126th Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia convened in Williamsburg on Feb. 16 & 17. Much work was accomplished by Council, but the big news was Bishop Hollerith's announcement, during his Address to Council, that he will retire at the end of this year.

"Quite honestly, this has not been an easy decision. In fact, it's one with which I have really struggled over the past few months," the Bishop said. "But after 35 years of ordained ministry, I have given what I can give. I would never claim that my work is done in Southern Virginia. One's work in ministry is never 'done,' never completed because there is always more that one can do for the Lord in any place. But, there does come a time when you realize that you've used all of your skill set and that a different skill set with fresh eyes and fresh energy behind it might be more appropriate for leading the community forward."

Text and audio recording of Bishop Hollerith's address to Council and audio recording of Bishop Magness' sermon at the Council Eucharist are available on the Annual Council page of our website.

Scott Bader-Saye, Ph.D., gave two extremely timely presentations on Fear and Love in a Divided World. Those talks were recorded and are available on the Annual Council page of our website.

Keynote speaker Scott Bader-Saye, Ph.D., gave two extremely timely presentations on Fear and Love in a Divided World. Those talks were recorded and are available on the Annual Council page of our website.

Five resolutions were brought before Council and all were passed. Text of each resolution can be found on the Annual Council page of our website:

- Resolution C1 - submitted by the Executive Board of the Diocese, this resolution changed Canon XI, Of Deputies to the General Convention, to streamline the voting process.
- Resolution R1 - submitted by the Executive Board of the Diocese, this resolution made the changes to the Annual Council Rules of Order that were necessitated by the passage of Resolution C1.
- Resolution R2 - this resolution, submitted by the Executive Board of the Diocese, supports the work of The Giving Task Force and requests for consideration at the 127th Council a resolution setting forth a plan that will lead the Diocese of Southern Virginia to a future of financial health for the mission and ministry of the Diocese.
- Resolution R3 - submitted by the Parish Life and Creation Care Commissions of All Saints, Virginia Beach, this resolution stated that whenever members of our diocesan family gather together around food or drink, we strive to purchase and/or use only reusable, recyclable, and/or biodegradable containers and/or utensils, and that Council encourages our individual congregations and ministries to do the same.
- Resolution R4 - submitted by the Rev. Brenda Overfield of St. Matthias, Midlothian, and the Rev. Julia Dorsey Loomis, this resolution is to be sent to General Convention, requesting that a task force be appointed to study and implement Title III, Canon 1 - Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons.

continued on page 2
2018 Annual Council, continued from page 1

The following elections took place at Annual Council:
- Standing Committee - Mr. John Rector (St. Paul's, Suffolk) and The Very Rev. Stan Sawyer (All Saints, Virginia Beach)
- Disciplinary Board - Mr. Russell Bishop (St. Timothy's, Clarksville); Ms. Monica Flynn (St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach); The Rev. Bob Randall (Old Donation, Virginia Beach)
- General Convention - Ms. Clare Harbin (St. John's, Portsmouth)

The proposed Diocesan Budget for 2018 was approved. The budget can be found on the Annual Council page of our website.

The Stewardship Commission of the Diocese introduced a Fundraising 101 program which offers a minimal-cost opportunity for clergy and parish leaders to better understand the principals, concepts and best practices that underlie a successful fundraising effort. Fundraising 101 is a basic "how to" and "hands on" experience with practical information and sources.

Photos courtesy of Jackie Rochelle of Epiphany, Norfolk. Visit our Facebook page for pictures from this year’s Annual Council.

Clergy transitions

Deacon Dana vanVliet-Pullin left St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach, on December 17, 2017.

The Rev. William Queen left Christ & Grace, Petersburg as Interim Rector January 31, 2018.

The Rev. Marni Schneider left St. Simon's by the Sea, Virginia Beach, on February 28, 2018.

The Rev. Dale Hirst left St. Stephen's, Norfolk, on February 28, 2018, and began as priest-in-charge at St. Simon’s by the Sea, Virginia Beach, on March 1, 2018.

The Rev. Robin Teasley began as rector of Christ & Grace, Petersburg, on March 1, 2018.

Cursillo #164 Co-ed weekend is April 18-22

Plan now to take part in the co-ed Cursillo #164 weekend to be held at Chanco on the James April 18-22. Cursillo is Spanish for "short course" - a short course in Christianity. On the three day weekend, candidates learn how to grow as leaders in their communities and in their own personal journey with Jesus. Cursillo is a living expression of Christ's love for us. It is filled with color, and joy, music and a new life of friendship in the church. For more information and application forms, go to www.cursillodiosova.org.

Episcopal bishops send letter to Virginia General Assembly

Bishop Hollerith joined the bishops of the Episcopal Dioceses of Virginia and Southwestern Virginia in sending a letter to Virginia legislators urging them to reject legislation that "alienates, dehumanizes, devalues, or endangers human beings." Letter is printed in its entirety on page 3.

Photos courtesy of Jackie Rochelle of Epiphany, Norfolk. Visit our Facebook page for pictures from this year’s Annual Council.

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Ann Turner, Communications Officer,
aturner@diosova.org

Deadline for the next issue: June 1, 2018
Episcopal bishops’ letter to Virginia General Assembly

January 24, 2018

The Episcopal Church has a long history of engaging in advocacy, as a way to follow our Scriptural call to “do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly before God” (Micah 6:8). In continuing that legacy, we, the bishops of the three Episcopal dioceses in Virginia, overseeing 346 churches and 125,520 congregants, are reaching out to urge you to reject any legislation that alienates, dehumanizes, devalues, or endangers human beings.

As our nation is divided and in conflict over issues of immigration, healthcare, racism, and gun reform, we firmly believe that pondering the following principles, based on biblical teaching, will guide you as you review and consider legislation.

- Every person deserves to be treated with kindness and dignity. Immigrants are no exception. Fear and misinformation have led to policies that separate families, treat immigrants as criminals, and make them targets of harassment and intimidation. We must reject any attempt to continue this trend and instead develop local policies that are compassionate, fair and constitutionally sound.

- LGBTQ individuals are not second-class citizens. They are human beings made in God’s own image and equal recipients of God’s love. Now that the highest court in the land has granted them freedom to marry, we must ensure that there are no laws in place that would discriminate against them and deny them the right of every human being to love, work and prosper.

- Ensuring that everyone has access to affordable healthcare is recognized as a moral duty in most faith traditions. Throughout Scripture, we see Jesus’ example of caring for the sick and needy. To follow his example, we must take advantage of the opportunity given to us by the federal government to ensure we find relief for the nearly 300,000 Virginians who fall within the health coverage gap.

- We must put an end to racial discrimination and violence. The Bible is clear in its message of our equality in God’s eyes. God shows no partiality and encourages us to love one another as God has loved us. To address these issues, the Commonwealth should create a task force solely focused on ending racism and the hate crimes it engenders.

- Our Christian values teach us to live in compassion and concern for the common good. We cannot allow gun violence to continue to increase, putting us all in harm’s way, especially the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized. We need to take measures to reduce the likelihood of more devastating gun violence events by passing laws that support safety measures such as: restrictions on gun ownership by domestic abusers and the severely mentally ill, and bans on military style semiautomatic assault weapons.

In engaging in conversation with you and others about public policy issues, we align our daily lives with The Episcopal Church’s Baptismal Covenant where we promise to “strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being.” We reach out to you urging you to join us in striving for justice by ensuring that all legislation values every human life and builds peaceful communities.

Faithfully Yours,

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
XIII Bishop of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith IV
Bishop of Southern Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlaakas
Bishop of Southwestern Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Griffith
Bishop Suffragan
Diocese of Virginia
Bishop appoints Liaison to the Diaconate

At Annual Council, Bishop Hollerith announced the appointment of the Rev. M. Sue Reid as the new Liaison for the Diaconate.

Reid comes to Southern Virginia with years of experience as a priest of the Church. A graduate of both Union Theological Seminary in New York City (Master of Sacred Music) and Virginia Theological Seminary (MDiv), Reid has served in many capacities, including as Rector of two parishes and as Canon to the Ordinary for Education and Spiritual Development in the Diocese of Indianapolis. While Reid’s title will be different than that of Archdeacon - due to the fact that she remains canonically resident in the Diocese of Olympia - she will nonetheless function as an Archdeacon in our diocese. Reid is presently a resident of Williamsburg and currently serves as the Chaplain for the Deacons School that shared with the other two Virginia dioceses.

Bishop Hollerith also recognized and gave thanks for the work of the Rev. Becki Dean who retired last year as the Archdeacon of the diocese. Becki served faithfully in that capacity since 2014. While family demands necessitated her retirement from leadership, she continues to serve as a deacon at St. Michael's, Bon Air.

Sharing space with congregation after church destroyed by fire

Carrie Hillman, St. Matthew’s, Chesterfield

On November 13, 2017, Centenary United Methodist Church in Chesterfield lost their century-old building to fire. St. Matthew’s, Chesterfield, hearing about the plight of their neighbor, reached out and offered Centenary the use of their facilities.

Beginning on Sunday, December 17, the members of Centenary began worshiping at 11:30 a.m. in their new temporary home. St. Matthew's hold its service at 9:30 a.m., allowing time for worship and fellowship and set-up time for Centenary. On Christmas Eve there were two services - St. Matthew's at 5 p.m. and Centenary at 7 p.m. Plans are under way for the two groups to join together for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday services.

While Centenary intends to rebuild on their existing site, that process is unlikely to be completed before 2019. In the meantime, the two congregations will share one of God’s houses in love and harmony!

St. David’s builds a labyrinth

The Rev. Elizabeth Felicetti, St. David’s, Chesterfield

How many Episcopalians does it take to build a labyrinth? Well, it took about 20 at St. David’s, Chesterfield. They finished creating their labyrinth on Saturday, January 27. Hector Alonso was the chief engineer of the project and used the Santa Rosa design created in 1997 by Dr. Lea Goode-Harris.

The Santa Rosa labyrinth consists of a center circle surrounded by seven concentric circular paths. Its beauty stems from the proportions chosen by Dr. Goode-Harris, which are based on the "golden ratio," 1.618, which occurs in nature and is used by many artists and architects to give their designs aesthetic proportions. In the Santa Rosa labyrinth, the combined width of the seven outside paths is 1.618 times the diameter of the center circle. When creating a Santa Rosa labyrinth, once one knows the desired total diameter, everything else falls into place: the diameter of the inner circle, the path widths, and the width of the lines between the paths.

The St. David’s vestry approved the labyrinth at their September meeting, using money from their New Ministries and Innovation fund as well as some designated gifts. They broke ground on September 25, and dedicated the labyrinth on Sunday, March 4 (the Sunday closest to St. David’s Day) between the second and third service.

Get more news from Southern Virginia!

Sign up for our weekly eNews at www.diosova.org.
Completion of Habitat House celebrated with ribbon cutting
The Rev. Lauren McDonald, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

On January 16, Bruton clergy and parishioners attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Fletcher family's new home that we helped to build with Habitat for Humanity. Representatives from Habitat, the James City County Board of Supervisors, Thrivent Financial and Williamsburg faith communities gathered to celebrate with Theresa Fletcher and her children and to tour the finished house.

Along with the Ribbon Cutting was another Groundbreaking Ceremony for the next Habitat House to be built next door to the Fletchers' home. Bruton will be assisting with this build as well.

St. Andrew’s School to meet a greater need in the community

Beginning in 2018-2019 St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Newport News, an accredited member of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools and an outreach of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, has expanded its mission to meet a greater need in the community. St. Andrew’s School continues to serve children from PreK3 to 5th grade in an inclusive nurturing Christian environment. Recognizing that families' and children's needs have changed over time, St. Andrew's School is excited to offer three new initiatives.

St. Andrew's will implement a variable tuition model that will allow families to better afford an independent education for their children. Tuition will range from 50% to 100% of actual cost. Additional incentives will also be implemented to allow for better affordability: multiple child discounts; alumni tuition credit; and incentives for Episcopalians, military families, Huntington-Ingalls Industry employees, and full-time faculty and staff of local colleges and universities.

St. Andrew's will also introduce the Orton-Gillingham instructional approach to serve individuals with dyslexia. Those students will spend part of each school day working one-on-one or in small groups with an Orton-Gillingham Associate. Orton-Gillingham’s multi-sensory approach is focused on the learning needs of individual students to help them become successful readers and writers. After-school tutoring using the Orton-Gillingham approach will also be offered to individuals in the community who have difficulty with reading, spelling and writing.

The third initiative is an Innovation Lab, which will be designed and equipped to facilitate larger scale, project-based learning for elementary students. The innovation lab will be available to home-school cohorts, community groups and businesses.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School is committed to serving a greater need in our community. Providing better affordability, a targeted approach proven to help dyslexic individuals, and an innovative learning lab specifically designed for elementary school students will enhance the reach of St. Andrew's already excellent education. For more information, contact Janna Outlaw, Head of School at 757-596-6261.

St. John’s recognized for work with Faith Behind the Badge program in Portsmouth

St. John’s, Portsmouth, was recognized at an Appreciation Luncheon hosted by Portsmouth Police Chief Tonya Chapman and her senior staff for St. John's faithful participation in and outstanding contributions to the Faiths Behind the Badge partnership between police and faith communities in Portsmouth. Specifically noted were the faithful participation and leadership in monthly gatherings, the parish’s generous assistance with Thanksgiving meals through Turkey Trot, and the overwhelming support St. John's provided for the Santa Breakfast for Portsmouth Police Officers and their children and grandchildren.

Photo: The Rev. Derek and Clifford Harbin receiving the award from Chief Chapman and Assistant Chief Greene.
Kids are “imposed upon” at special Ash Wednesday service

Jeff Hood, Old Donation, Virginia Beach

Nearly 250 members of Old Donation received ashes at our four services, as they entered into the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday. But what made this year extra special was the over two dozen youngest congregants that received ashes from the Rev. Bob Randall and the Rev. Ashley Urquidi at a specific service for children.

“We couldn’t have had a better turnout,” said Randall. “Our Assistant Rector, Ashley Urquidi, developed a great program designed for our young families, especially those with little ones starting elementary or even younger. We had about 55 folks at our special family-oriented Ash Wednesday service, half of which were kids. You could really see the Holy Spirit at work in the eyes of the children. Ashes were given to children as young as a few months. We’ll do a family Maundy Thursday during Holy Week where we will wash feet; that’s going to be an interesting service too.”

Old Donation’s Assistant Rector, the Rev. Ashley Urquidi, took a break from her maternity leave to be there with her three young ones at the service.

“We’ve built a community of young parents who want their children to experience the love of Christ just like everyone else in our parish,” said Urquidi. “But to do that, we have to present God in a manner that they can understand and participate easily. Understanding the mystery of Christ's love is challenging for any of us. I feel that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to find ways to convey that love to our children. We are all excited about this ministry here at Old Donation.”

If you and your children are looking for a family-friendly Maundy Thursday service, you are invited to join the Rev. Bob Randall and the Rev. Ashley Urquidi on March 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Donation parish hall at 4449 North Witchduck Road in Virginia Beach.

Martin’s Brandon Church celebrating 400 years

Martin's Brandon Church, Burrowsville, is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year (1618-2018). The church began as part of an early plantation on the south side of the James River, owned by Jamestown colonist John Martin. Martin named his plantation Brandon after his wife's family and Martin's Brandon Church grew from the plantation into a parish church, beginning with three colonial churches from the 1600's into the 1800's when the present church was built.

The congregation of Martin's Brandon invites you to celebrate with them at events throughout the year. The first event was held on March 3, in partnership with the Prince George County Regional Heritage Center, and focused on the first 100 years of the church's history. Other planned events:

- April 14 - History of the Third Church, circa 1724. Burrowsville Community Center.
- May 6 - Celebration of the Ministry of the Rev. Charles Minnigerode, circa 1850.
- June 2 - Henry Erban Organ Concert
- Fall/Winter - Festival Eucharist

St. Aidan’s joins Catholic Workers to provide meals to those who are homeless

The Rev. Mark Wilkinson, St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach

On the last Saturday of every month, a group from St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach, hits the road at 5:30 a.m. to drive to Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norfolk. There they join forces with the Catholic Workers and prepare a hot breakfast of oatmeal and grits along with coffee and tea. The food is taken out to an area called the "Wall" in Norfolk where it is given to homeless people living in the area.

In addition to helping prepare and give out the hot food, St. Aidan's makes sandwiches the third Sunday of the month that are distributed during the week. We hand out sandwiches made by others during the week prior to our Saturday along with fruit, hard boiled eggs and granola bars. Clothing is also available, especially socks, which we collect all month long. This is a great ecumenical ministry and a rewarding experience in following Jesus' teaching of what you do for the least of these, you do for me.
Presiding Bishop calls for Good Friday Offering to support ministry in Jerusalem and Middle East

"The Good Friday Offering is one way we in the Episcopal Church help to support the ongoing ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and Middle East," Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry wrote to the bishops and clergy of the Episcopal Church. "Whether funding an eye clinic in Aden or women's programs, schools and medical services in the West Bank, the Good Friday Offering is making a difference in the lives of so many."

Presiding Bishop Curry wrote in the annual Good Friday letter to all bishops and congregations asking them to consider providing assistance for the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. "I believe our partnership with those who keep the faith of Jesus alive in the region where our Lord walked and began his movement is a significant aspect of our work as part of the church catholic," he wrote.

Go to www.bit.ly/goodfridayoffering18 for information and resources, including bulletin inserts.

Civil Discourse Curriculum: A program for reflection, consideration, discussion

The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations has developed a five-week Civil Discourse Curriculum, focusing on civil discourse and designed for reflection, consideration and discussion. Available at no cost, it helps guide discussions about politics, policy, and legislation, while strengthening our relationships with one another and is designed for church groups, adult forums, campus ministries and youth groups (not recommended for younger than 14 years old).

"The Civil Discourse Curriculum was created as a resource to help folks understand and practice civil discourse, particularly as it relates to discussion about politics, policy and legislation, and why it is so important to living out our Gospel call and solving the problems facing our communities, country and the world," explained Alan Yarborough, Office of Government Relations Communications Coordinator and Office Manager.

The curriculum is available by contacting the diocesan office.

The SCLM Report on Prayer Book Revision: Join the conversation

Through resolution A169, the 2015 General Convention directed the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) "to prepare a plan for the comprehensive revision of the current Book of Common Prayer and present that plan to the 79th General Convention."

At the outset, it's important to remember that General Convention did not ask the SCLM to begin revising the Book of Common Prayer! Rather, it asked for the construction of a plan for revision for the 79th General Convention (2018) to consider. The request was for a thorough and linear process. No efforts to revise the Book of Common Prayer took place this triennium, because that was not what the SCLM was asked to do. The Episcopal Church, through General Convention, has yet to decide whether to revise the prayer book. It will have that conversation this summer at the 79th General Convention in Austin, Texas (July 5-13, 2018)

The SCLM report to General Convention proposes two options: a) a comprehensive plan for full-on prayer book revision, and b) a plan for a deeper, church-wide engagement with our existing prayer book, which includes a proposal for translations in Spanish, French, and French Creole. The considerations of the SCLM Report on Prayer Book Revision are plentiful and varied.

The SCLM hopes that you will take the time to read the report, and use the SCLM blog, www.standingcommissiononliturgyandmusic.org, to ask questions as well as offer your insights and opinions. Welcome to the conversation!

Get ready for General Convention with Southern Virginia’s blog

The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church that gathers every three years. Southern Virginia will be sending a deputation of four clergy and four lay people, along with Bishop Hollerith, to this year's gathering - the 79th General Convention in Austin, Texas, July 5-13, 2018.

Go to our new blog, www.diosovagc2018.blogspot.com for news about General Convention before, during and after our time in Austin. In the weeks leading up to General Convention, we'll be posting information that will help you understand how General Convention works and its importance in the life of the Episcopal Church. While we're at General Convention, we'll use this site to post daily updates and photos.
Love thy neighbor—Life matters
Helen Sharpe-Williams, Diocesan ECW President

Domestic violence is a hidden plague on our families and communities. Those who are victimized often keep it a private matter for various reasons: fear, shame, well-intended efforts to preserve the family. Aggressors, if they even recognize their problem, are not likely to have it addressed. Yet it touches many, and knows no boundaries of race, social class, ethnicity, creed or age (most victims are first abused as teens). Statistics suggest one in four women experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and three in four Americans are reported to know a victim, through most episodes are not reported to the authorities. Although the majority of victims are female, an estimated 15% are males.

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are typically used together in a relationship to control the victim. Persons may be married, living together, or dating. Examples of emotional abuse include name-calling, putdowns, restricting contact with family or friends, withholding money, preventing a partner from working, actual or threatened physical harm (hitting, pushing, shoving), sexual assault, stalking, and intimidation. How vital it is to understand how to keep family members safe from violence in their homes, and how to heal and reunite families where violence has occurred, when possible.

Persons experiencing domestic violence are often termed “victims” or if the situation has resolved, “survivors” but it is most important to recall they are children of God, with inherent dignity and deserving our love and respect. This is especially true because as abused persons they are often plagued by feelings of shame, fear, and depression, and have lost sight of the essential fact of their dignity and worthiness to be loved. At times they may also make decisions that cause an observer (family member or friend) to question their judgement, or become frustrated with them for remaining in what seems to be an obviously dangerous or hopeless situation.

It is commonly accepted that domestic violence is rarely an isolated incident, but is a pattern of behavior aimed at establishing and maintaining power and control over another. The pattern is typically described as a “cycle of violence,” and the seriousness escalates with each occurrence. The “cycle” begins with a set-up” phase: The abuser creates a situation in which the victim has no choice but to react in a way that, in the abuser’s mind, justifies the abuse. After the violence, the abuser may fear being held accountable, and so may apologize or make excuses for his or her behavior, pledge to never do it again, or use gifts as a way of coping with guilt or preventing the victim from telling. Next, however, the abuser may excuse the incident as the victim’s fault, or resume “life as usual” as if nothing happened. The abuser expects that the victim will participate in the cover-up.

If you believe someone you know may be in a troubled situation, you should call a hotline number for assistance, or encourage the person to do so themselves.

“Offer forgiveness and receive peace... I know well that it is hard, and sometimes even appears to be impossible to forgive, but it is the only way, because all revenge and all violence give rise to further revenge and violence. It is certainly less difficult to forgive when one is aware that God never tires of loving and forgiving us… Let us never forget that everything passes, and only “the eternal can fill the heart.”

ECW Annual Spring Meeting on May 19

The Diocesan ECW’s Annual Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 19 at St. Francis, Virginia Beach (509 S. Rosemont Rd.). Registration and coffee will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be announced. Please register by May 12 by calling Tia Morings, 757–934-6108. Please let her know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Apply Now for ECW Scholarships

Elise Holladay Scholarships are available for young men and women who want to further their education after high school. Also, the ECW Beverley D. Tucker Scholarship provides assistance to men and women in church-related training in an accredited Episcopal school. Use the same form to apply for either scholarship. The forms are available at www.diosova.org. Applications must be complete and postmarked by Thursday, April 26, 2018. Questions? Call 757-650-8809
United Thank Offering news from Southern Virginia
Ronda Toll, UTO Coordinator

The ECW sends out a heart-felt “thank you” to everyone who donated to the United Thank Offering in 2017. A total of $31,154.78 was collected for UTO in 2017. $26,890.98 was collected in the Spring and $4,263.80 was collected in the Fall. Here’s more happy news—donations for 2018 have already started coming in! $2,940.44 has been collected for 2018. This number includes $959.97 collected in the Blue Boxes at February’s Annual Council in Williamsburg. This number is up from $791.83 collected at Council last year. Again, thank you!

Donations collected during April and October 2018 Ingatherings throughout the Diocese may be mailed to Ronda Toll, UTO Coordinator, 42 Cherbourg Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Contact Ronda at 757-869-8873 or rtoll@cox.net with any questions or requests for UTO materials. Donations are collected for UTO throughout the year. 2018 donations will be collected until December 10, 2018.

The National UTO Board has created a simple prayer (memorable and easy enough for children to recite) that can be said when making an offering in a Blue Box.

Here’s the 2018 prayer:

Almighty God, I give you praise for blessing me in many ways. Create in me a grateful heart and with this gift, a blessing start. Amen.

United Thank Offering News from Province III
Joyce Haines, Province III UTO Representative

Navajoland Pilgrimage
Several members of the UTO Executive Board, in addition to members of The Episcopal Church organizations, are working together to organize a fall 2018 pilgrimage to Navajoland. This pilgrimage will be open to the entire Episcopal Church. “The planning group will review TEC’s presence in Navajoland and the ministry efforts made thus far and visit the people of the Diocese as well as UTO grant sites.” More information and details will be presented at General Convention.

Events at Triennial
Much is being planned for Triennial in Austin, TX, from July 4-11. Workshops, raffles, giveaways, and many other UTO materials will be available. Please visit the UTO website to see an array of items promoting UTO; however, many new items, such as the Julia Chester Emery crosses, stress cubes, and prayer cards, will not be available until Triennial. Ronda Toll, diocesan UTO coordinator, will be selecting materials based on your prior orders to her.

Ingathering Eucharist
One of the traditional events at Triennial and General Convention is the Ingathering Eucharist. Each diocesan coordinator will present an accounting of the amount of UTO Ingathering funds collected during Triennial (2015-2017). Then, a total amount for each province will be announced. At the 2015 Triennial, Province III came in a close second to Province IV.

Province III ECW and Synod
In preparation for Triennial and General Convention, Province III ECW and Synod will meet at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV, May 6-8. ECW’s meeting will adjourn on Monday after a business meeting and elections. The schedule for Synod has not been announced, but “election of officers and other key positions will occur at the Provincial Synod,” which will adjourn on Tuesday, May 8, at 3 p.m.
WOMEN-TO-WOMEN FOR CONGO
SUPPORT THE PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (PIRD)

Help Survivors of Gender-Based Violence
PIRD, based in Ituri in the Democratic Republic of Congo, assists women and children who are victims of gender-based violence.

Women like 19-year-old Gigi, whose home was attacked at night by armed men. They looted her home and raped her and her older sister, who was 7 months pregnant. Gigi is severely withdrawn and requires psycho-social counseling.

Women like 16-year-old Jane, who was raped while traveling on summer vacation. She needs aid to continue schooling.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
$255 pays for schooling and supplies for one child
$250 provides a simple sewing machine and training for a tailor
$220 buys training and uniform for a hairdressing student
$170 pays for intensive counseling
$130 sets up a tailoring business

PIRD also needs $1,000 for sewing machines

ANY AMOUNT HELPS

PLEASE DONATE TO:
Episcopal Church Women
Write PIRD in memo line

MAIL TO:
Susan Broaddus
1323 Lafayette Blvd., #1
Norfolk, VA 23509

Visit Women to Women for Congo on Facebook
**News from Chanco on the James**
*Diocesan Camp and Conference Center in Surry, Virginia*

**Chanco celebrates its 50th birthday!**
*Talley Banazek, Marketing/Development Coordinator*

Join us at Chanco on the James May 4-6, 2018 and celebrate with us Chanco’s half century birthday! This golden anniversary of Chanco’s ministry will celebrate 50 years of camp programs and many years of Cursillo, EYC, Happening, and retreats. A committee has been working for almost a year to plan the BEST anniversary celebration possible! Reunite with old friends & make new ones, experience archery, ropes, water activities, hayrides, campfires, live music, a pool side luau and more.

A half century of ministry holds many things that have changed and many that remain timeless.

*Continued on page 13*

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**Women to Women for Congo: Congo guest and PIRD**
*Susan Broaddus, Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk*

Women-to-Women (W2W) had a wonderful visit from Dr. Yossa Way from the Anglican University of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Bunia, Ituri Province. He visited a number of churches, preaching at St. Cyprian’s, Hampton, and Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk, renewing friendships from Galilee, Virginia Beach, and Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach, where he had visited in 2002. He also participated in a seminar with Dr. Willene Johnson (McKenney, VA) and Dr. Berhanu Mengistu, Old Dominion University, that focused on the role of women as peacemakers.

This year W2W is supporting the Program in Ituri for Rehabilitation and Development (PIRD), an indigenous NGO or non-governmental organization. It was founded ten years ago by Mme Esperance Kungoza who works in the US Embassy in Kinshasa where she oversees the financial side of an AIDS program. PIRD focuses on women and girls in the region of Ituri who are victims of gender-based violence and need counseling and education. Women like 19-year-old Gigi, whose home was attacked at night by armed men. They looted her home and raped her and her older sister, who was seven months pregnant. Gigi is severely withdrawn and requires psycho-social counseling. Some of the women served by PIRD choose to finish their schooling, others prefer to learn a trade such as tailoring or hairdressing. Shoes, uniforms and school supplies are provided along with school fees; a tailoring kit is provided those in tailoring. A sewing machine can be bought so the student will be able to set up shop after six months.

Of the 15 young women, those who are in school are assured of their schooling through June. Many are asking to be supported in the coming years so that they might earn their diplomas. We have raised almost all of the $5,125 we committed to and need only $791 to complete the first amount.

We are asking individuals, small groups, and parish outreach committees for gifts ranging from $200 to $350, but any amount will be gladly accepted. Please make checks out to the ECW and mail to Susan Broaddus, 1323 Lafayette Blvd., #1, Norfolk, VA 23509.
You are cordially invited
To the celebration of 50 years of Chanco’s ministry!

394 Floods Drive
Spring Grove, VA 23881
May 4-6, 2018

The celebration begins at 4 pm Friday
And concludes Sunday afternoon
You may choose to attend just the Sunday celebration beginning with
11 am Eucharist and 1 pm Pig Roast

Registration is now open at www.chanco.org
Cost: $75 per person to cover cost of food for weekend
Retreat Lodging: $100 per room for weekend (may be shared)
Tent and chalet camping are free

Day Event Only: $10 per person
Hurry as space is limited in retreat lodging and we expect to sell out!
Visit www.chanco.org or call 888-724-2626 for more information
Chanco celebrates 50th birthday—continued from page 11

At the beginning when Chanco was at its old site, Camp Chanco was platform tent camping (does anyone remember when it would rain at camp and your stuff was wet for the rest of the week?); only fall and spring EYC retreats could happen due to no year-round lodging; and out trips were a favorite program of Camp Chanco. Those things have changed. But, the Chanco song is still sung every night as campers and staff circle up after evening program, the Lord’s Prayer at nightly chalet meetings finishes with the loudest, ascending in volume AMEN that you can year throughout the camp in bursts; Big Day still occurs; and campers sing outside the dining hall before meals. Other changes include many new retreat programs over the last 28 years now that we have a year-round retreat lodging space. We host groups of all types and sizes from throughout our area. Our most regular guests include the Episcopal Youth Community, Cursillo, Clergy Conference, Deacon School, Fresh Start, Happening, and vestry & parish retreats from our many diocesan parishes. We are blessed by every single guest from the youngest to the oldest that grace our grounds. And we look forward to celebrating them all at this special anniversary event.

The 50th Anniversary sold out for overnight space in our chalets and retreat lodges within two weeks of going live with registration! However, there is overflow space at the retreat center next door to us, Eastover Plantation. Those reservations can be made by calling the Eastover staff at 757-294-3636. If you stay at Eastover, you will still need to register with us for the weekend events but not for lodging. Choose $75 option for food for the weekend. Tent camping space is also still available at Chanco.

This spectacular celebratory event is open to participants of all ages and from all ministries and programs of Chanco’s history. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Come all weekend long or come just for the Sunday celebration (May 6th) – the choice is yours! The Sunday event will be our pinnacle moment of the weekend including a celebration ceremony, Eucharist and BBQ on the bluff. We are encouraging those that cannot make the entire weekend to please join us for the Sunday day event beginning at 11 am Sunday. To register for the day event celebration on Sunday only, the cost is just $10 per person.

We can’t wait to see everyone back on the bluff celebrating a half century of Chanco’s ministry with each of you! Visit https://chanco.org/join-us-for-chancos-50th-anniversary-may-4-6-2018/ for more information about the event, a link to a tentative schedule for the weekend, a digital invitation to share with friends, and the registration link. Questions? Contact us at hospitality@chanco.org or 888-7-CHANCO (888-724-2626). We can’t wait to see you back in Chanco’s magical forest where “friends are friends forever”.

News from Chanco on the James
Diocesan Camp and Conference Center in Surry, Virginia

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Announcing The Campaign for Chanco: Taking Chanco’s ministry another 50 years and beyond

Talley Banazek, Marketing/Development Coordinator

At Annual Council this year, Chanco made a presentation announcing their vision for Chanco’s future. Chanco has not held a capital campaign in over thirty years and after a professional feasibility study in the fall of 2016 it was determined that YES, Chanco can support a $2.5 million-dollar capital campaign and YES, the time is now! But, why? Why is a campaign such as this important? Chanco is one of the largest ministries for young people in our diocese, and there are countless lives transformed by Chanco every single year – both young people and adults.

At a Cursillo retreat, I had the privilege of being in small group with a woman I will call Charlene. Charlene began the weekend closed off and distant. As the weekend progressed we observed her as she began to open up, then to smile, then to glow. At a pinnacle moment in her retreat experience she shared, “If all these people I don’t even know spent all this time to prepare this weekend for me, care for me, and support me, THIS MUST be how God loves me!”. She has been on fire for God ever since serving in her home parish, Cursillo and KAIROS ministries. GOD AT CHANCO TRANSFORMS LIVES.

I have a dear friend from my EYC and Chanco days, I will call Shelly. Shelly lost her mother to suicide when she was just 13 years old. Shelly’s older sister turned to alcohol and her younger brother turned to drugs. Shelly has shared that her blessing was having Chanco during this difficult time. She had the support of her wonderful Chanco friends, adult advisors, and clergy. She was surrounded by a relaxed, outdoor, Christian community where she could be herself, where she could share her grief in a supportive environment, and where she could find God and find a sense of peace and comfort. Shelly to this day will say, “Chanco saved my life”. GOD AT CHANCO TRANSFORMS LIVES.

These are just two stories of hundreds, if not thousands, of stories that are out there. THIS is why this Campaign for Chanco is critically important. In this scary and unstable time of gun violence and as we mourn so many young lives lost, we must reaffirm our commitment to those places where we can make a difference in our community. Our buildings and grounds are important to our mission today and even more important to our mission tomorrow - so Chanco can reach even more people than ever before. And you can be a part of making it happen.

Chanco’s campaign will feature much needed improvements and expansion of both of our main buildings, the Dining Hall and Flournoy Hall, as well as improvements to our wastewater treatment, retreat lodges, and establishing a property maintenance endowed fund. Chanco’s leadership has spent the past few months making more than 200 personal visits, sharing these many stories and more about our mission. And we have received an incredible response. Chanco is proud to announce, that Chanco has surpassed a milestone benchmark with just over $2,000,000 in support! Our Campaign for Chanco will continue to focus on individual visits and parish presentations. If you are considering your own gift, or have a role to play in your parish to support this campaign, please contact me - Talley Banazek, Chanco Development and Marketing Coordinator, at 804-399-4019 or talley@banazek.com. With the support of all our friends and parishes, we will reach our $2.5 million goal and be stretching towards our $3 million inspirational goal before we know it! Thank you for being an important part of Chanco’s ministry spanning the past 50 years AND being a part of the expanding ministry to come so that thousands of more lives can be transformed by God at Chanco! All glory be to God!
The time is now! Register for Camp Chanco today while space is available!
*Talley Banazek, Marketing/Development Coordinator*

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Calendar of Events

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

Chanco Open House - March 24, 1 to 5 p.m., Chanco on the James. Enjoy tours, refreshments, games, the zip lines, and meet some of our Chanco staff and board members as you learn more about the place many call their second home. This event is free and open to the public. Bring a friend. www.chanco.org

Cursillo #164 Co-ed Weekend—April 18-22. On the three day weekend, candidates learn how to grow as leaders in their communities and in their own personal journey with Jesus. For more information and application forms, go to www.cursillodiosova.org.

Spring Clergy Day - May 1, Chanco on the James.

Chanco 50th Anniversary Celebration - May 4-6, Chanco on the James. Celebrate 50 years of camp programs and many years of Cursillo, EYC, Happening, and retreats. Reunite with old friends, experience archery, ropes, water activities, hayrides, campfires, live music, a pool-side luau and more. www.chanco.org


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

National Acolyte Festival - October 8, National Cathedral, Washington DC. Join acolytes from across the United States for a morning service of re-dedication and Holy Eucharist. Workshops in the afternoon offer enrichment and instruction. Go to www.cathedral.org for info and registration.

Bishops’ Visitation Schedules

**Bishop Hollerith**
- March 25 - St. Mark’s, Suffolk
- March 31 - Easter Vigil at Bruton Parish, Williamsburg
- April 8 - St. John’s, Hampton
- April 15 - All Saints & Trinity, South Hill
- April 22 - Galilee, Virginia Beach
- April 29 - St. Francis, Virginia Beach
- May 6 - Chanco 50th Anniversary Celebration
- May 20 - Manakin, Midlothian
- June 3 - St. Bride’s, Chesapeake
- June 10 - St. Barnabas, Richmond

**Bishop Magness**
- March 25 - Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge
- March 31 - Easter Vigil at Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk
- April 8 - Johns Memorial, Farmville
- April 22 - St. Michael’s, Bon Air
- April 29 - St. David’s, North Chesterfield
- May 6 - St. Paul’s, Suffolk
- May 13 - St. Matthias, Midlothian

Safe Church training
Go to www.diosova.org for information and registration. Online training is also available.
- April 14, 2018 – St. Paul’s, Suffolk
- April 21, 2018 – Holy Trinity, Onancock
- April 28, 2018 – St. Paul’s & St. Andrew’s, Kenbridge
- May 12, 2018 – Galilee, Virginia Beach
- June 2, 2018 – Trinity, South Boston
- September 8, 2018 – Ascension, Norfolk
- September 22, 2018 – St. Andrew’s, Newport News
- October 13, 2018 – St. Aidan’s, Virginia Beach
- October 27, 2018 – St. Matthias’, Midlothian

Pilgrimages

**In the Footsteps of Paul: Greece & Greek Isles**—October 2-12, 2018. Land and sea travel is the best way to experience Greece and the Greek Isles, and October offers the best weather in the region. This all-inclusive trip, hosted by the Rev. Dr. Paul “Peter” Hogg, includes: 1) Round-trip flights from Dulles; 2) Tours of Athens, Corinth, Delphi, Kalambaka, Thessaloniki, including first class hotels, meals; 3) Tour the Aegean Sea Isles of Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini as well as Ephesus (Turkey) on modern Celestyal Cruise Line ship, including all meals. Reserve now if you are serious; this tour has a limited capacity. For the tour brochure, call or email the Rev. Dr. Paul "Peter" Hogg, 757-635-3557, or Toni Hogg 757-635-7402, tonih68@gmail.com.

**Holy Land for Advent 2018**
St. John's, Portsmouth, is pleased to announce our next international pilgrimage opportunity, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus, from November 29 to December 9, 2018. This pilgrimage is open to anyone who desires to take this journey but is limited to a total group size of 17-30. Is God calling you to join this group? Cost from the Norfolk airport is $3,379 double occupancy (excluding airline taxes and fuel surcharges) and decreases depending on the number of Pilgrims over the minimum number of 17 taking the journey. Your spot can be reserved by making a $300 deposit. Contact the Rev. Derek Harbin, derek@stjohnsportsmouth.org.