please return form and any checks to

C@C Sponsorship

PO Box 2279

Roanoke, VA 24009

Thank you for your support!

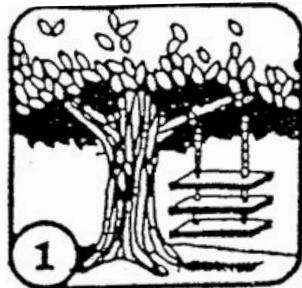
"Whoever receives one such child in His name receives me." Matthew 8:12



Parish Planning

As we move into the church year, perhaps we could take a moment for some humor? We often take ourselves too seriously, so here's a comment on parish planning.

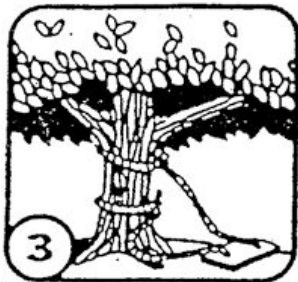
—Gene Anderson
Diocesan Transition and Congregational Development Officer



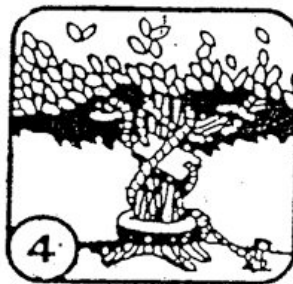
1 What the rector planned



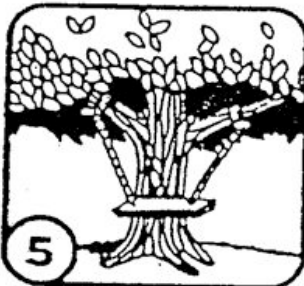
2 As his wife saw it



3 As the wardens saw it



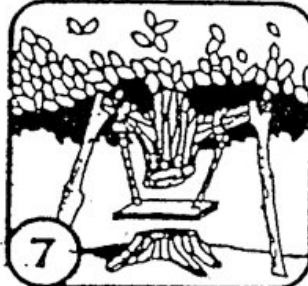
4 As the committee approved it



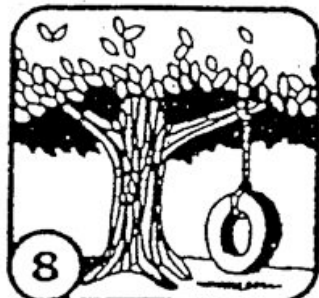
5 As the vestry amended it



6 What the bishop was told



7 As it turned out



8 What the Lord wanted

.....Tattled from
The Anglican Diocese
Of Toronto

Parish Transitions

as of September 15, 2008

† **St. Thomas Church, Abingdon**, is seeking a part-time youth coordinator.

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

† **St. Mark's, Fincastle**, welcomed **The Rev. Craig Dolack** as their new rector.

† After additional discernment, **The Rev. Christopher Heying** will remain as rector at **St. Stephen's, Forest**.

† **Christ, Pearisburg**, has called **The Rev. Anne West** to be their new rector, beginning October 1.

† **Christ Church, Marion**, welcomed **The Rev. Dr. Chris Mason** as their part-time priest.

† **All Saint's, Norton**, and **St. Mark's, St. Paul**, welcomed **The Rev. Robert Beauchamp** as their Priest-in-Charge.

† **The Grace Church, Radford**, vestry is holding conversations with rector candidates.

† **Trinity, Staunton**, welcomed **The Rev. Dr. Paul Nancarrow** as their new rector.

† **The Rev. David Dixon** was ordained to the diaconate and will serve at **St. John's, Roanoke**.

† **Church of the Good Shepherd, Galax**, welcomed their new rector, **The Rev. Helen Beasley**.

† **St. John's, Wytheville**, welcomed their new rector, **The Rev. Kent Tarpley**.



For Your Information

(aka F.Y.I.)

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

*--Jenny Dye
Diocesan Services Coordinator*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome back to work. I've enjoyed seeing many of you and hearing about the wonderful ministries going on. If you stop by Evans House, you'll almost certainly get a chance to meet Aidan! I am grateful to work in an office where family is appreciated and supported.

Just around the corner are Fall Mission Days, your convocational meetings. Please join us for these meetings and look for information on our website: www.dioswva.org.

At this meeting, you will hear about ministries going on in the diocese and how they are asking to be supported by our budget. You will also participate in nominations and elections for diocesan positions. If you have any questions about the ministries or about the nomination/election process, please be sure to contact us to find out more. The upcoming Council, our ninetieth, will also be previewed.

It is usually this time of year when I hear questions about the business of the diocese. Before I began working at Evans House,

much of "the diocese" was a mystery to me, and I continue to learn more each day. The biggest thing that I have learned is that WE are the diocese--it is our people and our history that makes DIOSWVA "the best diocese you've never heard of."

I'd like to start a new segment where I answer questions posed by you! So, if you have something you've always wondered about (animal, vegetable, or mineral) in the history or workings of the diocese, please send me your question! I'll track down the answer and respond in this column or get in touch with you directly. Just be sure to include your contact info and let me know if it's ok to print your name with the question. Please remember, if you have a question about something, chances are others do too!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jenny Dye

Prayers in October

October 1-5
Please pray for our
ministry
representatives

October 6-12
Please pray for our
front desk ministry
volunteers

October 13-19
Please pray for our
Executive Board

October 20-26
Please pray for
Jim Robertson,
Avis Aheron,
Ruth Morrison,
Judy McCartney,
and Bill and Esther
Williamson

October 27-31
Please pray for
Evans House staff





**THE
PHOEBE
NEEDLES
CENTER**

732 Turners Creek Road
Callaway, Virginia 24067-5814
540-483-1518 800-848-1677
Email PNCenter@gmail.com
www.PhoebeNeedles.org

"CONNECTING FOR CHANGE"

OCTOBER 14TH, 2008

Jim Bier will be our presenter for the October program - "Connecting for Change." EcoJustice Travel includes everything from mission trips, Habitat for Humanity trips, cultural and environmental study tours, and volunteer service travel such as Gulf Coast Katrina relief. It is characterized by relationship-building, reciprocal experiences that broaden and deepen the head and heart, and mutual understanding that benefit both the traveler, guests, and the welcoming hosts. The term EcoJustice is used to include both ecology and environment as well as economic justice.

Jim Bier is a recently retired Ferrum College chemistry professor, husband, father of four, and grandfather of three. In trying to live his life with intention, he has worked for the planet, designing passive solar homes and teaching environmental conservation; for the people through citizen diplomacy and teaching peace and conflict resolution.

He enjoys learning, travel, hiking, paddling, dancing, service, and facilitating connections.

Jim is recently back from a weeklong mission trip to the Gulf Coast where he assisted in the continued relief efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

Please join us for the seminar and lunch - EcoJustice Travel might be a great idea for your next vacation. Come learn more!

Advance registration is requested by noon on Friday, October 10.

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



In 2007, Jim Bier rekindled his relationship with a Nicurauguan family who had been his host family during his first visit in 1985.



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

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

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





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

Interreligious Information and Opportunities

--The Rev. Becky Crites
Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer

Most of my comments for **Connections** have been focused around ecumenical information. This month, I thought I might offer some information on the Interreligious side of this position, as the Episcopal Church is very active in interfaith dialogues.

First, as a member of the Anglican Communion, we participate in many global dialogues. Second, as a member of the National Council of Churches, we participate in their interfaith commission. We are also active in the National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations. Another focus is the Interfaith Education Initiative. This joint project with ERD was born out of the church's long-term recovery response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. These are just a few examples of our church's important work in this area.

The national church website (www.episcopalchurch.org/iei.htm) offers information on the Interfaith Education Initiative program of the Episcopal Church. I invite you to check it out. I also recommend their **Manual on Interfaith Dialogue**. I have a copy if you would like to borrow it. A copy is also available at Evans House. Another great reference, published

by SkyLight Press, is their book, **Interactive Faith**.

New Institute: Quietly working to promote peace in the Middle East, the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) is opening the Institute for Jewish-Muslim Relations. This new initiative will focus research, education, and action to promote understanding both the similarities and the differences between these two religions. The hope is to "shatter stereotypes and seek to build coalitions for improving relations between Jews and Muslims in Israel for the mutual benefit of both faith communities."

If you are interested in interreligious work and are interested in visiting the Holy Land, this organization also offers visiting groups, "... which are interreligious in their composition or in their areas of interest with a serious, systematic and sensitively balanced educational experience in Israel." For more information on the work of the ICCI, their website is: www.icci.org.il



Clergy/Parish Leaders:

Please keep the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in your parish planning. In 2009, the theme is "That they may become one in your hand," and the Biblical reference is Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22--24a. FYI, January 18--24 is always the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In creating this week of prayer in 1908, the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute chose the week between the Confession of St. Peter and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Their website (www.geii.org) suggests ways to celebrate this week. Here are a few:

- *Start an ecumenical and interfaith committee.
- *Include neighboring congregations and faith communities in the Sunday intercessions.
- *Systematically learn the denominational and local history of neighboring churches and faith communities.
- *Exchange--and read--parish bulletins and newsletters.
- *Get to know your neighbors better through social events. Eg. concerts, choir festivals, lectures, pot luck suppers.
- *Exchange program ideas -- and programs -- with similar organizations; schedule joint programs on topics and issues of mutual interest.
- *Create or augment an ecumenical--and interfaith--section in the local public library.

Daughters of the King

Junior Daughters

Live Out Their Motto

The Order of the Daughters of the King is a religious order for women of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. Daughters pledge themselves to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of their parishes.

Girls and young women from seven to twenty years of age may join as Junior Daughters of the King. The Order offers the opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of Jesus while serving both church and community.

The Doves are the Chapter of the Junior Daughters of the King at St. Paul's, Lynchburg. This year, the Doves invited their congregation to participate in *Operation Christmas Child*. Over a period of a month, parishioners were invited to donate small gifts and useful items that would fit in a shoe box. "Green gifts" (financial offerings) for shipping and handling were also invited. Empty shoe boxes to be packed with small toys, clothes, art supplies, stuffed animals, hygiene items, hard candy, school supplies and anything that might bring joy to a small child were requested.



Through the generosity of the congregation, the girls received enough gifts to fill 40 shoe boxes. Each shoe box was wrapped in Christmas paper. What a chore, but then the fun began--filling the boxes! Each box was lovingly filled with age-appropriate gifts, and the girls included a Christmas card that all had signed. On St. Paul's "Celebration Day," the packed and wrapped shoeboxes were presented for prayers and blessings. The girls thanked the congregation for their generosity and helping to share God's love, remembering that, "We may never know who received our boxes, but we know that we sent God's love with each one." *Operation Christmas Child* sends shoe boxes filled with gifts and the good news of the Gospel to children throughout the world. If you are interested in *Operation Christmas Child*, you can read more about this ministry at www.samaritanspurse.org/.

--Georgia Stromer
GStromer@msn.com

Junior Daughters of the King

We experience the joy of belonging to Christian fellowship with peers and mentors, all of which provides a firm foundation of faith and commitment to Christ.

We have our own silver cross with the initials FHS--For His Sake. For Christ's sake we serve, we pray, and we reach out in love to all.

The Two Rules of Our Order:

We promise to pray daily for the spread of Christ's Kingdom, for God's blessing on the Order, and the spiritual growth of our church.

We promise to participate in the worship, Bible study, and work of the church, and to be Christ's faithful servants in the extension of His Kingdom.

Our Motto:

For His Sake
I am but one; but I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do,
By the grace of God, I will do.
Lord, What will you have me do?

To start a Junior Daughters chapter in your parish:

- Ask your clergy for support and consent for a Junior Chapter.
- Ask a Senior Daughter to become a Directress.
- Bring together at least three girls.
- Contact the National Office for a Charter Kit and information:
Jennifer Mariano
Junior Daughters Chair
National Council
mariano@mail.nih.gov
and always, **PRAY for guidance.**

Imagine This

a day for art and reflection in the diocese
of southwestern virginia

Saturday, November 1
9:30-3:30 p.m.
St. John's, Roanoke
\$20 registration

Keynote Address by
Dr. Pamela Simpson
Professor of Art History, Washington & Lee
"Art as Spiritual Expression"

Among the workshops:

- Painting with renowned local artist
Harriett Stokes
- Finding the Sacred using Digital
Photography with the Rev. Ray Moore
- The Gift of Music with RoseAnn Burgess
- Knitting/Textile Arts
- Anglican Rosaries with Aimee Bostwick
- ...and more

Comments from 2007 participants:

"This was a wonderful day. It was such a blessing to me."

"The workshops were excellent— I could not choose which to attend."

To register, email Christie Wills at cwills@dioswva.org by October 25.



Youth Ministries News and Updates

Please take the time to thank the YMT members that you know in your congregation....Be sure to thank their families also who are so supportive of their ministries."

*Aimee Bostwick
Diocesan Youth Coordinator*

Let me begin this column by saying thanks--thank you to all of the youth and adults who make up the Youth Ministries Team of this diocese. I am not sure if everyone realizes the time and effort that is put into the many events that we offer, but trust me, the effort is amazing! I feel so privileged to be working with such a great group of people who make my job so meaningful and my life so full of joy. Please take the time to thank the YMT members that you know in your congregation. Thank them for the offering of their time and talents. Be sure to thank their families also who are so supportive of their ministries.

During our last YMT meeting we took a good look at what was going on in our diocese on the convocation level. We decided to continue offering a youth element at the convocation meetings each fall and spring. We have also established an adult and youth contact person for each convocation. Please make note of these people and consider getting in contact with them to see how the youth of your parish can become a part of diocesan youth events. You may obtain their contact information by calling Aimee Bostwick at the diocesan office (540-342-6797) or email: abostwick@dioswva.org

Roanoke Convocation:
--Dick Willis
(adult, Christ, Roanoke)
--Christina Vance
(youth, St. Paul's, Salem)

New River Convocation:
--Maureen Perry
(adult, Christ, Blacksburg)
--Matt Perry
(youth, Christ, Blacksburg)

Augusta Convocation:
--Marty Siebken
(adult, St. John's, Waynesboro)
--Charlie Eckman
(youth, St. John's, Waynesboro)

Abingdon Convocation:
--James Lilly
(youth, St. Mary's, Stras Memorial, Christ, Pocahantas)
--Laura Harden
(adult volunteer from Roanoke convocation)

Lynchburg Convocation
--Vera Trant
(adult, St. Stephen's, Forest)
--Catharine Mohr
(youth, St. Stephen's, Forest).

Now onto business! There are so many things to look forward to for youth in this diocese. Our youth website is updated often with information regarding these events. Please visit it for times, places, and registration forms: www.dioswvayouth.wordpress.com

Convocation meetings, beginning Sunday, Oct. 5. "Let the games continue!" Once again, the youth will be gathering when the clergy and delegates do during the Fall Mission Days. Please encourage your youth to attend these meetings. This time around we will be playing games, not so messy this time, but guaranteed to be lots of fun. We will also be preparing for Youth at Council this January and sharing with everyone some of the happenings for youth in the diocese. Places and times will coincide with the Fall Mission Day schedule.

Mass on the Mountain with the Monacans: Oct. 17-19. Please join us for a historic weekend within our diocese as we gather together with our Monacan friends at one of their holy places--Bear Mountain. Together we will hike, camp, eat (of course!), experience Monacan dance, and celebrate the Eucharist. But that is not all--we will also participate in a Native American sweat in preparation for the Eucharist. This weekend will be one that you will not soon forget. Registration forms, packing lists, and more details of the event are available on the youth website. The deadline to register is Monday, Oct. 13. This event is for all youth in grades 5--12 and their families.

FYE: Faith and Sexuality, Nov. 14-16 at Phoebe Needles. This weekend is for those in grades 8-12. Our guest facilitator for the weekend is Kathy Rock Pfister, a youth minister of many years and a seminarian from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. She has planned and facilitated many youth retreats on this difficult topic. Our goal is to meet youth where they are and open up meaningful dialog about sexuality

and how it connects to our relationship with God. We will focus on our Baptismal covenant and how that gives us the tools to have healthy and Godly relationships.

As part of the registration form for this event, there is a release statement that each parent is asked to sign in order for their youth to attend. Please complete the registration form and be sure that your youth has a medical form on file. If not, a notarized medical form is required. The deadline to register is Monday, November 10. The cost is \$80.00; scholarships are available. All forms are available on the youth website.

Amree K. Bostrick



Emily Heymann, Christ, Roanoke, hard at work at the last YMT meeting at Evans House

Watch This Space! *Diocesan youth have a lot to look forward to!*

October

- 2-5** Province III network meeting. 4 YMT youth and 2 adults needed
- 5:** Lynchburg Convocation meeting; 2:30--4:30 PM at St. Paul's, Lynchburg.
- 12:** Roanoke Convocation meeting at Trinity, Moneta, 2:30--4:30 AM
- 17-19:** Mass on the Mountain at Bear Mountain in Amherst. Join our Monacan brothers and sisters as we camp, hike, and participate in a sacred sweat to prepare for the Eucharist, to be held atop Bear Mountain. This will prove to be an unforgettable weekend. We will finish early on Sunday morning so people can return home for other activities.
- 19:** Abingdon Convocation meeting at St. Thomas, Abingdon, 2:30--4:30 PM
- 26:** New River Convocation meeting at Christ, Blacksburg, 3:00--5:00 PM

November

- 1:** Diocesan Art Day at St. John's, Roanoke. Youth are very much encouraged to attend workshops on photography, painting, making Anglican rosaries, and more.
- 2:** Augusta Convocation meeting at Emmanuel, Covington, 3:00--5:00.
- 14-16:** Fall Youth Event for all in grades 8-12 at Phoebe Needles.

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

January 23--25: Youth At Council



Walker Cross of RE Lee Memorial, Lexington, was ready to work at Stop Hunger Now. Members of Boys' Home joined in on the effort to Stop Hunger Now in the Augusta convocation.



Members of Pax, the youth group at Emmanuel, Staunton, lead the congregation in Prayers of the People during the U2charist. Their youth worker, Meneta Deaton, was responsible for the vision of this convocation event. Thank you, Meneta!





Charter Chat

St. John's, Bedford Creates a Sculpture Garden for the Children



With a growing young population in our congregation and very limited space for the children to run and play after church and during our fellowship hour, we needed to come up with an idea. We didn't have enough space for a playground, so we decided on a Children's Sculpture Garden--a place the children could help design, create, and continue to help maintain. It would be a place for fellowship, reflection, and



In the limited area we already had an existing flower bed. We were able to leave some well-established boxwoods so the children can play hide and seek in and around them. We also placed an arbor with a bench-swing for the children to use. We put an octagon jungle gym and balance beam, along with an elephant (that some say is from Noah's Ark) so they can romp, jump, and climb. The garden includes a picnic table and umbrella along with an additional bench for the adults.

The children have taken part in planting annuals in the spring and bulbs in the fall so that they can watch God's creations growing throughout the year. The families with children have helped tend to unwanted weeds and mulching. Each child even created his/her own unique stepping stone to place in and around the garden – some have jewels, some have stones, while others have names, handprints or footprints.



Our final touch before the "Blessing of the Animals" ceremony in our garden and the dedication of the Children's Sculpture Garden was a St. Francis statue--he now looks over God's creations daily, including the children.



Our children's sculpture garden is a special place for our growing number of families with children, especially because our children helped in creating it.

The great beauty of our garden, besides the laughter and smiles of all the children playing, is they now don't want to leave church on Sundays and love to stay for fellowship with the other church children!

--Kara Sensenig
St. John's, Bedford

• **The Restorative Justice Association of VA announces "A Vision for a Safe and Just Community."**

This annual conference takes place this year on October 20, in Charlottesville.

Plenary speaker Dan Van Ness will address the vision of a fully restorative criminal justice system known as RJ City, followed by a discussion panel composed of The Honorable Jeffrey W. Parker, Fauquier County Circuit Court; Chief Tim Longo, Charlottesville Police Department; and Susan Painter, Albemarle County Victim Witness Coordinator. Afternoon workshops will focus on reentry; the impact of trauma; legislation; restorative practices in schools; and many more topics. Visit www.rjav.org for a brochure and registration information.

• **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/products/services/conferences.cfm for answers to questions like "why attend?" "cost," etc. Contact Stokes Liles at (800) 223-6602, weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern), ext. 6278, for more information.

• **Please remember to let Lynn Robertson know how your parish observed the Feast of Marc Nikkel—even if all you did was include him in the Prayers of the People from the Prayer Calendar material.** If you plan to observe the Feast at some other time (soon), please let her know that at LRobertson@dioswva.org.

• **St. John's, Roanoke, invites all who are interested to the 2008 Dodson Distinguished Speaker Program, on Monday, October 27.** Clergy are invited to lunch at noon. Everyone is invited for dinner and a lecture that evening. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Dan Matthews, rector emeritus of Trinity--Wall Street in Lower Manhattan.

• **Christ, Roanoke, will hold an Alternative Gifts Fair on Sunday, November 9, from 9:30-10:15 and from 12:00-3:00.**

Gifts will include:

- International Crafts
- Items made by Local Crafters
- Jewelry
- African Children's Choir CDs
- Handmade Soap
- Fair Trade Coffee and Food
- Afton Manor Honey
- Silent Auction

Honor loved ones with donations to:

- Amani Children's Fund
- Doctors Without Borders
- Episcopal Relief and Development
- Heifer International
- Idukay Peru
- Kiva Micro-loans
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Southwest Virginia

All proceeds go to support the Millennium Development Goals.

This event is open to the public. The church is located at 1101 Franklin Rd., SW.

• **Enjoy the Benedictine Experience at the Cathedral College, Washington National Cathedral, November 20-23.** Leaders will be Sr. Donald Corcoran, OSB, Cam, and Dr. Suella Henn. The focus of the day will be "Benedictine Spirituality – a

Resource in Challenging Times." Participants will experience a day of prayer, study, work, and leisure. For more information, contact The Friends of St. Benedict, 5150 Macomb St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20016; call 202-363-8061; or email: SaintBenedict@prospect-tech.com,

• **The medical mission at St. Anna's Episcopal Church in New Orleans has been serving people in need of medical care since shortly after Hurricane Katrina.**

During Hurricane Gustav, the storage facility for St. Anna's medications lost power and now much of their reserve stock is unusable. St. Anna's needs our help to restock their over-the-counter and prescription medications in order to continue this important ministry. For a full description of the St. Anna's Medical Mission program, go to: <http://www.stannanola.org/medical.htm>

Most needed are cough, cold, flu, and allergy medications; anti-itch cream; anti-fungal cream; Benadryl; Ibuprofen; Tyleno; aspirin; antibiotic ointments, and Immodium. These must be in original packaging with seal unopened, and store brands are acceptable.

Also needed are sample-size, individually-dosed packages of anti-depressants, anti-hypertensives, diabetic medications, and antibiotics.

OTC contributions may be dropped off at Christ Episcopal Church, 1101 Franklin Road, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. If direct shipment is preferred, send contributions to:

St. Anna's Medical Mission
1313 Esplanade Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70116
Attn: Diana Meyers, Parish Nurse/
Disaster Relief Coordinator
504-947-2121

• **Pastor Gary Scheidt and Mrs. Patsy Smith of Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta, invite you to join them in a new venture in prayer.** Here are excerpts from a longer message, which is posted in Basecamp's Files section: "We are asking you to join us in designating one Sunday (or more) each month on which you would include in your worship service prayers both for those who are personally battling cancer and for those who are dedicating their efforts to finding a cure. . . . If you feel called to join us in this effort, would you please respond by email at ptjosie@aol.com with copy to tepastor@smltep.org and let us know that you are willing to join us in offering these special prayers."

• **Remember those beautiful MDG banners from Council?** They were created by Elizabeth Foster of Christ, Blacksburg. The banners "live" at Evans House but are available to any parish wishing to borrow them. Call Evans House (540-342-6797) to make arrangements for your parish to display them.

• **Attention parish administrators, secretaries, wardens, and treasurers: The IRS has revised its publication on churches and tax exemptions.** Read the Episcopal Cafe article about it (including a link to a PDF file of the publication) at http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/new_irs_publication_on_churche.html#more.

• **The Seaman's Institute is no longer collecting calendars.** Please recycle all those free ones that come in the mail.

• **Attention Small Church Clergy—a message from Kathy Killian, Coordinator of the Small(er) Church Work Committee (540-774-8652; klk2415@cox.net):**

Just in case you're not aware, there is a wonderful program available in support of small congregations which meets annually at Virginia Theological Seminary thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment. The Summer Collegium will meet next year June 24 to July 2. It is an all-expenses paid, intensive nine-day program which works with 25 seasoned small-church clergy and their spouses or partners. The theme for 2009 is ***Body, Mind, and Soul: Celebrating, Strengthening and Sustaining Clergy Wholeness in Small Congregations***. The program is open to all Christian denominations. I have brochures with more information or email: Summercollegium@vts.edu. Applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2008.

The Virginia Council of Churches in partnership with the University of Richmond's Chaplain's Office cordially invites faith communities to view the much acclaimed film *The Power of Forgiveness* on October 7 at 7:30 P.M. on the University Campus in the North Court Reception Room. There is no admission charge.

The film examines the role forgiveness can play in alleviating anger and grief, as well as the physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come with forgiveness. Stories and interviews from a variety of faith traditions are included.

Questions and answers following the film will be hosted by The Rev. Lyndon Harris, priest in charge of relief ministries at Ground Zero offered through St. Paul's Chapel after the attacks of 9/11. Fr. Harris has done extensive teaching on forgiveness. He is Executive Director of the Garden of Forgiveness, an educational non-profit which he co-chairs with Dr. Frederick Luskin of Stanford University.

The Virginia Council of Churches represents the shared witness and ministry of 36 governing units of 18 different Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For more information, contact The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister at barton@vacouncilofchurches.org or (804)321-3300 ext 102.

• **From the Rev. Vince Carroll, Trinity, Richlands: Services in Grundy resumed in August at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, with Eucharist at 1 pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.** Contact Vince at church (276-964-4640) or at home (276-963-9579) or Sherry Bright (276-935-8313) for more information.

• **The deadline to submit a prayer for *Lifting Women's Voices: Ending Poverty Through Prayer and Action* has been extended to October 15.** Learn more about this book of women's prayers on MDGs at www.churchpublishing.org, and submit prayers to prayers@cpg.org.

Voluntary Proportionate Giving

As Pledged and Received
in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
for the period of January 1 through July 31, 2008

Income	Jan - Jul 08	Budget	\$ Over Budget
3010 ∑ Current Year VPG Pledges			
301 ∑ Abingdon, St. Thomas	\$12,785.04	\$25,570.00	-\$12,784.96
305 ∑ Altavista, St. Peters	\$0.00	\$4,532.00	-\$4,532.00
310 ∑ Amherst, Ascension	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	-\$5,000.00
315 ∑ Amherst, St. Paul's	\$0.00	\$2,430.00	-\$2,430.00
320 ∑ Arrington, Trinity	\$2,620.00	\$5,240.00	-\$2,620.00
325 ∑ Bedford, St. John's	\$14,350.00	\$24,000.00	-\$9,650.00
330 ∑ Bedford Co., St. Thomas	\$500.00	\$850.00	-\$350.00
335 ∑ Big Stone Gap, Christ	\$585.00	\$2,340.00	-\$1,755.00
340 ∑ Blacksburg, Christ	\$21,145.88	\$36,250.00	-\$15,104.12
345 ∑ Bluefield, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$2,840.00	-\$2,840.00
350 ∑ Blue Grass, C.O.G.S.	\$0.00	\$3,522.00	-\$3,522.00
355 ∑ Bristol, Emmanuel	\$9,000.00	\$18,000.00	-\$9,000.00
360 ∑ Buchanan, Trinity	\$2,750.00	\$5,500.00	-\$2,750.00
365 ∑ Buena Vista, Christ	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00
370 ∑ Callaway, St. Peter's	\$3,541.65	\$8,500.00	-\$4,958.35
375 ∑ Christiansburg, St. Thomas	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00	-\$4,500.00
380 ∑ Clifford, St. Mark's	\$3,920.00	\$6,720.00	-\$2,800.00
385 ∑ Clifton Forge, St. Andrew's	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00	-\$1,250.00
390 ∑ Covington, Emmanuel	\$4,200.00	\$7,200.00	-\$3,000.00
395 ∑ Fincastle, St. Mark's	\$5,754.60	\$13,811.00	-\$8,056.40
401 ∑ Folly Mills, Good Shepherd	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
405 ∑ Forest, St. Stephen's	\$8,500.00	\$13,500.00	-\$5,000.00
410 ∑ Galax, Good Shepherd	\$4,800.00	\$4,425.00	\$375.00
415 ∑ Glasgow, St. John's	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	-\$1,100.00
420 ∑ Hot Springs, St. Luke's	\$1,650.00	\$3,300.00	-\$1,650.00
425 ∑ Lexington, R.E. Memorial	\$32,672.65	\$56,000.00	-\$23,327.35
430 ∑ Lynchburg, Grace Memorial	\$7,150.02	\$14,300.00	-\$7,149.98
435 ∑ Lynchburg, St. Barnabas'	\$2,000.00	\$3,720.00	-\$1,720.00
440 ∑ Lynchburg, St. John's	\$47,500.00	\$95,000.00	-\$47,500.00
445 ∑ Lynchburg, St. Paul's	\$29,166.65	\$50,000.00	-\$20,833.35
450 ∑ Lynchburg, Trinity	\$0.00	\$5,100.00	-\$5,100.00
455 ∑ Marion, Christ	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
460 ∑ Martinsville, Christ	\$15,833.35	\$38,000.00	-\$22,166.65
465 ∑ Martinsville, St. Paul's	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$0.00

FALL MISSION DAYS

Oct 5 ~ Lynchburg Convocation ~ St. Paul's, Lynchburg, 2:30–4:30 PM

Oct 12 ~ Roanoke Convocation ~ Trinity, Moneta, 2:30–4:30 PM

Oct 19 ~ Abingdon Convocation ~ St. Thomas, Abingdon, 2:30–4:30 PM

Oct 26 ~ New River Convocation ~ Christ, Blacksburg, 3:00–5:00 PM

Nov 2 ~ Augusta Convocation ~ Emmanuel, Covington, 3:00–5:00 PM

Fall convocation meetings, by canon, are designed:

- *to facilitate the expression of delegates' and parishioners' views on the needs and opportunities of the diocese for the upcoming year;*
- *to elect, or to nominate for election at Council, candidates for certain diocesan leadership positions;*
- *and to hear the Bishop's Vision for the Diocese.*

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 each convocation meeting.

Income	Jan -Jul 08	Budget	\$ Over Budget
470 Σ Massies Mill, Grace	\$2,787.00	\$4,200.00	-\$1,413.00
475 Σ Moneta, Trinity	\$10,650.85	\$18,259.00	-\$7,608.15
480 Σ Nellysford, Peace-in-the-Valley	\$648.00	\$648.00	\$0.00
485 Σ Norton, All Saints	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00
490 Σ Pearisburg, Christ	\$1,090.00	\$2,180.00	-\$1,090.00
495 Σ Pedlar Mills, St. Luke's	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$0.00
501 Σ Pocahontas, Christ	\$0.00	\$550.00	-\$550.00
505 Σ Pulaski, Christ	\$4,440.00	\$7,600.00	-\$3,160.00
510 Σ Radford, Grace	\$3,750.00	\$7,500.00	-\$3,750.00
515 Σ Richlands, Trinity	\$250.00	\$650.00	-\$400.00
520 Σ Roanoke, Christ	\$23,095.00	\$39,595.00	-\$16,500.00
525 Σ Roanoke, St. Elizabeth's	\$4,322.00	\$8,644.00	-\$4,322.00
530 Σ Roanoke, St. James	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00	\$0.00
535 Σ Roanoke, St. John's	\$70,940.28	\$121,612.00	-\$50,671.72
540 Σ Rocky Mount, Trinity	\$3,750.00	\$6,500.00	-\$2,750.00
545 Σ Salem, St. Paul's	\$22,825.81	\$39,130.00	-\$16,304.19
550 Σ Saltville, St. Paul's	\$700.00	\$625.00	\$75.00
555 Σ Staunton, Emmanuel	\$7,400.00	\$14,300.00	-\$6,900.00
560 Σ Staunton, Trinity	\$25,500.12	\$52,500.00	-\$26,999.88
565 Σ St. Paul, St. Mark's	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
570 Σ Tazewell, Stras Memorial	\$875.00	\$3,800.00	-\$2,925.00
575 Σ Waynesboro, St. John's	\$10,680.00	\$21,360.00	-\$10,680.00
580 Σ Wytheville, St. John's	\$8,500.00	\$20,400.00	-\$11,900.00
Total 3010 Current Year VPG Pledge	\$453,503.90	\$857,428.00	-\$403,924.10

SPONSOR-A-DAY

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

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

Date I/we wish to sponsor: _____ / _____ / _____
Amount enclosed: _____
Please mark your check "Sponsor-A-Day: month/day/year"
Person making donation: _____

Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

Occasion: _____

In Celebration of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

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

May we acknowledge this gift in the diocesan publication Connections?

Yes No

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

Return this form to Sponsor-A-Day Campaign
PO Box 2279 ~ Roanoke VA 24009
or complete a similar form online using a credit card
at www.dioswva.org.

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

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

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

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

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

☐ July 18: Mike and Jennipher Lucado in celebration of Nathan Thomas Lucado's second birthday

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

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

☐ 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.



Teaching Children To Be Stewards

Encourage Goal Setting

Our study of Biblical teaching makes it clear that God rejoices when we live up to His expectation that we:

* Acknowledge all that we have as a gift from God

* Return a tenth (tithe) of those gifts to God's purpose

Financial planners know that saving a tenth is one of the most healthy things we can do with our money.

Therefore, share this information with members of the congregation of all ages. Encourage them to set goals for sharing, saving, and spending. Encourage families to talk about these goals and ways to meet them

Recruit Adults

Moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and anyone who has children anywhere in their lives can help. Most of what children learn is learned at home. Encourage adults to pay attention to what they say and do about sharing, saving, and spending, whether they think

children are paying attention or not. Help them tell the stories about their own lives that have helped or hindered their own relationships with money. Tell about those who inspired and encouraged them to healthier habits of sharing and saving while making better spending decisions. Most of all, ask for their ideas for inviting our children to know that net worth does not determine self worth and to experience the joys of sharing.

Help Adults!

Resolve to assist adults in acquiring mastery over their own finances. The reason children are not learning this is that their parents didn't learn it either. Consider initiating a financial counseling ministry in your congregation, not just for the members but as an offering to your community.

Create an Intergenerational Event with "Financial Sanity"

This is a four-session curriculum for parishioners from 8 to 80 with valuable messages about stewardship. Available from Share-Save-Spend, this series was featured at the 2009 Stewardship Development Institute. Thanks to a generous bequest from Ann Sherman, the diocese is able to offer matching funds for the purchase of the Leader's guide and DVD of this series. Please contact Christie Wills (cwills@dioswva.org) to learn more about this offer and the curriculum itself.

Work Ecumenically

Raise the issue in ministerial associations and other opportunities to develop community discussion and response to the commercial culture.

Share Ideas:

If something works well for you, let the diocesan office know. If it worked for you, it may work even better for someone else. Send communications to:

Stewardship Ideas
PO Box 2279
Roanoke, VA 24009

Above All, Pray!

Most of all, pray and get to know what the Gospels have to say about the role of money in our lives as members of the body of Christ.

Stay Tuned

As we think of new ideas or you send them to us, we will be posting them here.

Most Important

Last, but most important, cherish the children. They are one of the best gifts God has given us.

--Based on material from
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 September 15, 2008.)

Parishes in need of copies can find them in the Diocesan Paperwork notebook. For more information or other assistance, contact LRobertson@dioswva.org or call 1-800-DIO-SWVA.

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

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

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

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

Clergy Supply

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

Additions and changes are italicized.

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

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

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

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

Furgerson, John
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 change in supply rates as of October 1, 2008. Clergy Supply Rates: The diocesan standard for Sunday Supply as Guest Celebrant and/or Guest Preaching is \$150 for one service; \$200 for two services; \$250 for three services. The diocesan standard for Assisting is \$100 for one service; \$150 for two services, \$200 for three services. The diocesan standard for Guest Retired Bishops confirming is \$175.

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

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

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

Bishop's Visitations

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

January 2008

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

February 2008

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

March 2008

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

April 2008

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

May 2008

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

June 2008

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

July 2008

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

August 2008

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

September 2008

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

October 2008

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

November 2008

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

December 2008

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

January 2009

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

February 2009

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

March 2009

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

Looking Ahead at Evans House

November

1 Diocesan Art Day, 9:30--3:30, St. John's, Roanoke

1 Daughters of the King Assembly, 9:30--2, Evans House

2-Augusta Convocation, Emmanuel, Covington, 3:00--5:00 PM

4--9 Bishop's Walkabout: Roanoke Convocation

15 Executive Board, Evans House, 9:30--2

18--22 Bishop's Walkabout: New River Convocation

27--28 Thanksgiving Holiday; Evans House Closed

December

20 Finance Committee, Evans House, 10--11

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

January

03 Executive Board Meeting

09--11 Education for Ministry Training at Evans House

11 January Convocation Meetings
18 Snow date for Convocation Meetings

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

23--25 Annual Council

29 Trustees meeting, 11AM --12 PM

"Using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do."

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

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Episcopal Diocese of
Southwestern Virginia

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



Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky was born in Lithuania in 1831, went to Germany to study for the rabbinate, There he became a Christian, emigrated to America, and trained for the priesthood. In 1859 he was sent by the Episcopal Church to China, where he devoted himself from 1862 to 1875 to translating the Bible into Mandarin Chinese. In 1877 he was elected Bishop of Shanghai, where he founded St. John's University, and began his translation of the Bible into Wenli (another Chinese dialect). He developed Parkinson's disease, was largely paralyzed, resigned his position as Bishop of Shanghai, and spent the rest of his life completing his Wenli Bible, the last 2000 pages of which he typed with the one finger that he could still move.

Four years before his death in 1906, he said: "I have sat in this chair for over twenty years. It seemed very hard at first. But God knew best. He kept me for the work for which I am best fitted."

O God, in your providence
you called Joseph
Schereschewsky from his
home in Eastern Europe to
the ministry of this Church,
and sent him as a missionary
to China, upholding him in
his infirmity, that he might
translate the Holy Scriptures
into languages of that land.
Lead us, we pray, to commit
our lives and talents to you,
in the confidence that when
you give your servants any
work to do, you also supply
the strength to do it;
through Jesus Christ, our
Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky
Bishop of Shanghai, 1906
October 14