Southern Virginia's 125th Annual Council convened February 10-11 at the Williamsburg Lodge.

**Keynote speaker**

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek, Canon for Stewardship in the Diocese of Arizona, shared his wisdom, experience and vision in two presentations and his sermon at the Council Eucharist. Recordings of Canon Dombek's presentations, his handouts and other resources, are available on the Stewardship page of the diocesan website.

**Bishop Hollerith's Address to Council**

Bishop Hollerith addressed Council on Friday morning. He remarked on the tumultuous and unsettling events of the past year and what that could mean for the Church - "I sense us entering a period when more and more people will be turning to the church for answers and for meaning and for community."

He also spoke about the Executive Board's Social Justice Task Group, Chanco on the James, and announced the addition of the Rt. Rev. James Magness to the diocesan staff beginning in late March. Bishop Magness is the retired bishop of the Armed Forces & Federal Ministries. He will assist, part-time, with visitations and explore the possibility of a new church plant.

**Elections**

The following elections were made by Council. For more information about these positions and the nominees who were elected, go to the Annual Council page of the diocesan website.

- **Standing Committee:** Lynn Farlin (Ascension, Norfolk); The Very Rev. Susan Grimm (St. Timothy’s, Clarksville & Trinity, South Boston)
- **Disciplinary Board:** John Rector (St. Paul’s, Suffolk); The Rev. Ronald Ramsey (St. Cyprian’s, Hampton); The Rev. Stewart Tabb (Ascension, Norfolk)
- **Provincial Synod:** Gay Forloine (Hickory Neck, Toano)
- **General Convention—Lay Deputies:** Sam Webster, Head of Deputation (Ascension, Norfolk); Alice Webley (All Saints, Virginia Beach); Toni Hogg (St. John’s, Hampton); Isabel Burch (Bruton Parish, Williamsburg). Lay Alternates: Matthew White (St. David’s, Chesterfield); Cara Kinsey (Emmanuel, Chatham)
- **General Convention—Clergy Deputies:** Julia Messer (Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach); Willis Foster (St. Stephen’s, Petersburg); Samantha Vincent-Alexander (St. John’s, Hampton); Cameron Randle (St. George’s Parish on the Eastern Shore). Clergy Alternates: Dale Custer (St. John’s, Chester); Ronald Ramsey (St. Cyprians’, Hampton); Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly (Hickory Neck, Toano); Mark Wilkinson (St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach)

**Resolutions**

Memorial Resolutions honoring Southern Virginia’s leaders who died during the previous year were passed. The Rev. Michael Ferguson, The Rev. James Hall, The Rev. Sidney Hall, The Rev. William Harper, The Rev. Robert New, The Rev. John Ruef, The Rev. Claude Turner, and Dr. Vivian Williamson were honored this year. A Courtesy Resolution acknowledging and celebrating the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood was also passed.

Resolutions considered by Council were: Resolution C-1, Parishes at Risk, PASSED; Resolution R-1, Changes to Rules of Order - WITHDRAWN; General Convention Resolutions - PASSED AS READ. For more information on these resolutions, go to the Annual Council page of the diocesan website.

Go to page 13 or visit the diocesan Facebook page to see pictures from this year's Annual Council.
Clergy transitions

The Rev. Carlotta Cochrane began as Priest in Charge Time Certain at St. Thomas, Chesapeake, August 28, 2016.


The Rev. Frederick Walker left St. Mark’s, Suffolk, on February 28, 2017.

The Rev. Catherine Boyd will begin as Rector of St. Martin’s, Williamsburg, on April 9, 2017.

James Solomon Russell Chapter of UBE invites you to join them

The Union of Black Episcopalian (UBE) invites ALL Episcopalians, regardless of race, to become members of UBE and join them in their mission of fighting racism and encouraging the involvement of Black people in the total life of the church. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is a lifetime member of UBE - won’t you join him and support this vital ministry?

The James Solomon Russell chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Grace, Norfolk (1400 E. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk). All Episcopalians in the Diocese of Southern Virginia are invited and encouraged to join the UBE and become members of this diverse and concerned group. Annual dues are $70 for individuals, $60 for retired, and $105 four couples. For more information contact David Flores, drf71137@gmail.com.

James Solomon Russell/Saint Paul’s College museum and archives being established

The Brunswick County/Lake Gaston Tourism Association worked with officials at Saint Paul's College before it closed to secure and store the historical artifacts, records, photographs, memorabilia and other items documenting the life of James Solomon Russell and the college he founded. Those items will be housed together in a museum and archive. A committee has been formed to start work on creating the James Solomon Russell/Saint Paul's College Museum and Archive. The newly formed committee would like to invite those who may be interested in serving on the board or helping with the project to attend their meetings - the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the former school board office at 219 N. Main Street in Lawrenceville.

“This new museum will be a great asset to this community, both alumni groups and all visitors who want to research and browse the works of this distinguished intellectual pioneer," said James Grimstead, chair of the committee, "and hopefully inspire our youth to pinpoint this place to make their mark."

For more information please contact James Grimstead, 434-848-2173

9th annual James Solomon Russell celebration March 26

The 9th annual celebration of the Feast Day of Archdeacon James Solomon Russell will be held on Sunday, March 26, at 4 p.m. at St. Stephen’s, Petersburg. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Grady W. Powell. The offering will go to the new James Solomon Russell-Saint Paul’s College Museum and Archives.

For information please contact James Grimstead at 434-848-2173 or gsmus@aol.com, or the Rev. Willis Foster at 804-733-6228. St. Stephen's is located at 228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA.
Bishop James Magness to join diocesan staff

Bishop Hollerith announced at Annual Council earlier this month that the Rt. Rev. James Magness will be joining the diocesan staff in late March as a part-time assisting bishop.

Bishop Magness has just retired as the Suffragan Bishop of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries and is well known by many in the diocese. He served as interim rector of Galilee, Virginia Beach, and as a canon of the diocese. He was also the Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Kentucky.

Bishop Hollerith's visitation schedule will not change, and Bishop Magness will assist with visitations so that churches will not have to wait so long between Episcopal visits. Bishop Hollerith has also asked Bishop Magness to explore a potential site for a new congregational planting.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop Jay Magness

Join the Rt. Rev. Jay Magness, pilgrimage leader, and Bishop Hollerith, on this life-changing trip October 17-28, 2017. This pilgrimage is limited to 35 people.

Through the assistance of Lightline Pilgrimages, this pilgrimage has been designed just for the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Pilgrims will have the incredible opportunity to walk in the places where Jesus walked and seeing many of the things that our Lord saw. Go to www.diosova.org for more information.

May 2018 pilgrimage to Scotland & England

A Pilgrimage to Scotland and England is being organized for May 2018. After a time for quiet and reflection on Iona, the group will travel to Melrose. At Melrose, pilgrims will walk the Way of St. Cuthbert, approximately 70 miles, to Lindisfarne. After completing the Way of St. Cuthbert, they will visit The Shrine of St. Cuthbert at Durham Cathedral. Pilgrims will conclude their time with a visit to Edinburgh. For more information, contact Doris Custer (CusterDD@gmail.com) or Dale Custer (rdalecuster@gmail.com).

Register now for May Weekend!

May Weekend is weekend retreat at Chanco on the James, sponsored by the Episcopal Youth Community Board. May Weekend is open to all youth in grades 6-12 and their adult advisors. May 20-22 at Chanco on the James. Go to www.diosova.org/youth for information and registration.

Upcoming Cursillo weekends

Cursillo is a movement within the Episcopal Church. It is an adult retreat designed to help us grow closer to Jesus Christ. It’s also a community where we’re encouraged to live joyfully and serve faithfully in grace. For more information on Cursillo or to apply to be a candidate or a team member, please visit the Cursillo website at www.cursillodiosova.org.

Cursillo #162 Co-Ed Weekend - April 27-30 at Chanco on the James. Rector: Gerry Lopez of Grace Church, Yorktown. To apply to be a candidate or a team member go to www.cursillodiosova.org or contact Gerry at gerrylopez@cox.net.

Cursillo #163 Co-Ed Weekend - September 28-October 1 at Chanco on the James. Rector: Jim Thurmond of St. George’s, Newport News. To apply to be a candidate or a team member go to www.cursillodiosova.org or contact Jim at jdtorsct@cox.net.

Resources and assistance for environmental stewardship

Caring for Creation is one of our Diocesan Stewardship goals: “to inspire and mobilize parishes to play a leadership role in building a just and resilient future through environmental stewardship programs”. We encourage you to access the resources that have recently been added to the Stewardship page of the diocesan website, www.diosova.org/stewardship.

We are looking to connect with parishes who:
- would like assistance in growing an environmental stewardship program (some of you indicated that in a diocesan survey); or
- already have an environmental stewardship program and would be willing to share their experiences and resources with others.

If either of these describes your parish, please send your parish name, your name and contact information to diosovagreen@gmail.com.
Quinceanera celebration at St. Matthew’s

By Carrie Hillman, St. Matthew’s, Chesterfield

Excitement filled the air on Sunday afternoon, January 15 as the family of Cayla Veronica Rivera Mayen and her St. Matthews, Chesterfield, family prepared the final touches for their first ever Quinceanera. The Mayen family, originally from Guatemala, asked the congregation to help Cayla celebrate the life of this charming young lady on her 15th birthday. The Holy Eucharistic celebration was planned as a time of gratitude for the gift of life, a sign of unity with our Lord, unity of his love and full hope of his grace - no small task. It was carefully designed with Scripture and music that enhanced this celebration. The planning also included a "fiesta" like celebration following the service. Appropriate and delicious Guatemalan food was lovingly prepared by members of the family as well as the parish.

The Quinceanera is an extremely important part of a young girl's life in Latin America and Mexican cultures. It is a celebration of a girl's quince anos, a thanksgiving for having received life and an acceptance of the duties life brings with it when you live in accordance to love and the commands of God. Life means growth and growth means maturity. A mature person is one who can make decisions and commitments and be faithful to them, even though it may be difficult to carry them out. In the spirit of faith, we presented Cayla to God to reflect on his divine mercy and to ask pardon for sins. And, to complete the work God has given us to do with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Cayla is a delightful and thoughtful young lady. Upon moving to this country, she quickly became fluent in English, received honors as the most outstanding student during her first year in school and recently was inducted into Honor Society. She currently is doing work at St. Matthew’s to fulfill her hours for community service. We, her St. Matthew's family considered it a privilege to share in this wonderful event.

In-town missionaries needed

By The Rev. Bruce Cheney, St. Paul’s, Newport News

I often hear stories from folks who have just come back from a mission trip, let's say to Haiti or Ecuador. They tell how it was a "life changing" experience. It makes me wonder, in what way? What will you change? When this happens what we hear is a call to service. Maybe what you need is a role as a missionary in your own community.

As Christians, we're probably very plugged in to what's going on at the church. But does that community connection extend beyond the doors of the church? Sometimes, making an impact in our community means being an active participant in things that affect your life and the lives of your neighbors. Wasn't Jesus plugged in to his community? He was always in the temple and the marketplace, right?

When it comes to in-town missions, the possibilities are endless. You don't need a passport to make a difference. There are many locally-based organizations that need your help. One of those places is St. Paul's, Newport News.

Missionaries needed at St. Paul's:
- A Treasurer: St. Paul's needs a treasurer who is willing to serve with us for a season.
- Board Members: St. Paul's is forming a non-profit and is seeking involvement from any of our local partner churches and organizations.
- Architect: We need an architect who would be able to work with the City of Newport News and help us do some small but important building upgrades to help keep the building relevant to our current needs.
- Lawyer: It would be helpful to have a lawyer who would be willing to help us navigate the state and federal regulations while we form our non-profit.
- Builders/Supervisors: We have several people/organizations helping us with the physical upgrades to the facility, but we need more hands, especially those who can visualize a project and help us supervise it to the end.

Have you ever wanted to go on a mission trip? How about a mission trip (or a part-time mission season) to Downtown Newport News? Call the Rev. Bruce Cheney at St. Paul's, 757-755-6343. I promise you it will be life-changing for you too.
Ministry of Church of Our Saviour comes to a close
By Valerie Farmer, Our Saviour, Midlothian

The Episcopal Church Our Saviour (COS) was founded as a mission church in Midlothian VA in 1964 by the Reverend Dr William Gerow Christian. Early services were held in the homes of Dorothy Charles and Dorothy Hensley. The church location is situated on a property donated by Dorothy Charles in memory of her late husband. The building was actually built by the men in the congregation.

COS has served the community for over 50 years. Members have been active in the support of missionaries, taking in & supporting refugees, a feeding program with the Hospital Hospitality House & Good Samaritans, as well as other food pantry type organizations in the area.

As with any circle of life, there comes a time to move forward and make changes. With the retirement of our full-time supply priest, the Rev. John Stanton, it became evident that COS had served its purpose in the community. On December 4 we celebrated the life of the community at COS as well as the deconsecration of the building. COS remains because the church is the people not the building.

Our music ministry, Simply Worship, includes other local musicians, and they continue with their work. They provide faith-based music in interdenominational settings, spreading God's word through music. While they are looking for a "home" they continue to play at local retirement communities and other benefits. It's heartwarming to know that a piece of COS remains active.

The vestry and congregation at COS are truly thankful for the assistance of Canon Ed Tracy and the Rev Jeunee Godsey in this difficult decision and transition. We are also thankful for the Rev. Bill Wells, the supply priest who saw us through to our last service. Most of all we are thankful that God allowed COS to touch the hearts of so many people.

St. Martin’s youth start Hoodie Outreach
By Carol Vipavetz, St. Martin’s, Williamsburg

St. Martin’s, Williamsburg, Hoodie Outreach was inspired while volunteering at St. Paul's, Newport News, luncheon for the homeless in mid-October. St. Martin’s has participated in this for 25 years. This year, while sharing the meal, conversation led to the needs of homeless people. Those needs were hoodies, several pairs of socks to change into when the weather is wet, and hand sanitizer to ward off flu season germs. Several of St. Martin’s teenagers asked what they could do to help. Under the direction of Cindy Jordan, the J2A group created the Hoodie Outreach. They asked parishioners for donations of the needed items and received a tremendous response. With donations of items and money, the J2A group was able to provide a hoodie, two pairs of socks, and hand sanitizer for 80 individuals. The Sunday after Thanksgiving, 45 bags were taken to St. Paul's and 35 bags to homeless outreach in Williamsburg for distribution. The teenagers from St. Martin’s saw how they could make outreach become a reality.

Churches on Eastern Shore extend welcome following election

Not long after the Nov. 8, 2016 election, leaders of the seven Episcopal churches on the Eastern Shore of Virginia decided to take action in response to the presidential campaigns' divisive rhetoric and reports of an increase in hate crimes against minorities.

The seven churches took out an advertisement in local newspapers headlined “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You,” in which they said they want people to know "regardless of your race, color, creed, age, ethnic background or gender identity you are welcome to participate in our worship and sacraments, spiritual guidance, fellowship, pastoral care, outreach and educational ministries."


Get more news from Southern Virginia!
Sign up for our weekly eNews at www.diosova.org.
Under the Gun: An art exhibition and community conversation

St. Andrew's, Norfolk, Grace, Norfolk, and Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk, co-hosted a very special art exhibit Jan. 13 through Feb. 4 at Work|Release art gallery in Norfolk. The project featured an exhibition of art, by national and local artists, using guns as the building blocks of creative art. The exhibit provided a context for a series of community discussions that brought together a diverse cross-section of Norfolk residents around the common goal of reducing gun violence in their community. The project was supported by a Diocesan Seeds of Hope Grant.

The project got under way with a Legislative Lunch and a preview of the exhibition featuring speakers from the Virginia Center for Public Safety and Moms Demand Action. Other events included a Breaking Bread Brunch for activists, police officers, faith leaders and community members to help build bridges of trust; suicide prevention workshop for faith leaders and congregations; a forum gathering to strategize about improving mental health resources and reducing the stigma of mental health issues.

Will you be my Valentine?

On Valentine’s Day, Boys Home has been blessed by the St. Anne's Guild at St. John's, Hampton, for the last few years. They make sure every boy and every staff member has a Valentine! We know it must take hours to put together these goodie bags for everyone at Boys Home and we’re so thankful for the commitment they’ve made to make a difference in the lives of these young men. The boys love the candy, but they also love knowing that people are thinking of them on holidays. They always remember St. John's for giving them Valentines and are excited to receive them each year. Thank you, St. John's, for thinking of the boys and making Valentine’s Day special at Boys Home!

Jackson-Feild alumna creates Club J316 for teens

Eight residents and several staff members from Jackson-Feild recently traveled to True Word Christian Church in Franklin to visit Club J316 - a free Christian club for children in grades 5-12 that is the creation of Jackson-Feild alumna Leslie Ludwig.

At Club J316, high school and college students - some of whom travel as much as 100 miles to perform - give an upbeat concert of hip hop and rap music in a Christian atmosphere.

Ludwig started Club J316 because she felt that teens are bombarded with unhealthy and unhelpful messages. Admitting that she had a great deal of obstacles to overcome in her teen years, Ludwig says, "I always wanted to do something to help other children like me. If I can help only one child with our live Holy Hip Hop and Christian Rap, I will have accomplished my goal."

Ludwig hopes to bring her Club J316 to the Jackson-Feild campus and share her message of hope and grace with all the boys and girls. The residents who enjoyed the concert in Franklin danced the night away and spoke of how moving the experience was.

Ross Wright’s translation of Karl Barth published

The Rev. Ross Wright, rector of Good Shepherd, Richmond, is happy to announce the publication of his translation of Karl Barth's Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians (Baker Academic Press).

From the Baker catalogue: In 1921-22, the same period he prepared the groundbreaking second edition of his Romans commentary, Barth lectured on the exposition of Ephesians at the University of Göttingen. As he did for his courses on other New Testament texts, Barth lectured from a detailed and carefully researched manuscript. The resulting set of lectures, now available in English for the first time, introduces theological and exegetical issues pertinent to the study of Ephesians. The book also includes introductory essays by two world-renowned scholars, Francis Watson and John Webster.
Gleaning in the Fields of Light—a new blog from Ken Woodley of St. Anne’s

Ken Woodley has been writing reflections for his parish, St. Anne’s, Appomattox and was encouraged to develop a blog to share those insights with a wider audience. You can follow the blog at www.kenwoodley.com.

Ken was a journalist at The Farmville Herald for 36 years, and the newspaper’s editor for the last 25 of those years. He is currently writing a book about his community's journey of racial healing and reconciliation, "Gather Your Light: Overcoming the Shadow of Massive Resistance." Ken is also authoring the January 2018 meditations for Forward Day By Day.

A Women's Hózhó Center in Navajoland

By The Rev. Lauren McDonald, Addictions & Recovery Commission Co-Chair

In late January, the Rev. Jan M. Brown and I answered an invitation from the bishop of Navajoland to travel to Farmington, New Mexico, to consult with the Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN) on creating a Women’s Hózhó Center.

Hózhó is a Navajo word that is difficult to translate. Its meaning encompasses the concepts of living in balance, wholeness, wellness, beauty, harmony, goodness, and blessing. It’s also used as a greeting. ECN is developing the Women’s Hózhó Center to help women to heal from the disease of addiction, to live in balance, to set and achieve goals, to find their own voices and identity as Navajo women, and to discover sources of strength and spirituality. Using the experience we’ve gained leading the Women’s Discovery Group at SpiritWorks, we spent the weekend in conversation with Navajo and non-Navajo clergy and laity in designing a Women’s Wellness Weekend in March that will begin the programming for the Hózhó Center.

We also visited the mission church, St. Luke’s in the Desert, while we were there and were humbled and delighted at the invitation to serve as celebrant and deacon that morning. Jan then facilitated a conversation at St. Luke's annual meeting in which the atmosphere moved from one of gloom at the potential of closing, to one of renewed hope and commitment to restoration and recovery. We were honored and privileged to be invited to walk alongside the Navajo people on their journey toward wholeness.

The Episcopal Church in Navajoland covers territory in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. The unemployment rate on the reservation is 50% and the poverty rate is 38%. Alcoholism and addiction continue to be a challenge, with many women, especially, dying from cirrhosis of the liver. Conditions are harsh; resources are few. And yet, in our visit we saw great hope. Several of the Navajo people have attended Episcopal seminaries and are being ordained as deacons and priests. They are working to integrate Navajo culture with their Episcopal faith. They have begun developing social enterprises like the Blue Corn Project, the Bees and Honey Project, and the ShiMa’ handmade soap project. They have also developed a group of coders and another group whose expertise is web and graphic design. They welcome mission teams from across the country who come to work alongside them and learn from them. They are eager to develop an ECW for their mission diocese as well as continuing to build programming for youth.

If you are interested in learning more about our work with the Navajo people, please contact Lauren McDonald, lmcdonald@brutonparish.org, or Jan Brown, jbrown@brutonparish.org. We invite you to keep the people of Navajoland in your prayers.

Bishop confirms 16 new Episcopalians

Bishop Hollerith’s visitation at Epiphany, Norfolk, on Feb. 5, included the confirmation of 16 new Episcopalians - 14 from Epiphany, Norfolk, one from Good Shepherd, Norfolk, and one from Advent, Norfolk. Photos by Jackie Rochelle of Epiphany.
ECW to Tour Jackson-Field Homes in May

Jackson-Field Homes in Jarrett, Virginia will host the ECW Spring Annual Meeting May 20. A highlight of the day will be a tour of the campus including a visit to Marshall Cottage to see renovations made using the $20,000 gifted by the ECW last fall. The campus Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Robin Jones will celebrate Holy Eucharist and lunch will be served. Watch for registration information.

Thank you for your support of United Thank Offering

By Helen Sharpe-Williams, ECW President

Holy Father God, the gifts You give are endless and incomprehensible. What we do with those gifts will prove how much we really appreciate them. At the end of the day, may our thankfulness add up to the many blessings you have bestowed on us. Thank you for your mercy and grace for the joy in our hearts that cannot be replaced. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

I am grateful to all United Thank Offering (UTO) church coordinators without whom I could not have functioned as the UTO diocesan coordinator. I am also grateful to the bishop, clergy, and parishioners who were supportive of our efforts.

One of the great joys of serving as the UTO diocesan coordinator was the opportunity to share with you the thankfulness to God through daily prayer and offerings in the Blue Boxes and to pass those blessings to others. Thanks to your support, we raised $10,996.19 for the 2016 United Thank Offering.

My term as the UTO diocesan coordinator ended December 31. I thank you for all the support you have given me and I am hoping that you will continue to support the new diocesan UTO Coordinator, Ronda Toll.

Send all UTO contributions to: Ronda Toll, 42 Cherbourg Drive, Newport News, VA 23606-1540, 757-223-7281, rtoll@cox.net

Apply Now for ECW Scholarships

The Elise Holladay Scholarship, funded by Episcopal Church Women, awarded $9,950 in grants to 13 young men and women throughout the diocese in 2016. Apply now for 2017 scholarships. Also, the ECW Beverley D. Tucker Scholarship is available and aids men and women in church-related training in an accredited Episcopal school. Use the same form, available at diosova.org to apply for both scholarships. Applications must be received by April 30, 2017. Send your completed application to the attention of Sandra Garner, ECW Student Work Chair, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803. No email

Bishop Hollerith with outgoing ECW President Nancy Sands at Annual Council.
Calling the Future Church Conference: Leading from the Middle; Leading Like it Matters

Province III of the Episcopal Church is hosting this conference featuring the Rev. David Gortner, Ph.D., May 1-2 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV. What patterns of choices has the Episcopal Church made in its selection, formation, development and deployment of ordained leaders? What is the impact of those choices on mission? Might we "move the dial" by fostering religious leadership practices to reshape and redirect congregations in their culture and engagement in the public practices of evangelism, witness and community partnership? Registration is $75. Go to www.province3.org for more information and registration.

Registration open for innovative course: Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency

Registration is now open for the Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency, an innovative nine-day intensive course designed for diocesan staff, clergy, lay leaders, and seminarians to learn cultural competency and ministry to the country's Latino/Hispanic population. Offered by the Episcopal Church Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries in partnership with Seminary of the Southwest, the course will be offered June 18 - 27, 2017, at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, and will be taught by seminary faculty, lay church leaders and clergy with extensive experience in Latino and intercultural ministry.

Go to www.bit.ly/2niyf5V for more information and registration. Future offerings will be held at Bexley Seabury, Chicago, IL (October 15-24, 2017), and at Bloy House, the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, CA (June 10-19, 2018).

Episcopal Church relaunches Volunteers in Mission

As the Episcopal Church relaunches Episcopal Volunteers in Mission, interested adult candidates are invited to consider opportunities for sharing and learning in locales throughout the Anglican Communion. Through Episcopal Volunteers in Mission, lay or ordained adult Episcopalians (ages 30+) devote six to 12 months volunteering in an area of the Anglican Communion. While the ministry of presence is of prime importance, volunteers have previously contributed as teachers, accountants, doctors, administrators, theologians, agriculturalists, chaplains, and many other areas of ministry.

Go to www.episcopalchurch.org/blog/MissionPersonnel for information, application and requirements. For more information contact Elizabeth Boe, eboe@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6381.

2017 Missional Voices National Gathering

The 2017 Missional Voices National Gathering will be held April 21-22 at Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA. Missional Voices brings together church leaders, seminarians, church planters, entrepreneurs, artists, and everyday innovators to discuss innovative ministries and missional communities both within and outside of the traditional church context. Missional Voices is a weekend of thinking, planning, and dreaming about the future ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. It is a place where dynamic incubation of new ideas is the norm - not the exception - and where people doing uncommon ministry find support and encouragement. Cost is $99 and includes meals, free to

Ash Wednesday

Left: St. John’s, Portsmouth burns palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

Right: Ash Wednesday at Old Donation Preschool, Virginia Beach, with the Rev. Bob Randall and Ashley Urquidi.

Today’s young people have many valuable activities pulling at their summer schedules — there are Vacation Bible School opportunities, mission trips, pilgrimages, sports camps, family vacations, visits to grandparents, and academic camps just to name a few. With all these fabulous summer opportunities, why make time to spend one or two weeks of your summer in the woods at Camp Chanco? Why indeed…

While today’s young people have many summer opportunities, they also have many pressures and expectations that they face year-round. With stringent academic course loads and more intensive sports expectations seeming to start at younger and younger ages, children’s schedules are packed solid with less and less time for free play. The days of playing kick ball or tag in the cul-de-sac for hours on end seem to be days of the past. Today’s kids rush from one activity to another and time to “just be a kid playing outdoors” is dwindling. In the simplest words, Camp Chanco offers your child a chance to just be a kid outdoors. We live in a world that forces children to grow up way too fast. Kids need to make s’mores, shoot a bow and arrow, dress silly, participate in relay races, make bracelets, paint pictures, play games, get dirty and go on adventures. They need to see an eagle soar, listen to the sound of chirping crickets and the crackle of bonfires. They need time to run around outdoors when it’s not a race. With ever-increasing pressures on kids both academically and athletically, children need a place where the largest competition is which group wins Battle of the Bands, or dresses their counselor best for Mr./Miss Chanco contest or which team can paddle a canoe across the swimming pool with no paddles. They need to just be kids.

Research across a variety of disciplines shows that unstructured play is extremely important to a child’s development. The American Camping Association reported (“Play at Camp: Talking to the Funders versus Preaching to the Choir”, by Glynn Powell, PhD, Joy James, PhD, Danielle Timmerman, and Stephanie Garst) the value of unstructured play by indicating that those that engage in unstructured play express more self-confidence, develop conflict-resolution skills, cultivate social skills (such as flexibility, empathy, and the ability to be aware of one’s self), show increasing problem-solving capabilities, develop deepening critical-thinking skills, increasing curiosity, improving gross motors skills, and improving mental health. In addition to these vast benefits, the research also demonstrated that play results in a reduction of psychological ailments such as anxiety, depression, attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. (source: www.acacamps.org/campmag/1503/play-at-camp-talking-funders-versus-preaching-choir) These important benefits for your child are exactly what the Camp Chanco staff strives for in every single session.

Chanco is a completely supportive environment where campers can mess up and it’s OK. Young people today need a place where they can miss the bulls-eye and no one laughs. Instead, their friends give them pointers on how to do it better next time. Learning to sail, scaling the “hard side” of the 32-foot high rock wall, flying along a zip line, tackling stage fright by participating in a skit or conquering a fear of heights on one of our high elements on the ropes course – in all of these potential first experiences campers are supported, encouraged, and loved just as they are. Most of the time, camp is the one place where messing up is just as valued as doing something successfully! For example, how many campers have said their favorite memory of Chanco was falling out of the sailboat? Or how often have the loudest laughs at skits been with someone who was completely silly messing up lines and making them up as they go?
And best of all, the counselors model this better than anyone. At camp, making mistakes or being imperfect is more than OK. It’s embraced.

Chanco offers your camper an opportunity to spend more time outdoors than indoors for one or two solid weeks. Our kids need to get dirty, play in the mud, swim in the river, find sharks teeth, visit a natural spring, play Ga-Ga and have pet frogs. As our addiction to phones, computers, tablets, and video games grows, it has never been more important for kids to have substantial time outside away from these things.

Chanco offers your child positive role models to look up to. Kids need people in their lives other than their parents to invest in them. Chanco provides children with amazing, college-age students who truly care about them and want them to be the best version of themselves. Kids need people to teach them how to handle homesickness, how to handle conflict (face to face - not via electronic communication!), how to be a good sport, how to garner the confidence to try something completely new and challenging and then celebrate with them the achievement. There is something about a college-aged young adult saying, “Clean your chalet” or “Don’t forget your bug spray and sunscreen” that actually gets campers to do it. Campers generally want to please these much cooler, younger versions of their parents and often learn many new skills as a result.

A large part of this milieu of unconditional acceptance comes from the fact that our counselors are trained and supported themselves in a Christian environment. Our camp chaplain guides our youth in exploring what friendship, spirit, and love (key Chanco tribe words) mean according to living our relationships and loving ourselves in Christ’s image. Eucharist outdoors can be a completely unique experience for your camper finding God in nature. This summer we are pleased to announce that the Rev. Eileen Walsh, rector of St. Christopher’s, Portsmouth, will serve as the onsite Camp Chaplain for the entire summer. Eileen will help us focus on further developing our daily worship offerings and will ensure that the campers and staff have round-the-clock pastoral support. Eileen brings decades of engagement and experience with Camp Chanco, Happening and youth programs in this diocese to her ministry at Chanco and we are thrilled to have her pastoral care, guidance and vast youth experience with us this summer.

We believe that kids today need camp more than ever. As one 2013 camper wrote, “Chanco is one of those happy utopian places where everyone loves everyone. There is something about being excluded from the hateful outside world of social media, drama and real world issues that makes you feel secure and comforted. Friendships at Chanco are the ones that last. Chanco is like a second home.” Where words like “survival”, “pressure cooker”, “social media drama”, “bullying” and “gossip” are all too common during the growing up years, let’s take two weeks and replace these with “faith”, “God”, “spirit”, “utopia”, “love”, “comfort”, “friendship”, and “second home”. Still not convinced? Join us at an open house May 7 from 1-5 pm and is free and open to the public. Come meet some of our staff, enjoy tours of the property, games, refreshments and fly along a zip line if you dare! Come see for yourself why Chanco is voted “Best Summer Camp” year after year in Virginia Living magazine. With five camp sessions full last summer you won’t want to wait – register today to ensure your spot in the session of your choice! With one-week, two-week, and specialty sessions available – including Mariner’s Camp, Ropes Camp and Family Camp - there is a program perfect for your camper! Easy online registration is available on our website at www.chanco.org. You may also stay tuned to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/chancoonthejames) for the latest news and photos of all Chanco programs! Contact us at 888-7CHANCO (888-724-2626) or at.
director@chanco.org with any questions. We can’t wait to see you this summer on the banks of the James.

Don’t miss these spring retreats at Chanco on the James

Chanco is not just a summer camp! Throughout the year, Chanco hosts many retreats including vestry and parish retreats, men’s and women’s retreats, EYC youth retreats, Happening and Cursillo events. This spring Chanco has several offerings open to youth and adults. These retreats offer opportunities to disconnect from the busy-ness of day to day life, relax, reflect, worship and reconnect with old friends or make new ones!

A Women’s Lenten Retreat Day “A Lenten Passage in the Celtic Spirit” is being held March 25th. This retreat will be a time of prayer, music, fellowship and reflection informed by the Celtic tradition. The overnight Friday, March 24 is currently full but there is still some space available for the day event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 25. This program is sponsored by the program team of Chanco on the James and will feature music leadership by Karey Sitzler of “All in His Name”. This retreat is open to all women who seek to enhance their experience of Lent this year.

May Weekend is being held May 19-21 for grades 6-12 and is a weekend program designed by youth for youth. The EYC Board plans and leads this retreat and it’s an opportunity to join with teens from all over our diocese for a weekend of great music, small groups, socials and games, meaningful discussions, a dance, time on the ropes course and zip lines, and fantastic worship experiences. Never been to an EYC event? Never fear! This retreat is an inclusive experience and a fantastic opportunity to make new friends. May Weekend is also a great chance to reunite with your old camp friends.

Questions about Happening, May Weekend or the Women’s Retreat? Contact Youth Missioner Ashley Scruggs at ascruggs@diosova.org. More information and registration for the youth events can be found at www.diosova.org under the “youth ministry” tab. Women’s Retreat registration is found at www.chanco.org under “upcoming events”.

Three times annually, Cursillo adult retreats are held at Chanco and there is an upcoming weekend April 27-30, 2017. The rector for this co-ed weekend is Gerry Lopez of Grace, Yorktown. Cursillo is an opportunity to learn new methods of living a life of grace including more intentional study and prayer as well as ways to be a Christian leader in your home parish and community. Cursillo is an opportunity to make friends from throughout our diocese. It is an opportunity to disconnect from technology and the busy world around us and instead spend time in worship, prayer, and meaningful large and small group discussions, while enjoying amazing music, fantastic food and fun. For more information on Cursillo or for an application for the weekend, visit www.cursillodiosova.org. You may also contact Charlie Schindler, Lay Advisor of the Secretariat of Cursillo in the Diocese of Southern Virginia at egschindler@gmail.com with any questions or for more information.

Whether you are 13 or 83, Chanco has a retreat for you this spring! Don’t miss these opportunities to spend time in Christian community in God’s great outdoors that many call “the spiritual heart of Southern Virginia”. For more information on all events open to the public and held at Chanco, visit www.chanco.org and click on “Upcoming

Pilgrimage Sunday in Suffolk

St. Paul’s, Suffolk, held a Pilgrim’s Eucharist on Feb. 26 that visited each of the five sites where the church has been located in its 375 year history.

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125th Annual Council, Feb. 10-11, 2017
Calendar of Events

For more upcoming events, visit www.diosova.org.

Stewardship Conversation: March 18, 10 a.m., Old Donation, Virginia Beach. Informal gatherings for parish stewardship lay leaders to share successes and challenges with parish giving programs. More info at www.diosova.org.

Stewardship Conversation: March 25, 10 a.m., St. James/St. George’s on the Eastern Shore. Informal gatherings for parish stewardship lay leaders to share successes and challenges with parish giving programs. More info at www.diosova.org.

Stewardship Conversation: March 25, 10 a.m., Good Shepherd, Norfolk. Informal gatherings for parish stewardship lay leaders to share successes and challenges with parish giving programs. More info at www.diosova.org.

9th Annual James Solomon Russell Celebration—March 26, 4 p.m., St. Stephen’s, Petersburg. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Grady W. Powell. The offering will go to the new James Solomon Russell-Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives. For information please contact James Grimstead at 434-848-2173 or gsmus@aol.com, or the Rev. Willis Foster at 804-733-6228. St. Stephen's is located at 228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA.

Cursillo #162 Co-Ed Weekend - April 27-30 at Chanco on the James. Rector: Gerry Lopez of Grace Church, Yorktown. To apply to be a candidate or a team member go to www.cursillodiosova.org or contact Gerry at gerrylopez@cox.net.

Spring Clergy Day—May 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Chanco on the James.

May Weekend: May 19-21 at Chanco on the James. For grades 6-12. More info at www.diosova.org/youth

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE17): July 10-24, 2017 on the campus of University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK. More info at www.diosova.org/youth

79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church: July 5-13, 2018, Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX. www.generalconvention.org for more info.

Bishops’ Schedules

Bishop Hollerith
March 9-15 - House of Bishops
April 15 - Easter Vigil at York River
April 23 - Emmanuel, Chatham
April 30 - Emmanuel, Virginia Beach
May 7 - Hickory Neck, Toano
May 21 - St. Paul & St. Andrew, Kenbridge
May 25 - St. John's, Portsmouth
June 4 - St. Paul's, Suffolk
June 25 - Emmanuel, Franklin

Bishop Magness
March 26 - Bruton Parish, Williamsburg
April 9 - Christ Church, Smithfield
April 30 - St. Timothy's, Clarksville
May 7 - Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach
May 13 - Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk (regional Confirmation service)

Safe Church training
Go to www.diosova.org for information and registration. (Registration for each training opens 60 days before the date of the training.) Online training is also available.

- March 25, 2017 - Johns Memorial, Farmville
- April 8, 2017 - St. Michael's, Colonial Heights
- April 29, 2017 - Christ Church, Smithfield
- May 13, 2017 - Epiphany, Danville
- May 20, 2017 - St. George's, Pungoteague
- June 10, 2017 - St. Michael's, Bon Air
- September 16, 2017 - St. Cyprian's, Hampton
- September 30, 2017 - Emmanuel, Virginia Beach

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