Around the Diocese and Beyond

- The Mission Committee of the Executive Board has selected the Rescue Mission of Roanoke to receive the St. Nicholas Day Appeal Grant for 2010. The Rescue Mission requests $20,000 for partial funding of the Respite Renovation Project. This project is to renovate an existing area for homeless male Respite patients (those not requiring hospitalization yet still too sick to be in the general population or on the street) and Project WAIT participants (a program for men and women seeking entry into the Residential Recovery Program in the weeks prior to the next scheduled intake date). This is in support of an ongoing ministry that continues to grow as the Rescue Mission seeks to fill needs in the community that are unmet.

- The next program for the Center for Lifelong Learning will be Tuesday, December 14, at 10:00 AM. Gretchen Miller and Judy Saunders are "A-CHORD," a guitar and flute duet. They will provide great Christmas music and entertainment. At noon, Karen Moretz will serve a delicious lunch to complement the program. Please make a reservation by calling 540-483-1518 or 800-848-1677 by noon on Friday, December 10. The Center for Lifelong Learning is located at The Phoebe Needles Center, 127 Turner's Creek Road, Callaway, Virginia.

Children of the Sudanese Christian Fellowship of Roanoke share songs and skits with special guest The Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem, Bishop of the Diocese of Renk, Sudan, as part of their weekly fellowship meeting at St. James, Roanoke.

Read more on page 5.

DATES AND UPDATES
Looking Ahead in December
01 Deans' meeting
02 Province III Youth Gathering
04 MDG Committee 10 AM
10 YMT Overnight
11 Personnel Committee 10–11
15 Parish VPG pledges due
17 Standing Committee 10–11
24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve
24–31 Evans House closed
31 Deadline for submitting resolutions to be printed for Council

Bishop's Visits in December
05 Christ, Blacksburg
12 St. Thomas, Bedford
St. John’s, Glasgow
19 St. Elizabeth’s, Roanoke

Checks will be written in the diocesan office on:
December 8 December 20

"Let me not wrap, stack, box, bag, tie, tag, bundle, seal, keep Christmas. Christmas kept is liable to mold.
Let me give Christmas away, unwrapped, by exuberant armsfuls.
Let me share, dance, live Christmas unpretentiously, merrily, responsibly with overflowing hands, tireless steps, and sparkling eyes.
Christmas given away will stay fresh—even until it comes again."

--Linda Felver

"Around the Diocese and Beyond" continues on page 9
The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell  
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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.

Kate is a part-time employee with flexible hours  
M--F. Resources may be previewed and checked out
at Evans House or online at www.bmp-o-mline.org
Dear Friends in Christ,

A few Sundays ago in the Gospel we heard the story of Jesus and the Ten Lepers. Researching for my sermon, I reread Ellis Peters' medieval Brother Cadfael murder mystery *The Lepers of Saint Giles*. Ellis Peters is one of the pen names of Edith Pargeter, a very respectable medieval historian. I did not find anything strikingly new or insightful for my sermon, but I did enjoy the book and decided to work my way through the whole set for a second time. Each book focuses on one aspect of twelfth century English life, in this case lepers and leprosy, along with a romance and a murder mystery. The setting is always the Benedictine Abbey of Saints Peter and Paul, at Shrewsbury.

A short time later, I had the opportunity to attend a lecture by Herbert O’Driscoll, one of the great figures in the Anglican Communion and an expert on Celtic spirituality and history. After his talk I mentioned to him my interest in Whitby, a pilgrimage site associated with St. Hilda of Whitby and the Synod of Whitby. The Synod of Whitby (663) was an important event in the history of British Christianity in attempting to resolve the differences between Christians in the south of England who looked to Rome for their inspiration and Christians in the north who looked to Ireland, the seat of Celtic Christianity. O’Driscoll recommended *Absolution by Murder* by Peter Tremayne, another medieval scholar. I found it to be an excellent introduction into the Synod of Whitby, with many fine details of medieval life.

While at Christ Church, Blacksburg, for an ordination, Dorothy and I were given a copy of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, a novel by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The setting is 1946 Britain and focuses on the Island of Guernsey, under German occupation during World War II. It is a story of redemption and healing. It is an epistolary novel, one told through letters. Three other epistolary books I have enjoyed are *The Documents in the Case* by Dorothy Sayers, *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis, and *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, a children’s book by Beverly Cleary.

As you receive this issue of *Connections*, it is the beginning of Advent. I bid you to prepare your hearts to welcome Our Lord Jesus who came to us at Bethlehem, who comes into our lives every day, and who will come at the end of time. Now, go reread *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* by C.S. Lewis.

Advent Grace and Peace,
2010 is winding down to a close. Thanks be to God. For me, it has been a year filled with drama, distraction, and rough going. I am writing this on my birthday. I am getting wiser. This wisdom informs me that the older I become the more I have to learn. My dad was right. I knew everything back when I was a teenager. Now that he is gone, I know very little for certain.

It was a beautiful early summer morning as Beth and I were doing our Saturday market excursions. At the Co-Op, a refrigerator magnet shouted out to me . . . “Let go or be dragged.” I now own two—one for home and one for the office. I am thinking about getting another one for the car.

“Let go or be dragged” spoke volumes to me in the midst of my journey. I could write pages of what this saying means to me. For the purpose of my space here, I want to speak to what it means to us as we journey into 2011.

As individuals and as congregations, we all face vast assortments of change and uncertainty. We can be bombarded with challenges to our sense of the way things ought to be. Life, according to Forrest Gump, is like a box of chocolates because you never know what you are going to get.

In our relationships as individuals and as communities, we can get into big trouble when we do not agree on the way things ought to be. We can get ourselves tangled up in the reins of control and find ourselves being dragged along. Maybe we find that we are doing the dragging. There is ultimately no good that comes out of dragging or being dragged.

There are many stages to conflict, and we know conflict escalates very rapidly. The earlier that conflict is acknowledged and dealt with the more likely it is that agreements can be re-negotiated. The difficulty is cemented when we refuse to let go. Sometimes we need help from others to let go. I have heard that monkeys can be caught by placing fruit in a gourd with a small hole in it. The hole is just large enough for the monkey to insert a hand, but not large enough to let it pull out a fist full of fruit. The monkey will not let go of the fruit even at the cost of being captured.

We can learn and we can teach that letting go does not mean giving up. Letting go means not allowing ourselves to drag or be dragged any longer. Letting go means stopping to rest, assess the facts, and be open, in the moment, to what is happening. It is hard work, but it is work that needs to be done. But we can get too close, too hurt, and too emotional to do this work on our own. We often need, even require, help.

Our Long-Range Plan calls for us as a diocese to be prepared to assist where conflict begins to escalate. Trained leaders in the diocese could do just that.

My hope is that we can intentionally plan and develop new ways and resources to help us engage in conflict management or resolution. Engaging with others to help manage or resolve conflict is positive and important work that we can do for one another. I believe it is work we are called to do as Christians.
Sudan--DioSWVA Link

Partnership activities between the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and the entire Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) have been directed recently by the need to understand and to promote understanding of the upcoming January 9th referendum when the people of Southern Sudan can decide whether to remain a part of Sudan or to become a separate country. This referendum is one of the provisions set down in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Khartoum government in the North and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the South. Aside from the fact that many of the other provisions of the CPA have not been carried out adequately—that is, power sharing, revenue sharing, complete census, fair national elections—conducting a referendum of this order in this situation is further complicated by the absence of procedural experience and by the fact that, during the twenty years of civil war that preceded the CPA, four million Southern Sudanese fled from their homes and took refuge throughout the globe and especially in Northern Sudan. Furthermore, some northerners have been required by the Khartoum government to claim residency in the South in order to skew the January 9th vote.

The Khartoum-based Government of Sudan (GOS) was given the task in the 2005 agreement “to make unity attractive” to the Southerners. By not carrying out those provisions named above, they have given the South every incentive to vote for separation. But, of course, if such should be the outcome of the referendum, the GOS fears that it will lose a major source of revenue from the oil fields of Southern Sudan as well as control over the Nile River, its major water supply.

The Sudanese Christian Fellowship of Roanoke has been actively assisting the Sudan--SWVA partnership. For their weekly fellowship meeting at St. James’, Roanoke, they prompted an invitation to the Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem, Bishop of the Diocese of Renk, Sudan, who is visiting in the Dioceses of Virginia and Chicago at this time. Bishop Joseph kindly accepted for Saturday, November 6. The program began with an introduction by the rector, Mother Susan Bentley, and a welcome address from Bishop Heath Light. Then, as is the custom in Sudan, the children of the fellowship took center stage to present a biblical skit, sing “It’s OK To Believe in Jesus;,” and recite in English the poem “Motherland, motherland, why are you crying?” Both the song and the poem were written by the children’s leader, Linda Tartisio, a member of the Sudanese Christian Fellowship in Roanoke.

Then Bishop Joseph spoke to over fifty Sudanese and interested non-Sudanese for about one hour. He explained concisely the history of Sudan and how southerners had been marginalized first by the British, then by the North. His main message, however, was that he is working with his fellow southerners to stay on an even keel, to be united in their goal to have a peaceful Sudan, and to find peaceful ways to solve problems. He repeated what has been said before by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul of the ECS that the Church, that is all the Christian churches in South Sudan, must continue its role of peacemaker in the land.

Although Bishop Joseph is from Renk Diocese, his message is for all southerners as well as for supporters of a peaceful Sudan. Let us in Southwestern Virginia pray for a peaceful referendum for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan. Let us also encourage our government and our representatives in Washington to pursue policies that lead to a just and fair outcome of the 2005 agreement that both southerners and the Khartoum government in the North of Sudan have signed along with guarantors from the governments of the United Kingdom, Egypt, Norway, the U. S., and others. Letters of encouragement do have influence on our officials in DC. For a sample letter to US government officials, see the website: www.afrecs.org and click on “Advocacy.”

--Submitted by MJ Mayerchak for the Companions for Mission Committee of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
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

Find it at the BMRC!
Reading for Resolutions

- Resolution 4 (Council 2009) resulted in a diocesan task force which is still at work to promote anti-discrimination and radical hospitality. The quote above is one of my favorites. It reminds me to focus on the here and now, to wait patiently and to celebrate each season in its own time. However, November through January often feels to me as though it is the "time for every purpose under heaven," and my attention is pulled into the upcoming seasons long before they arrive.

Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation (Stephanie Spellers) is a practical theological guide for congregations that want to move beyond mere inclusivity toward becoming a place where engaging God's mission becomes more than just a catchphrase.

- Resolution 7 (Council 2010) called for the establishment of a diocesan task force for leadership development. The World Cafe: Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations That Matter (Juanita Brown) introduces a flexible, easy-to-use process for fostering collaborative dialogue, sharing mutual knowledge, and discovering new opportunities for action.

- Resolution 8 (Council 2010) asked the Executive Board to establish a committee to study the sustainability of the various diocesan budget areas in light of our diocesan mission statement. We Are Here Now: a New Missional Era (Patrick Kiepert) outlines a new era of mission--a journey filled with learning, growing, discovering, experimenting, visioning, mentoring, and sharing.

In the BMRC, Advent materials have been on display for several weeks so that those involved in planning activities--whether for parishes, for families, or as individuals--will be able to find what they need. I'll leave Advent resources out for those who discover later that they'd like something more, but in December, Epiphany stories and activities will become more prominent.

November is also the time of open enrollment in medical insurance for diocesan clergy and lay employees. The phone rings often enough for me to forego switching hats, as folk seek to make informed decisions in preparation for 2011.

Although Annual Council doesn't take place until the end of January, I've been working with Erin Harden as she gets the online registration website site up, with Lynn Robertson as she prepares the "Invitation to Council "emailing, and with the Education Consortium to finalize workshop offerings. A mailing has already gone out to parishes with complete information about an exciting Saturday@Council.

As patient as I try to be, as Advent-hearted as I want to be, I cannot forget that Christmas is coming! Wishing you light and love throughout all the seasons--
The season of Epiphany begins on January 6. Several lovely family customs are associated with Epiphany. It is on Epiphany that the Christmas creche is finally completed, as the figures of the three wise men at last arrive at the crib. In many families, the wise men are moved a bit closer to the manger every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Also, recalling the gifts to the Infant Jesus, many families exchange small gifts.

The blessing of the home is a popular Epiphany custom, using specially blessed chalk. Households mark their entrance door with the year and the letters CMB, separated by crosses. These are the initials of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the names of the three wise men in legend. CMB also stands for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which means "Christ, bless this home." For 2011, one would chalk 20+C+M+B+11 above the doorway or on the doorstep, where it would remain until Pentecost.

A sample liturgy for this can be found at http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/109448_110425_ENG HTM.htm; choose the link titled Blessing of Homes at New Years.

A time-honored custom is the baking of a cake with a bean, trinket, or coin hidden inside. The person whose piece of cake contains this item is made king of the feast and has the "royal privilege" of writing the inscription over the door.

The cake can be homemade or store-bought. The trinket, bean, or coin may be mixed into the batter if you are baking, or you can cut a slit into a purchased cake in which to hide it. Traditionally, the frosting is tinted yellow, purple and green.

Provide lots of decorations, such as gumdrops, jelly beans, gold and silver balls. Studding the cake with candy jewels like a crown may help young children understand Epiphany as the recognition, by the Magi ("three Kings"), of the Infant Jesus as Christ the King.

Children can make a gold paper crown from wrapping paper for the "king" to wear.

A traditional drink called "Lamb's Wool" is made of cider with roasted apples and sugar and spices. This Old English and Irish punch, which dates from the Middle Ages, probably gets its name from the woolly appearance of the roasted apples floating in the cider. It can also be made with hard cider or ale for adult crowds.

Recipe for Lamb's Wool Punch

- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 6 baking apples, cored
- 2 tablespoons to 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 quarts sweet cider

Roast the apples in a baking pan at 450 degrees F. for about an hour, or until they are very soft and begin to burst. (An alternative and quicker procedure is to peel and boil the apples until they are very soft and flaky.) You may leave the apples whole, or break them up.

In a large saucepan, dissolve the sugar a few tablespoons at a time in the cider, tasting for sweetness.

Add the spices.

Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes.

Pour the liquid over the apples in a large punch bowl, or serve in large heat resistant mugs.

This recipe yields about 8 one-cup servings.
As we move forward this month, past the elections, the reorganization of Congress, the stock market ups and downs, the thanksgiving times (which is a secular celebration, not religious), we enter into the beginning times. In our denomination, we start a new year on November 28--not one celebrated with champagne and balloons, but with something increasingly strange. We celebrate the New Year with penitence.

Strange, in a way, for the majority of the fellow citizens in our country. One of the local (Roanoke) radio stations is already (on Nov. 15) playing only "Christmas" music which includes the red-nosed reindeer, sleigh rides, snowmen, mama meets Jesus tonight -- none of which have to do with what WE do this new year. Somehow as a nation we have lost what this coming month is calling us to do and be.

Of course, it is about a gift. But it's about the greatest gift--a child coming to earth in a humble place with animals and straw, no hospital, no comfortable bed, little heat and light, helpless at His beginning. A First Gift that symbolically (at the least) calls us to explore our relationship to God and our relationships with all the others in the world--human, animals, all of creation.

Penitence is a strange way for a people called to celebrate and prepare for such a gift.

And yet... We spend more money for defense than all the other nations in the world--six times more than China, which has over four times our population. Strange that we prepare for the coming of Love into the world by focusing so strongly on fear of our own safety. We use millions of plastic bottles to hold water--plastic that appears at this point in time to take centuries to deteriorate--if it ever does. Strange that we prepare for the coming of Love into the world by allowing ourselves to become polluters of Love's creation. As a nation, we struggle over providing health care to our poorest. Strange that we prepare for the coming of Love into the world by ignoring those for whom that little Baby cared. As a nation, we struggle over caring for the 400,000 persons suffering from PTSD caused by our still continuing last two wars, as well as the thousands of women veterans who have become homeless because of the same war. Strange that we prepare for the coming of Love into the world by overlooking the pain and suffering of those who pay such a price for our freedoms.

Perhaps the season of penitence isn't so strange after all. That Child was--for those who call themselves Christians--the first Gift that we anticipate and look forward to celebrate this coming month. But the Church in its infinite wisdom has suggested, encouraged, and beseached us to prepare for the Baby's coming by becoming penitent for what we have done and what we have left undone.

But wait, you might say, I haven't done any of those things.

Sadly, our silence has often spoken more loudly than our words. Sadly, we have often not demanded that our leaders (and ourselves) live up to the call of that Baby who was the call of Love to all of us. Sadly, we have often been too busy to really listen to the message that little Baby died to bring to us. Sadly, we have often forgotten that the Baby who was really God's first gift to each of us in our Baptism calls us to work to make the world into His image.

So perhaps this beginning new year of penitence is right after all. Perhaps we need to focus more clearly on the presents we are called to give to the Christ Child instead of the presents we seek for and give to those around us. Perhaps we can only make the life of that Baby more real when we bring into the world more of the life he came to bring to all.

Perhaps that is really what it means to have a Merry Christmas--to dedicate our lives to making His life and His dreams and His hopes real for all of creation.
Plum Puddings: An R. E. Lee Memorial Tradition for 85 Years!

Every September a dedicated group of women and men gather for two days to pull bread, measure, mix, and weigh ingredients to prepare our tasty plum puddings. The plum puddings are then taken to a certified facility in Kezzletown, VA, to be canned. Our puddings have graced tables in Rockbridge County and as far away as Arizona and California! Plum Puddings are a time honored ECW tradition at R. E. Lee Memorial Church since Mrs. L. J. Desha started the program in 1925. The proceeds from the program are used for outreach.

Plum Puddings are available for sale for $14.00 and may be purchased through the R. E. Lee church office. (540) 463-4981

A Message From
The Rev. John Wilkerson, Deacon at Trinity, Staunton

After I was ordained and served as a deacon, I considered the next step in my calling might be. I decided I would give Spiritual Direction a try. Spiritual Direction is the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with God, as they learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. I enrolled in a two-year program. Upon finishing, I provide this service mostly to Christians, but am open to providing it to people of other faith traditions, as they search for their way on life's pilgrimage. My Spiritual Direction group usually meets once monthly for about an hour. We discuss our spiritual goals for the year and develop plans and methods for attaining them. Of, course, we pray together to be guided by the Holy Spirit for guidance, and we often discuss changing the plan if we feel we are not accomplishing our goals.

From Deborah Hunley, Clergy Deputy, as a follow-up to General Convention 2009:

Support for Public Schools

Does your congregation have a relationship with a nearby public school--elementary, middle, or high school?

Are you engaged in the support of public education through direct service, advocacy and/or teacher support?

If so, please share the following details with General Convention Deputy Diane Pollard, who is collecting information in response to GC 2009 Resolution B025.

- Name of Program
- Diocese
- Name of Contact Person
- Address
- Telephone
- Email

Email information to: ResolutionB025@aol.com


Mark your calendar!

Wondering About Convocation Meeting Dates?

January Convocation Meetings

All Convocations: Jan. 16, 2011
Snow date, if needed: Jan. 23

Lynchburg Convocation:
Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
1021 New Hampshire Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
2:30-4:30

New River Convocation
St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church
103 East Main St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
3:00-5:00

Abingdon Convocation
St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church
124 E. Main St.
Abingdon, VA 24210
2:30-4:30

Augusta Convocation
R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church
123 W. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450
3:00-5:00

Roanoke Convocation
St. James’ Episcopal Church
4515 Delray St.
Roanoke, VA 24012
2:30-4:30

Ninety-Second Annual Council
Council begins at 2 PM on Friday, January 28, and continues until business is concluded on Sunday, January 30, 2011.

Spring 2011 Meeting Dates

Roanoke Convocation : April 10
Abingdon Convocation: April 17
Augusta Convocation: May 1
Lynchburg Convocation: May 15
New River Convocation: May 22
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 28–30, 2011.

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 registered early for Children@Council so that there will be sufficient food, supplies, and helpers, and so that we may tailor the program to the ages of those actually attending. **Please register your children when you register yourself, as soon as you receive your invitation to Council information.**

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 C@C Coordinator Sally Willis (sallywillis@mcps.org) know if you’re interested in being part of this unique ministry with our youngest Episcopalians during Council 2011, and help support delegates and clergy in their work for the diocese.
Fall season at Grace House has been rather quiet and peaceful, giving time for thought and reflection. While we have not had a group in, we have accomplished several tasks through the magnificent devotion of one Jane Scherlis. I would like to express my sincere thanks to her and all her hard work while spending two months with us. Jane devoted her time to helping get new brochures designed, compiling a mailing list to send information to churches and colleges, and helping update forms and packets for the 2011 year.

If I could, I would take care of all of them—but neither I personally, nor Grace House itself, can meet all these needs. It is the wonderful contributions of others that help make this part of Grace House possible. The ringing of the Grace House bell can be heard all over the United States. Our visitors who come throughout the year for workcamps leave a little part of themselves to help the mountain folks during the winter months and carry our stories back home with them. I pray for God to truly bless them abundantly.

As we look forward to the coming year, there is much to anticipate. We have groups booked from various states, and the summer is filling up fast. We can offer lodging accommodations in our two bunkhouses, which together will sleep up to thirty people, segregated by gender. Each bunkhouse is equipped with indoor plumbing and showers. In addition to the bunkhouses, we also have a fully furnished two-bedroom cottage for families who would like a homey type of dwelling while here. The dining area has a large kitchen with shelves for storage, two stoves, two refrigerators, a large freezer, dishwasher, and seating for up to thirty people for meals. There are trails on the campus, one leading to an outdoor chapel in the woods. Plans can be made for other sight-seeing, visits to local museums, or having guest speakers come to Grace House.

Anyone interested in further information, please feel free to call or email Grace House. We will be glad to get an information packet and brochure out to you.
Last month I wrote about my hopes of having convocational youth ministry flourish in our diocese. This month I am very happy to share with you the results of such collaboration in the New River convocation. See--wonderful things can happen when we pool our resources for our youth! On Oct. 24 the Battle of the Burgs took place at Christ, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and "Radburg" (or Radford) parishes participated. It sounds as though a great time was had by all . . . .

Rad(burg) Romps at the Battle of the Burgs

On October 24, 2010, at the first Battle of the Burgs, Radburg (formerly Radford, T@G) came from behind to take the trophy. Blacksburg jumped into the lead with Joey's victory in "Ninja" and Matt's amazing slice on "Card Watermelon Toss." Then Radburg made a two-team contest when Adam "Swing 'em" Johnston, son of that banana-swinging folk hero Mike Johnston, won the "Banana Heave" with little or no competition. Blacksburg's Kerlin followed to tie things up with a win in the "Pencil Grab."

From then on it was practically all Radburg. Jordan "Beer Pong" Herring crushed the competition with three balls in a row in the "(Less) Beer Pong Bingo." Randolph "Sting 'em" Colby and Dante "Hokey Pokey 'em" Piro tumbled the walls of Jericho in "Rubber Band Bowling," and Dante following humbled all competition (including the Radburg priest) with a victory in "Dance Fever."

Alley from Christiansburg claimed a victory in "Jenga", but the results were questionable as she and her teammate Maggie tried to secure two points for one victory saying, "I deserve two points because I was the only person playing not from Radburg." (Boo hoo hoo, cry baby.)

The evening concluded with the awarding of the trophy which Radburg humbly accepted.

The next competition will be at Grace, Radburg, on December 5, 2010, where the Battle of the Burgs will continue with the Battle of the Burg Bands (Rock Band).

--Maureen Perry
Way to go, New River convocation! Many thanks to all involved in the planning of this fun event. We look forward to hearing about the battles to come.

Amee K. Bostrick

Youth Workers SPOTLIGHT

Maureen Perry is a youth worker at Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg. She is our featured youth worker this month.

Where are you from, and how long have you been an Episcopalian?

I can’t believe you can tell I am not local! I was born on Long Island, NY. I’ve also lived in Brookline, Boston, and Andover, Massachusetts. But I have to say my favorite place to live was Lake Placid, NY, where we lived before moving here to SWVA.

It was when we lived in Lake Placid that I first attended and fell in love with The Episcopal Church, with its beautiful liturgy and amazing invitation to all baptized Christians to come forward to the rail to receive the Gifts of God for the People of God.

What precipitated your involvement with youth at your parish?

Growing up, I was lucky to have Father John in my parish at youth group with his banjo and a smile. He certainly inspired me. I love the fun; the contagious energy, spirit, and spontaneity; the joy of being in the presence of the youth. They are a constant reminder of God’s presence, believing the best about the people around them. And maybe, just maybe, I’m really in it for the messy games, water balloons, and the opportunity to sleep on the floor at overnights!

What is the most poignant moment you’ve had doing this ministry?

Before: Driving with a group of youth from our parish to my first diocesan event, worrying about whether we would feel comfortable and have fun there.

After: Driving home together, reliving each moment, laughing about all kinds of stuff, and then—planning our next time and who else we wanted to have come with us.

What are some things that you and the youth are doing together?

We make sure to get involved in parish activities. Last year we had a year-of-service service which included a parents’ night out; offering a night with Luminaries on the Labyrinth to the town of Blacksburg; working at the Montgomery County Christmas Store; helping with the annual "party with a purpose" for Lakota Sioux ministries; volunteering in the nursery on Sunday mornings and helping out with Children’s Chapel; hosting a meal that benefited the diocesan Nets for Life project; and sharing in the fellowship of potluck meals with the rest of the parish.

Native Grace is the perfect place for your meaningful Christmas shopping!

Bring this coupon in with you to Native Grace. 10% of what you spend will go toward our diocesan efforts for Nets for Life!

Native Grace is a fair trade store located at 308 Market St SE in downtown Roanoke. Come and meet Donna Bollinger and enjoy the wonderful ambiance of her store and her delightful company!

Diocesan Youth Events through Spring 2011

Youth@Council (Y@C) January 28-30

Youthworkers weekend: February 25-27

Youth Ministry Team (YMT) retreat: March 18-20

Spring Youth Event (SYE): May 6-8

Updated information for these events will be found on the youth website: www.youth.dioswva.org
This is the last of three articles highlighting the recent ecumenical and interreligious dialogues on the national level. The first was an update on interreligious dialogue and the second was about our full communion status with the Moravians. This article talks about the next steps with the Presbyterian Church, USA. These articles have been a synopsis of information provided by the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of The Episcopal Church.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the General Assembly of the PCUSA, along with a majority of the presbyteries, have approved a proposed agreement between the two bodies. The full text may be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/ecumenism. Presbyterian and Episcopalians have been in dialogue, on and off, for nearly a century, without discussions reaching this level. This Agreement is not the same as full communion, and therefore the relationship between the two is not parallel to the one we have with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Agreement has three main goals. One simply acknowledges the significant theological convergence Presbyterians and Episcopalians have reached. The second indicates areas which need further dialogue. The third encourages us to work together in mission, witness, and service where already possible under our polity.

There are 10 points to the Agreement adopted by General Convention. A few are highlighted below due to the practical implications for our parishes.

#5 encourages us to share in ministry to the extent currently possible, and with the permission of the bishop and local presbytery. In the Presbyterian Church, an Episcopal priest may celebrate communion and preside at the Sacraments, under certain conditions. In the Episcopal Church, a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament may preach, lead Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, officiate at the Ministry of the Word, or preside at a communion service using an authorized rite of the Presbyterian Church.

#8 requests that dioceses and presbyteries considering working together on common areas of mission and ministry.

#9 states that the two churches develop a process for implementing these proposals.

#10 acknowledges that this Agreement is an important step towards full communion, but that this is not yet reconciliation of ordained ministries.

This series has highlighted three important ongoing conversations the Episcopal Church is having with others. The brochures used for these articles will be available at the Ecumenical/Interreligious display at council. I ask that these be shared and discussed in your parishes in hope that you might consider pursing these conversations as a piece of your life together.

Resources:
Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (212-716-6220), or the website: www.episcopalchurch.org/ecumenism. The full text of the Agreement is posted on the website.


General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations: http://www.pcusa.org/ecumenicalrelations/ This is the office which provides oversight and direction of the ecumenical work of the PCUSA.

Indian Hill Presbyterian-Episcopal Congregation, the oldest and most successful joint Presbyterian-Episcopal church: http://www.indianhillchurch.org/
News From Your Diocesan Liaison for Health Ministries

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

For some people, seasonal affective disorder is a cyclic, seasonal depression with symptoms beginning in the fall and continuing through the winter months. Although the specific cause of the disorder is unknown, a few factors that come into play are:

- Circadian Rhythm - reduced level of sunlight disrupts the body's internal clock
- Melatonin Levels - a disruption in the balance of this natural hormone
- Serotonin Levels - reduced sunlight causes a drop in the neurotransmitter

Risk Factors:
- Being female. Some studies show SAD is diagnosed more in women than men, but that men have more severe symptoms:
- Living far from the equator
- Family history of depression

Treatments:
Once diagnosed, it is generally agreed that people with SAD benefit from treatment before their symptoms typically begin each year.

- Counseling, particularly cognitive behavioral therapy
- Light therapy – see resources below
- Medications, usually antidepressants--see your health care provider if you think you need medicines

Lifestyle Remedies:
- Make your environment sunnier and brighter – open blinds, cut on your lights!
- Get outside, even on cold and cloudy days, to take a long walk or eat outside at lunchtime in a nearby park (Join the Walk to Bethlehem with us!)
- Exercise regularly, which will elevate Serotonin levels, relieving stress and anxiety
- Mind-body therapies, such as acupuncture, yoga, meditation, guided imagery, massage (Christ, Blacksburg, has 2 massage therapists!)

Faith Community Considerations:
- Offer a support group. There are many programs available.
- Start a walking program in the fall. Christ, Blacksburg, is walking to Bethlehem!
- Plan gatherings such as Bible Studies and book groups for late afternoon. Offer Longest Night/Blue or Dark Christmas liturgies in December (watch for local churches to offer, or develop one for your church!)

Resources:
- Mayo Clinic www.mayoclinic.com/health/seasonal-affectivedisorder
- National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) www.nami.org/Content/ContentGroups/Helpline1/Seasonal_Affective_Disorder_(SAD).htm

Susan Donckers RN, EdD, FNP is the Parish Nurse at Christ Church Blacksburg and the Diocesan Liaison for Southwestern Virginia. She would be glad to assist any parish with a health ministry. Contact her at (540) 552-2317 or sandjdonckers@msn.com.
How to: Provide a Temporary Neighborhood Shelter

In the middle of winter in 2010, a fire destroyed two apartment buildings in residential Yonkers, NY, neighborhood. When the Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate San Andres Episcopal Church Episcopal Church heard the commotion just a block from her parish, she went to see what was happening and how she could help. She found residents, many of them elderly, huddled on the street with nothing but the clothes they were wearing when they were evacuated, so she went back to the church and brought them the coats they had collected in a recent drive. Later she invited all of them back to the church to rest, warm up, and to have a bowl of soup provided by one of her parishioners. Seventy-five displaced residents spent three days and two nights at the church, returning to their charred apartments to salvage what they could and receiving help from government organizations. The church was able to provide shelter, food, clothes, and comfort.

For Bass-Choate, the key component of preparedness that every church should discuss before an emergency is its mission. If the mission of your church is to be open to God’s call to serve, then the church should always engage in times of trouble.

Here are some of Bass-Choate’s reflections:

- Be open to the opportunities to serve that are knocking at your door; just try to serve with what you already have. God will provide the mission and the means; it’s a matter of being willing to respond. When we saw all those people huddled out on the street in the cold, the first thing I thought of doing was bringing them all those coats from the clothing drive the week before that were sitting in the church. My next thought was to bring residents in out of the cold, so I invited them to the church.

- Allow God to grant you the awareness of what people really need; don't go looking for a program. You might make up a program that has no real benefit. The program and who you should serve will come to you; listen to your community and allow yourself to see what God is telling you.

- Your parish hall or even your church building can be an important asset that God has given you to do God's work. You have to be willing to use what you've been given for those who need you. What's the worst that can happen? You are bringing people into the House of God. For the people from the burned buildings, the fact that they could stay close-by was key. They wanted to be able to see what was happening to their home and have access to it the moment the authorities said they could go in.

- If you need more than what you can provide immediately, ask. Amazingly, the transformative power of God will bring people to help you. Once we brought everyone back to the church, we asked for and received other things necessary for that night: cots and bedding from the American Red Cross, funds for underwear and socks from the diocese, good and cooked meals from parishioners, donated goods like clothing and towels from other members of the community.
Rely on and ask your congregation for help. With prayer and trust they will help you. Even without a lot of financial resources, anyone can help. All I had to do was call one or two key parishioners and they spread the word that we had guests at the church. Soon after we had volunteers cooking soup and trying to make our guests comfortable. The youth group came to play with children and clean the two small bathrooms every half hour. An involved congregation will always be able to help with logistics and manpower--for example, I didn't have to sleep at the church during this time. There was always at least one parishioner willing to stay to help people with anything they may have needed during the night.

There is a simple activity that any church can do in a moment of emergency. Supply space for all the agencies and organizations providing help; make them accessible to those that need them. The day after the fire, the different organizations providing help, like the American Red Cross and Housing Department, asked if they could come to the church so that they could start the paperwork and other processes necessary to get residents temporary housing, etc. All the church had to do was clear the cots and set up tables and chairs to that representatives from each organization had a place they could speak to building residents.

Remember, there are going to be certain situations when you won't be able to provide. It's okay to say "no" and try to find other solutions. When the people came to the church, there just wasn't enough space for them and their pets. We created a temporary space for pets outside until other temporary homes that accepted animals could be found for them.

When God gives you the opportunity to serve, you can't help but be transformed both as a person and as a church. Be open to that opportunity. It's wonderful the way your life changes when you're given the chance to respond. God is giving you a gift by allowing you to have that experience. You need to be open to those opportunities and do what you can with what you have.

Remember, none of this is our doing. We need to trust that God will supply the mission and the work, and what we need to fulfill them. No one can respond on their own--it has to be empowered by the One who has commissioned you and the Church to do this work. God gives us that commission. God will allow us to be present and call us into mission when we least expect it, and it takes willingness to respond when you are called.

For more information, please contact Bill Lindsay at
blindsay@dioswva.org  540-342-6797  800-DIO-SWVA

US Disaster Program
www.er-d.org
Make Camp Kanuga a Part of Your Child’s Summer

Camp Kanuga is eagerly looking for young people to join in the fun next summer. Camp registration for 2011 will open to new families on October 15. Each camp session has space for 120 campers so families are encouraged to register early. Exciting times, new friends and awesome adventures await all who sign up! Financial aid may be made available to interested families so please inquire.

Session 1: June 5-14, 2011: $895  
Session 2: June 16-29, 2011: $1295  
Session 3: July 1-14, 2011: $1295  
Session 4: July 17-30, 2011: $1295  
Session 5: August 1-10, 2011: $895

About Camp Kanuga

Camp Kanuga is a traditional coed overnight summer camping program sponsored by Kanuga Conferences, an Episcopal center in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Camp Kanuga offers young people ages 7-15 an enjoyable and stimulating experience in a Christian outdoor setting. The program enables campers to grow emotionally and spiritually while at the same time developing new interests, skills and friendships. Programs include archery, sports, climbing/adventure, camping, arts and crafts, performing arts, Christian exploration, music, and aquatics.

For more information, please visit www.campkanuga.org.

Teens to aid WNC migrant families at Kanuga youth conference

Winterlight 35 to partner with Blue Ridge Community Health Services, examine “Decisions for Life”

Teens from across the country will have the opportunity to aid families in Western North Carolina during the 35th annual Winterlight conference Dec. 27-Jan. 1 at Kanuga Conferences, Inc.

The conference for students in grades 9-12 is partnering with Blue Ridge Community Health Services, a Hendersonville-based nonprofit that provides affordable medical, dental, and mental health care as well as health education.

Participants will spend an afternoon assembling “no sew” blankets with prayers tucked between two layers of fleece. The finished blankets will be given to the BRCHS community outreach program, which helps migrant workers and their families gain access to health care and other services including housing, clothing, and food.

Henderson County has a large population of seasonal workers drawn by agriculture and construction industry jobs. They often live in work camps lacking many basic necessities.

“Right outside the border of Kanuga, there are people in need,” said conference coordinator Dee Zeller of Stevensville, Md. “This is a way for us to help spread warmth and to give them prayers.”

Winterlight 35 will focus on the theme “Decisions for Life,” urging participants to consider how daily decisions pull them closer to or away from God.

“We will gain a deeper understanding about our choices in life,” said Scott Jeffries of Raleigh, N.C., who is coordinating the conference with Zeller. “We hope participants will find that decisions are never made alone. God is always present.”

The Rev. John Porter-Acee, associate rector at Christ Church in Charlotte, N.C., will serve as chaplain. Music will be led by Mike Peterson, youth director at St. Catherine’s Episcopal Church in Marietta, Ga.

Begun in 1976, Winterlight draws students from many states and dioceses. The conference provides a supportive Episcopal community where young people gather to explore their faith, make new friends, and ring in the new year.

Affiliated with the Episcopal Church since 1928, Kanuga is a 1,400-acre camp and conference center in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Hendersonville, N.C. Sibling discounts and financial aid are available. For more information, visit www.kanuga.org or call 828-692-9136.
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

◆ January 20: Deacon Bill and Mary Lynne Bumgarner, in celebration of the birth of their new granddaughter, Meg
◆ March 20 Yvonne and Amanda Belanger in celebration of Marian Belanger’s 65th birthday
◆ March 28: The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. James Henry, in celebration of their granddaughter Abigail’s 4th birthday
◆ June 13: Bishop Neff and Dorothy Powell, in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary
◆ July 11: John and Delia Heck
◆ July 19: Bob and Susan Miller, in honor of their children
◆ August 3: Ellen Bouton, in memory of her parents on their wedding anniversary
◆ September 10: The Rev. Chris Mason, in celebration of Jeanne Mason’s birthday
◆ September 19: Deacon Bill and Mary Lynne Bumgarner, in celebration of the 3rd birthday of their grandson, Jacob
◆ October 18: from an anonymous donor in celebration of the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist
◆ November 1 Daughters of the King in honor of Phoebe Needles Center, the Rev. John Heck, Director, and the Phoebe Staff and Board of Directors
◆ November 21: Dennis Case
◆ December 20: Preston Mitchell and Patty Baumgartner, in celebration of the anniversary of their wedding

Sponsor-A-Day pledges are used to reduce the 2010 deficit and to support diocesan ministries.
**Received Reports**

A big THANK YOU to all parishes who have already returned diocesan paperwork due in 2010 to the diocesan office. Check the chart to see who you are! (Chart reflects materials received by the fifteenth of each month.) Parishes in need of copies can find them in the Diocesan Paperwork notebook. For more information or other assistance, contact L.Robertson@dioswva.org or call 1-800-DIO-SWVA.)

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"When is that due?"

- Notice of 2010 Vestry Elections: January 9, 2010
- 2010 Parish Officers Report: February 1, 2010
- 2009 Parochial Report: March 1, 2010
- 2009 Parish Audit: August 31, 2010
- 2011 Parish Funding Commitment (VPG): December 15, 2010
- Court of Record Information for Parish Trustees: Update as changes occur
- Parish By Laws: The diocesan canons say that parishes may adopt by laws and that if they do they are to send them and any amendments to them to the bishop "promptly following adoption."
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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark Furlow
249 VES Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503
(859) 321-9244

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

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

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

Jones, Richard
1902 Jamestown Road
Alexandria 22308
(703) 823-3186

Lane, John D.
307 Rainbow Dr
Staunton VA 24401
(540) 885-5842

Litzenburg, Thomas
316 S. Jefferson St.
Lexington 24450
(540) 463-5885

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

Mannschreck, Mary Lou
496 Litz Lane
Tazewell, VA 24651
(276) 472-2195

McNeer, Conrad
490 North Court Street, #6
Abingdon, VA 24210
(276) 628-7817

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

Morrison, Robert D.
119 Briarwood St.
Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-0019

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, Frank
1552 Park Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 564-3475

Wignier, Doug
104 Yorkshire Circle
Lynchburg, VA 24502
(434) 239-1824


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 $.50 cents per mile, effective January 1, 2010. 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. Each parish is listed once in this schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 2010</th>
<th></th>
<th>December 2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03 St. Mark's, Clifford</td>
<td>05 Christ, Blacksburg</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Trinity, Staunton</td>
<td>12 St. Thomas, Bedford</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 St. Stephen's, Forest</td>
<td>17 St. John's, Glasgow</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Emmanuel, Bristol</td>
<td>19 St. Elizabeth's, Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Trinity, Rocky Mount</td>
<td>26 Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<th>May 2010</th>
<th></th>
<th>January 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02 R. E. Lee Memorial, Lexington</td>
<td>02 New Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 Trinity, Staunton</td>
<td>09 Trinity Ecumenical, Moneta</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 St. Stephen's, Forest</td>
<td>16 Christ, Big Stone Gap</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 St. John's, Wytheville</td>
<td>23 St. John's, Roanoke</td>
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<td>30 Council</td>
<td>30 Council</td>
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<tr>
<th>June 2010</th>
<th></th>
<th>February 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 St. John's, Bedford</td>
<td>06 St. Paul's, Martinsville</td>
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<td>13 Christ, Pulaski</td>
<td>13 Reserved</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Ascension, Amherst</td>
<td>20 Trinity, Lynchburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Luke's, Pedlar Mills</td>
<td>27 Emmanuel, Covington</td>
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<td>27 St. James', Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<th>July 2010</th>
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<th>March 2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>04 York</td>
<td>06 Christ, Martinsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Bradford</td>
<td>13 St. Andrew's, Clifton Forge</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Vacation</td>
<td>20 Christ, Buena Vista</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Vacation</td>
<td>27 House of Bishops</td>
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<tr>
<th>August 2010</th>
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<th>April 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Vacation</td>
<td>03 Emmanuel, Staunton</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 Good Shepherd, Galax</td>
<td>10 St. John's, Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 St. Paul's, Salem</td>
<td>17 Trinity, Richlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 St. John's, Waynesboro</td>
<td>24 Grace, Radford</td>
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<td>29 Tazewell Cluster</td>
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<tr>
<th>September 2010</th>
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<th>May 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05 Labor Day weekend</td>
<td>01 Good Shepherd, Folly Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 St. Peter's, Callaway</td>
<td>08 St. John's, Lynchburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 House of Bishops</td>
<td>15 St. Paul's, Lynchburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Peace in the Valley, Nellysford</td>
<td>22 St. Mark's, Fincastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Nelson Parish</td>
<td>29 St. Paul's, Bear Mountain</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2010</th>
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<th>June 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03 Grace Memorial, Lynchburg</td>
<td>05 Christ, Pearisburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 St. Thomas', Christiansburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 St. Thomas', Abingdon</td>
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<td>24 St. Luke's, Hot Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 All Saints, Norton</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark's, St. Paul</td>
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<tr>
<th>November 2010</th>
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<th>December 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07 Trinity, Buchanan</td>
<td>04 Christ, Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Good Shepherd, Blue Grass</td>
<td>(outside the 14-month span by parish request)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Christ, Marion</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul's, Saltville</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 St. Peter's, Altavista</td>
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### Looking Ahead at Evans House

#### January
- 04 Finance Committee 10 AM
- 08 Executive Board
- 09 Notice of vestry elections & necrology form due to Evans House
- 16 January Convocation meetings
- 23 Snow date for Convocation meetings
- 27 Legacy Society Dinner
- 28--30 Annual Council

#### February
- 01 Parish Officers Report due to Evans House
- 03--05 EFM Mentor Training
- 10 Education Consortium
- 25--26 Youth Workers' Retreat

#### March
- 01 Parochial Reports due
- 10 Lenten Clergy Quiet Day
- 18--20 YMT Retreat
- 19 MDG Day
- 31 Certificates of election for next Council due to Evans House

#### April
- 02 Interfaith Creation Care Conference (LARCUM)
- 07 Title IV Training for Clergy
- 08--10 Happening III
- 09 Daughters of the King Spring Assembly
- 10 Roanoke Convocation Meeting
- 15--17 Global Youth Service
- 17 Palm Sunday
- 17 Abingdon Convocation Meeting
- 22 Good Friday; Evans House closed
- 24 Easter
- 25 Evans House closed

#### May
- 01 Augusta Convocation
- 06--08 Spring Youth Event (SYE)
- 09 Province III Synod
- 15 Lynchburg Convocation
- 22 New River Convocation

#### June
- 22--26 Episcopal Youth Event (EYE)
The mission of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is to challenge and support the creativity of our congregations in Christian growth and global responsibility.

William Lloyd Garrison was an abolitionist leader and founder of the antislavery newspaper *The Liberator*. Garrison made a name for himself as one of the most articulate, as well as most radical, opponents of slavery. His approach to emancipation stressed nonviolence and passive resistance, and he attracted a vocal following. While some other abolitionists of the time favored gradual emancipation, Garrison argued for "immediate and complete emancipation of all slaves." After the abolition of slavery in the United States, Garrison continued working on other reform movements, especially temperance and women's suffrage. He continued to participate in public debate and to support reform causes, devoting special attention to the causes of women's rights and of civil rights for blacks.

Maria Miller Stewart was an African American public speaker, abolitionist, and feminist. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and at the age of five became an orphan and was sent to live with a minister and his family, where she was a servant in their home. She later moved to Boston and married James W. Stewart. Following his death and the loss of her inheritance, she embarked on the short writing and public speaking career for which she is best known. Her speeches and articles were published in *William Lloyd Garrison's The Liberator*. She later moved to New York and then to Washington, DC, where she was head matron of the Freedman's Hospital.

"... it is not the color of the skin that makes the man or the woman, but the principle formed in the soul. Brilliant wit will shine, come from whence it will; and genius and talent will not hide the brightness of its lustre."

--Maria Stewart

God, in whose service alone is perfect freedom:
We thank you for your prophets
William Lloyd Garrison
and Maria Stewart,
who testified that we are made not by the color of our skin but by the principle formed in our soul.
Fill us, like them, with the hope and determination to break every chain of enslavement, that bondage and ignorance may melt like wax before flames, and we may build that community of justice and love which is founded on Jesus Christ our cornerstone; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

William Lloyd Garrison
and Maria Stewart
Prophetic Witnesses
December 17
From *Holy Women, Holy Men*