Welcome to our first edition of the *Diocesan Connection* newsletter. The staff and I are so glad that you are taking the time to read this communication. It represents a further attempt to improve and deepen communication in the Episcopal Church in Southern Virginia and therefore bring the people of God closer to one another.

For many, many years in our diocese, the printed form of the *Jamestown Cross* was our primary source for exchanging information. Parish events, Council resolutions, profiles of candidates for elected offices, updates on companion dioceses, reports on youth events, reflections by the bishop, historical pieces on our churches were just a few of the topics the *JTC* admirably covered in any given year. If one wanted to know what was going on in Southern Virginia, the *JTC* was it! - The way one found out!

It would be a gross understatement to say that the internet has changed the way we live. In the last two decades the world has undergone a communications transformation that has in turn literally transformed the very core of our human culture. Information travels so fast now that new news becomes old news in a matter of seconds. In the wake of this, a printed diocesan news paper can no longer meet the information needs of most people in our churches – particularly those under 50. In light of the expense of printed, mailed information and in the face of our shift to diocesan e-news, the Executive Board made the rather obvious and inevitable budgetary decision to no longer fund the publication of the *JTC*. An era came to an end.

And yet, there is always a social cost to change, regardless of how correct or inevitable that change might be. Generational differences, as well as a lack of access to high speed internet in certain locations has meant that without the printed *JTC* some members of our diocesan family are cut off from information. What you are reading now is an attempt to make sure that everyone remains connected. The *Diocesan Connection* newsletter is sent electronically to every parish/mission in Southern Virginia where it may be printed and distributed to those who do not or cannot use eNews. As with all diocesan programs, its usage will ultimately depend upon the local leadership.

While a change of this sort is never easy, it is a clear symbol for how the Church of God is called to be a forward looking and forward moving enterprise. As a people who define themselves by a sacramental life in Christ, we always seek to embrace any new opportunities that will deepen our communion with one another. I hope this will be such an opportunity.

+ Holly

**Gratitude, Giving and Gladness: Making the Move to Year Round Stewardship**

Join us on Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Martin's, Williamsburg, for the first in a series of yearly stewardship events designed for parish leadership, including clergy and stewardship chairs. Cost for the event is $25 per person. Deadline for registration is Monday, May 7. Go to the “Workshops, Training & Events” page of www.diosova.org to register. Our presenter will be Susan Lee Vick, founding chair of the Commission on Gratitude in the Diocese of Northern California. An in-demand preacher, speaker, consultant, and trainer, Susan celebrates the ministry of stewardship as “the joy business,” a lifelong opportunity to learn and teach that it really is more blessed to give than to receive. Susan is the Co-author of *Grateful, Glad, and Giving: Year Round, Abundance Based, Stewardship*, Congregations around the country have found *Grateful, Glad, and Giving* an engaging, highly customizable, and integrated approach to stewardship, leadership development, and congregational revitalization. "G3," as it's affectionately known, spotlights and amplifies abundance, on all fronts. Susan is a postulant for ordained priesthood, the founder and Chief Development Officer of the Church Investment Group, and the mother of four children aged 14 - 22. Her home parish, The Church of the Incarnation, is in Santa Rosa, California. For more information about this workshop, contact Caroline Black, Canon for Formation, cblack@diosova.org or 757-213-3377.
Actions of 120th Annual Council

Elections

Results of Executive Board elections were announced. Joining the Executive Board are: the Rev. Chris Epperson from Convocation 5, Mr. Buzzy Winn from Convocation 6, Mr. Michael McGraw from Convocation 2, the Rev. Cameron Randle from Convocation 1, the Rev. Michael Stone from Convocation 7, and Ms. Theresa Barnes from Convocation 4.

Elections for Standing Committee and Disciplinary Board were held. Elected to Standing Committee on the first ballot were: Ms. Gay Forloine, Hickory Neck Toano, and the Rev. Charles Robinson, Bruton Parish Williamsburg.

Elected to the Disciplinary Board by unanimous consent after two ballots were: Mr. Phil DiStanislao, St. Paul's & St. Andrew's Kenbridge; Mr. Tony Robinson, St. Thomas Chesapeake; the Rev. Sue Crommelin, Eastern Shore Chapel Virginia Beach; and the Rev. Dale Custer, St. John's Chester.

Resolutions

Canonical Resolution C-1 on the status of parishes and missions was passed, with amendment. Constitutional Resolution CON-1 and Canonical resolution C-2 - both conforming resolutions required by C-1 - were passed. Resolutions R-3 (Talbot Hall) was passed. Resolution R-2 (same-gender union trial liturgies) required a vote by hand. The final vote for R-2 was 257 FOR and 86 AGAINST. Resolution R-1 (fiscal year) was defeated.

Bishop’s Address

Bishop Hollerith addressed Council on Saturday morning. Text and video of the address is available on our website, www.diosova.org. Click on “Governance” and then click on Annual Council 2012.

Communications Grant applications now being accepted

Communications Grants from the Diocese of Southern Virginia provide congregations within the diocese with funding for development of digital communications. Grant funds are intended to assist churches that do not currently make use of digital communications methods to create and implement a new digital communication program. Funds may also be used to assist churches with an existing digital communication program that have discovered needs within their congregation or community that can be addressed with a new digital communication initiative. Go to diosova.org/article293440.htm for more information. Application deadline for 2012 is May 15.

ECW scholarship application deadline is April 30

Episcopal Church Women's Elise Holladay-Beverley D. Tucker Scholarship applications are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is April 30. Applicants must be communicants of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and be enrolled full-time for the coming year. Students may receive funds twice. Go to www.diosova.org/ecw for an application or contact Deborah Austin, akadeborah@aol.com or 757-538-1797.

Rebuild Our Church in Haiti: Look what you did!

Thirty-two parishes in the Diocese of Southern Virginia joined hands to raise over $33,000 for Rebuild Our Church in Haiti, a national, grass-roots effort to help rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In a country with a per capita income of $480, The Episcopal Church in Haiti provided education in over 200 schools, medical care through health clinics, and cultural training through the Cathedral music school. The January 2010 earthquake wiped out 70% of the Episcopal Church’s properties in Haiti. But with our help, they are building back. The contributions from Southern Virginia are helping to rebuild the central pillar of a support system that was once very broad and strong. For making all this possible, special thanks go to Barbara Byers for her organizational skills and leadership, and all the area and parish coordinators who made this campaign a success.
Parishes offer “Ashes to go” on Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday St. Luke’s, Powhatan took their ashes on the road. The Rev. Sandi Kerner, rector, and the Rev. Becki Dean, deacon, spent most of the day offering ashes to folks in the surrounding community in places like the YMCA, assisted living, restaurants, and a local hospital ICU. In Gretna, the Rev. Helen McKee, priest-in-charge of Trinity Church, took ashes to Danville Regional Medical Center for staff and patients. “It gave me a wonderful opportunity to tell why we do this,” she said.

“We heard wonderful stories on the road and had some incredible theological conversations with some who wanted to know what we were doing, where we were from, and what were these ashes all about anyway,” said the Rev. Becki Dean. “Others were aware that it was Ash Wednesday and were unable to go to church. They were grateful for the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes.”

The Rev. Win Lewis of Christ & St. Luke’s in Norfolk and the Rev. Gillian Barr of the ODU Canterbury Center offered “ashes to go” on Ash Wednesday morning, and again at lunch time, outside a busy Starbucks in Norfolk. “The rules are: We don’t accost anyone,” Win told Gillian, “Just see if anyone comes,” as the two stood on the sidewalk next to a small sign reading: “Welcome. Ashes to go.” And people did come. About 40 stopped to receive ashes. Some just stopped to watch or ask questions. Drivers slowed down to check out what was going on.

They also handed out a simple flyer with church location, service times, and contact information. The flyer offered this explanation for “Ashes to Go”: “We are here, outside Starbucks, because this is a place of warmth, welcome and community - a place where, over a cup of coffee, we share our stories, our struggles, our beliefs, our need, in short, our humanity.”

“It was evangelism at its best. We all returned pleasantly exhausted and profoundly blessed,” said Becki. “God truly imagined more for us than we ever could have imagined for ourselves on this most Holy day.”

Holy Trinity leads Episcopal participation in Eastern Shore homeless overnight ministry

Holy Trinity, Onancock, led by their rector, the Rev. Berkeley Ford, is organizing Episcopal participation in a new homeless overnight ministry on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. ESCAPE (Eastern Shore Congregations Aware of People's Environment) is a new faith-based organization on the Shore. The Rev. Ford is a member of the Board of this new organization and is spearheading the participation of Holy Trinity and other Episcopal churches, including St. George’s, Pungoteague, St. James’, Accomac, and Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge.

This shelter model seeks to provide, on an emergency basis, a safe place for folks who have nowhere to sleep during the winter months. Churches provide their facilities or volunteers and other types of support. Holy Trinity and St. George’s will be among the Eastern Shore churches providing space. St. James’ and Emmanuel are among those offering vital volunteer support for the effort. Guests of the shelters will be transported from prearranged pick up locations to each shelter, provided with a hot meal, and then returned to their pick up site the next morning.

This spirit of hospitality will ensure shelter during the coldest part of the year. The project is just getting under way and we look forward to hearing more about their successes and learnings from their ministry.

Leading a Holy Life Task Force invites you online conversation

The Leading a Holy Life Task Force is group of lay and ordained persons from the Diocese of Southern Virginia called together by our bishop for the following purposes: To foster conversation throughout the diocese around issues of human sexuality; To foster awareness in the diocese around issues of human sexuality that will be addressed at the 2012 General Convention; To support a strong and healthy community within the diocese which allows us to confidently, courageously and compassionately address these issues in the midst of our differences.

At Annual Council, the Task Force launched a blog site that offers weekly postings around specific questions related to human sexuality. They invite all members of the diocese to read the postings and respond. We hope you will also use the postings to initiate discussions in your parish, whether in small groups or larger adult forums. In this way they hope to foster conversation, raise awareness, and strengthen a sense of community in our diocese. You can find a link to the blog on the diocesan web page, www.diosova.org.
St. Andrew’s School shows the love on Valentine’s Day by supporting our troops

On February 14th, many classrooms celebrated Valentine’s Day with a party, handing out cards and carnations, and eating candy. However, the pre-K class at St. Andrews Episcopal School in Newport News spent their day a little differently. The children, taught by Mrs. Kristie Manning of Smithfield, prepared special care packages to show their appreciation for our troops. The non-profit, Operation Gratitude, will assist in sending out the packages.

The idea came from one of the room moms, Robin Gear-ey of Smithfield, whose husband is a retired Navy Officer. “Instead of a traditional party, I wanted to get the kids involved in supporting our troops, who do so much for us everyday”, said Robin. The class has been collecting donations from parents since January. The goal was to have enough items, so that each of the nine children of the class could fill one box.

On Valentine’s Day, the pre-K class put together 14 care packages total, to show their appreciation to the deployed service members, their children who are left behind, and to the Wounded Warriors in recovery. The boxes are filled with over 30 items, including snacks, hygiene products, entertainment items, Girl Scout cookies, as well as Valentine Cards, created by the kids themselves. The kids also hand stuffed teddy bears to donate to the Battalion Buddies program, a part of Operation Gratitude, which will send the teddy bears to children whose parents are deployed. In hopes of cheering up the Wounded Warriors in recovery, they also put together packages filled with puzzles, games and cookies.

“It was great to see how proud the kids were to support our troops. At the end of the day they all had a sense of accomplishment”, said Robin. She hopes that next year more classrooms will participate in the program.

Saint Paul’s College reaches fundraising milestone

Saint Paul’s College CEO and interim president, Eddie N. Moore, Jr. announced that SPC has successfully met the requirements of a major challenge grant and is headed into the home stretch of a fundraising campaign that will determine the future of the historic Southside Virginia college.

“We’re grateful for the support that Saint Paul’s has received since we launched the ‘Now and Forever’ campaign last fall,” said Moore. “We have raised $1.5 million in donations and pledges so far, on the way to our goal of raising $5 million dollars before June 2012. We must raise that amount to keep Saint Paul’s open to serve future generations of deserving students.”

Moore said he is encouraged that donors helped SPC to secure the full amount of a half-million dollar challenge grant from the Batten Educational Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. The challenge grant was established thanks to the generosity of Virginia philanthropist Jane Batten. Moore called on alumni and friends of Saint Paul’s College to step forward. “We have interest from other major donors to create another challenge grant for the community and we hope to make an announcement of a new challenge in the very near future,” said Moore.

Saint Paul’s is the only college in Virginia to offer a Single Parent Support System Program, which provides a three-year residential degree program and childhood education for single parents and their families.

“The program made it possible for me to attend college,” said Saint Paul’s senior Courtney Hagans.” Hagans, an English major from Hampton, Va., entered Saint Paul’s with her son Camryn in 2008. “I love the fact that my son is learning the importance of education at such a young age. Sometimes when people ask him what grade he is in, he replies, ‘I’m in College’,” says Hagans with a chuckle.

Founded in 1888 and affiliated with the Episcopal Church, Saint Paul’s College is a private, historically black, accredited, four-year coeducational and culturally diverse liberal arts institution located in Brunswick County. Saint Paul’s offers baccalaureate degrees in the arts and sciences, teacher education endorsements, professional and pre-professional programs, and the only Single Parent Support System program for degree-seeking single parents in Virginia. Saint Paul’s offers an accelerated degree program for working adults in four locations across Virginia including Richmond, Farmville, Franklin and Lawrenceville.

St. Andrew’s offers tuition discount to diocese

St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Newport News now offers a 5% tuition discount to families that are members of any congregation in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. For more information about the school or upcoming open house events, go to www.standrewsschool.com or contact Mary Catherine Bunde, Director of Admissions, mcbunde@standrewsschool.com.
Chanco on the James: “Without You This Place is a Bunch of Sticks”

by Talley Banazek, Development/Marketing Coordinator

Chanco on the James

“Without you this place is a bunch of sticks…” This adage has been passed down to decades of staff at Chanco on the James summer camp. Chanco has been operating continuously since 1968 and many staff have heard this message for many, many summers. Without the people of Chanco – the board of directors, the year-round staff, the weekend hospitality people, the folks who work in the kitchen, the Annual Fund donors, the Chanco Parish Representatives, the summer staff, the conference leaders that return time and time again, and the numerous volunteers – without these people, Chanco is just a bunch of sticks. Most of all, without God’s spirit working and moving among these people…this place is just a bunch of sticks.

Chanco camp registration season is well underway and many college students are beginning to think about returning to camp for another summer of heat, bugs, and little campers. Will they return for another summer? I can’t find a better answer to this question than an excerpt from Camp Director, Jim Sitzler’s staff night speech at the end of summer camp 2011:

“Being a summer counselor is like becoming an overnight parent of 20 kids. Sometimes it’s awesome, and sometimes it’s the most challenging thing you’ve ever done. You get to see these kids at their most vulnerable and at their strongest. For many of them, they have never trusted an adult outside of family with their care and well-being… We get to see things like their first real accomplishment on a ropes course or first time sailing, the first time they learn about the environment around them, the first time they create something, their first camp friendships, or their first real failure at something. These are the first steps of becoming more than just alive; these are the first steps of becoming a unique individual – the first steps of identifying the very idea of self. These are the first steps in defining who they are and what they want to be… It is beyond description as to how important you are in this process. You will never know how important you are… You will never know what small action of yours has made the biggest impact on your campers. Many of you will be remembered for the rest of your campers’ lives… It is your actions that will live with these campers forever. It is your actions that will make the difference in their lives... Without you, this place is just a bunch of sticks… When you leave tomorrow, this place feels empty like a night without stars... The truth is that this place is nothing, this property is dirt and sticks. It is God’s Holy Spirit that lives within you and among you that gives this place its magic. This is the spark that makes the difference and the magic that keeps our campers returning summer after summer. As the song says, ‘the spirit of Chanco is the sunshine in you.’”

If you haven’t experienced the magic of Chanco yet, we hope you’ll join us at one of our Open House dates – April 15 and April 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit us and see why Chanco on the James one of the top summer camps in Virginia. Go to our website, www.chanco.org, for more information. Contact camp director Jim Sitzler, director@chanco.org or 757-294-3012, if you have questions.

Chanco receives distinction in Virginia Living magazine

Chanco has recently learned that its summer camp will be featured in Virginia Living magazine’s special issue, Best of Virginia 2012, coming out in early May. Chanco will be in one of the top three slots for best summer camp in Eastern Virginia. Chanco will not know which place we landed until the issue is on newsstands! Thank you to all Virginia Living readers who voted for Chanco and to all our camper families and camp staff who make Chanco the stellar ministry that it is. Register today for the camp session of your choice as, come early May, space may be quite limited. Visit our website at www.chanco.org for more information and for easy on-line registration. Questions? Contact Camp Director Jim Sitzler at director@chanco.org or at 757-294-3012. Once again, many thanks to our staff, board, volunteers, and campers and all the people and parishes of this diocese who help make Chanco summer camp the best of Eastern Virginia!
Jamestown Cross Retrospective

By Carlyle Gravely

The telephone rang in my office at Newport News Shipbuilding one day in late September 1993. The Rev. Jim Sell from Christ and St. Luke’s Church in Norfolk was on the phone. Jim was the chair of the diocese’s Department of Communication and we had worked together for several years on various communication-related efforts for the diocese.

Jim told me that Ruth Richey, the current editor of the Jamestown Cross, had called and tendered her resignation due to a job change and her determination that she did not have the time to devote to this diocesan ministry. Jim continued that he and I were on only folks who were on the department with any PRINT background (I had worked on the N. C. State University student newspaper in the late 1960s) and, since Bishop Frank Vest was traveling and could not easily be reached, he was taking the initiative of asking me if I would be willing and able to help keep things together until some other arrangements could be made.

Not one to deny a request to help the ministry of the Church that I love, I agreed that I would help but only on an interim basis since I did not think that I had the time either and was not willing to make a permanent commitment. So began my 18-1/2 year ministry as the Editor of the Jamestown Cross.

I talked to Ruth and arranged to meet her the next weekend before the fall Special Council meeting in Petersburg to discuss a transition and pick-up the computer and other diocesan materials that she had at her home in Chesterfield County where she did the Jamestown Cross. After meeting her and filling my call with stuff, I went to the Special Council session and renewed my “reporting avocation” that I had and enjoyed while in college over 20 years before.

At the end of the Special Council session, I returned home to Newport News and started figuring out “how much trouble I had gotten myself into”. It turned out to be a lot but this ministry has been one I have truly enjoyed. And it is one that has changed greatly – from a “Baby Mac” computer and software that was totally foreign to me through various computer systems and software versions. The first several years, we were a black and white publication with an occasional “spot color” highlight. Throughout this time, I got to know and work with some excellent folks at the Williamsburg Gazette. We printed our first issue with extensive full-color photos the week after David Bane was consecrated as the 9th Bishop of Southern Virginia in 1997 and slowly started including more color photos. After about 15 years, the Gazette cut back on their “job shop” printing operation and we moved to Oller Studios in Williamsburg for some of the “pre-press work” and to the Gloucester – Mathews Gazette as the actual printer.

That worked well until we redesigned the Jamestown Cross from a newspaper tabloid format to an all color magazine format in the spring of 2010. The “pre-press work” remained in Williamsburg at Oller Studios and the printing moved to a large print shop in Georgia.

One of the first major changes we made after I became “Interim Editor” was to move the mailing operation “in house” when the diocese contracted with Norfolk Urban Outreach Ministries (NUOM) to handle the mailing list, addressing and packaging of the paper for the postal service. The Rev. Richard Bridgford and volunteers from several Hampton Roads area churches and church-related organizations applied the address labels and bagged the papers for delivery to the Norfolk Bulk Mail facility. This change improved our distribution while reducing the cost over what we were paying a commercial mailing house. An additional benefit of the change was that it kept funds “in the church” and contributed to the work that NUOM was doing.

It was also not long before the “Interim” tag was removed from my title and I became the Editor. Throughout over 100 issues of the paper, it is a “calling” I have come to cherish although there were many times when I questioned my own sanity – like the many late nights / very early mornings as we were getting ready to go to the printer and I was staring at a lot of “blank space” with very little idea of how the paper was going to come together in time. On the other hand, many of the issues had the problem of too much material for the available space and I was facing the task of cutting and trimming and leaving things out. I can tell you, while difficult, that is a much more enjoyable task than creating material out of “whole cloth”.

Clearly one of the great benefits has been the opportunity to be there as “news” is made and to know and work with many wonderful folks – across this diocese, from around the Episcopal Church and from various areas of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Continued on page 7
Some particular folks stand out who need to be thanked.

In Southern Virginia, numerous lay and clergy come to mind but at the top of the list must be Marceile Riddick from Eastern Shore Chapel in Virginia Beach. I “inherited” Marceile who had been the principle photographer for the diocese before I came to the job and we worked closely for 12 or 13 years until she “retired” as the Diocesan Photographer. And of course, the relationship that developed with Richard Bridgford as addressed above. We became much more than involved folks working to distribute the Jamestown Cross, we became close friends and colleagues in ministry. Others have been instrumental and I’ll identify a few, knowing that I’ll miss a lot since there are so many who have worked with and supported this effort over the years: the Bishops and staff of the Diocesan office; reporters for various groups around the diocese such as the ECW and Chanco on the James; the lay and clergy persons who worked on the Department of Communications; the folks who wrote stories or suggested stories; and – most importantly – those who gave us their thanks for the work we were doing and who provided connections to help us “tell the story of God’s work in and through the Episcopal Church in Southern Virginia.”

One of the great benefits of being the Editor of the Jamestown Cross was getting involved in many of the details of Diocesan Councils and the celebrations we have had here in Southern Virginia – the 400th Anniversary of the Church in America at Jamestown in 2007; the 1997 and 2007 Covenants with the Native Peoples of the Americas at Jamestown; the election and subsequent consecrations of Bishops Bane, Gallagher and Hollerith here in Southern Virginia and the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of St. John’s in Hampton, the oldest Episcopal church in America, in 2010 to name a few.

Another great benefit was getting involved in the wider church. I’ve had the privilege of participating in many of the major events of our Church – attending 5 General Conventions, being in the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Washington, D.C. for the Consecration and Investiture of Presiding Bishops Frank Griswold in 1997 and Katharine Jefferts Schori in 2006 and being there in 2001 for the Institution of the “Called to Common Mission (CCM)” relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Being the Jamestown Cross Editor led me to become active in Episcopal Communicators, an independent group of communicators from dioceses all around the country. I’ve served on the group’s Board of Directors and hosted the Annual Meeting here in Southern Virginia in 2007 when we celebrated our history at First Landing Day in Virginia Beach and visited Jamestown and Williamsburg while also looking forward by hosting Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori in an extensive conversation less than six months after her investiture as the 26th Presiding Bishop. The Communicators group meets each spring in sites across the country – from Boston to Seattle to Los Angeles to Sarasota and all points in between. We’ve been to big city venues and to church seminaries and conference centers. The meeting features inspiring keynote speakers, training events, mutual support at the meeting and throughout the year via a listserv and an opportunity submit samples of publications to be judged in the annual Polly Bond Award completion where we have been recognized several times over the years – for photography work, for specific stories and features and for overall excellence.

Celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones

The celebration was held on February 26, 2012 at St. Augustine’s, Newport News. Bishop Hollerith celebrated and the Rev. Dennis Patterson preached.
Episcopal Church launches blog for comments on the draft 2013-2015 budget

The Episcopal Church Joint Committee on Program, Budget and Finance (PB&F) has established a blog for comments on the draft budget approved by Executive Council in January. The blog can be found at http://jscpbf.blogspot.com.

"PB&F offers this blog as a place for the Church to comment on the Executive Council draft budget," explained Diane Pollard, PB&F chair. "Concurrently, the purpose of the blog is also to give PB&F an additional way to hear the comments on the Draft Budget." Pollard, a deputy from the Diocese of New York, stressed that the blog is open to all: bishops, deputies, alternates, clergy and lay people. The blog was launched on Thursday, March 8 and will be monitored by PB&F members.

Following the approval by Executive Council, the draft budget of $104.9 million was sent to PB&F for review. In July the information shared on the blog as well as the testimony received at three General Convention hearings will help to inform the budget that is presented to General Convention for approval. PB&F will prepare a proposed budget which then will be presented at a joint session of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops on July 10. The final triennial budget will be approved by General Convention.

SCLM issues report on blessing of same-gender unions

The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) of the Episcopal Church has forwarded to the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies excerpts from its report, "I Will Bless You, and You Will Be a Blessing": Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships. The report, nearly three years in the making, was prepared by the SCLM in compliance 2009-C056, "Liturgies for Blessings," a resolution approved by the General Convention (GC) of the Episcopal Church in 2009 which directed the SCLM to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for the blessing of same-gender relationships through an open process. Excerpts from the report are being made available for discussion at the upcoming House of Bishops (HOB) meeting in March. Members of the House of Deputies (HOD) will discuss the excerpts in the online forum on the website of Bonnie Anderson, HOD President, http://houseofdeaupies.org/deputy-online-forum/. The discussion on the Deputy Online Forum will take place March 16-23 and is available to the public for viewing. In addition, excerpts are also being made available to the wider church on Anderson's website: http://houseofdeaupies.org/blessingexcerpts.

"Since 2009, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music has consulted widely throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion," said the Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers, Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgics at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and chair of the SCLM. "Providing our report to the church's two legislative houses, the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, is the next step in our open process. We look forward to their discussions and to presenting our report to General Convention in July."

The excerpts released March 8 include a theological reflection on blessing same-gender relationships, a proposed liturgical rite, and the legislative resolutions that the SCLM will recommend to GC12 in Indianapolis July 5-12.

Training for new vestry members

Healthy, skilled vestries who understand their role in the life of the church and their relationship to the clergy and the congregation are essential in creating and maintaining vital congregations. If you are a new vestry member, then "Who's on First? Equipping & Guiding New Vestries" training is for you. This workshop will include: presentations on the role and duties of the vestry; best practices; how to deal with conflict; and role-play and discussion of common challenges that vestries face. Presenters will be Caroline Black, Canon for Formation; the Rev. Jeunee Cunningham, Canon for Congregational Development; and the Rev. Michael Spear-Jones, Canon for Transition and Clergy Development.

The workshop will be offered April 28, 9 a.m. to noon, at Emmanuel, Hampton (179 E. Mercury Blvd.) Cost is $10. You can register online at www.diosova.org. Click on the "Workshops, Training & Events" link. You may also register by calling Judy Rieken in the diocesan office, 757-213-3391.

Get More News From Around Our Diocese!

- Sign up for our weekly eNews at our website, www.diosova.org.
- Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/diosova)
- Twitter (@Diosova)
Upcoming Youth Events

March Weekend at Blackstone
March 23-25
At this Spring gathering, Senior High youth come together for more amazing worship, outreach, community-building, and fun in Christian community. We will also elect new members to the EYC Board. The usual favorites like small groups, the dance and the talent show will also be part of this weekend.

April Weekend
April 13-15
At this Spring gathering, Senior High youth come together for more amazing worship, outreach, community-building, and fun in Christian community. We will also elect new members to the EYC Board. The usual favorites like small groups, the dance and the talent show will also be part of this weekend.

More information and registration for youth events can be found at www.diosova.org/youth.

Good Friday Offering for Jerusalem & the Middle East

Marking the 90th anniversary of the annual Good Friday Offering, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has written to all congregations asking them to consider assistance for Jerusalem and the Middle East. "This annual appeal is a unique spiritual opportunity to continue Jesus' work in the land of his birth and early ministry," the Presiding Bishop writes. "Please join me in continuing that incarnate presence of love and healing."

Funds collected from the Good Friday Offering are gathered and distributed to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East which includes the Dioceses of Jerusalem and Cyprus and the Gulf, all members of the Anglican Communion. Among the many projects assisted by past Good Friday offerings are: Diocese of Jerusalem's St. Peter's Elderly Home for Christian seniors, St. Andrew's Clinic for diabetes, educational scholarships, and St Andrew's Housing Projects for young Christian couples; and in the diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, the many medical ministries of Ras Morbat Clinic based at Christ Church in Aden, Yemen, such as a clinic for mothers and babies, eye care, a vocational school, and ministry to seafarers. Information and resources for the Good Friday Offering are available at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/good-friday-offering.

Clergy Transitions

January 2012
The Rev. Patricia Kellam started as Rector at Christ Church, Amelia
The Rev. Robin Teasley started as Priest-in-Charge at St. Luke’s, Blackstone
The Rev. Jim Sell started as Rector Time Certain at Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach

February 2012
The Rev. Dennis Patterson, Jr. left St. Cyprian’s, Hampton
The Rev. Greg Hodgson left St. Michael’s, Bon Air
The Rev. Jim D. Smith began as Transitional Rector at St. Michael’s, Bon Air

Mission of the Holy Spirit

Bishop Hollerith confirmed seven members of Mission of the Holy Spirit at All Saints’, Virginia Beach on Feb. 26th.
Celebrate the Feast of James Solomon Russell

On Sunday, March 25 at 3 p.m., you are invited to a celebration of the Feast of the Ven. Dr. James Solomon Russell at St. Mark's, Bracey. The service will celebrate the life and ministry of Rev. Russell and his anticipated inclusion in the liturgical calendar of The Episcopal Church. Festive dress. Churches, please bring your banners. A reception will follow the service.

Your prayers and donations are also desired for the James Solomon Russell Memorial to be erected in Southside Virginia to pay tribute to the legacy of this great evangelist, educator, and churchman. (Patron's list: Individuals, $25 or more, churches or groups $300 or more, paid to the James Solomon Russell Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 608, Lawrenceville, VA 23868-0608, by March 16, 2012).

ECBF hosts Buildings for a New Tomorrow symposium

The Episcopal Church Building Fund is more than a loan fund. ECBF is hosting a national symposium, 'Buildings for a New Tomorrow,' April 15-17 in Baltimore to bring people together to discuss the complex issues of church buildings, in an open, honest and realistic forum. It will challenge people to think differently--about their buildings, what they represented, how they supported ministry (or do they?), how to use them for revenue, and when to close them. Participants and presenters come from across the country to challenge themselves and each other to think differently, to "Go big or go home". Go to http://www.ecbf.org/symposium-2012.html for more information.

Presiding Bishop to address Province III Synod

"Communications as Evangelism" workshop offered

The Province III Synod will convene in Martinsburg, West Virginia April 30-May 1. The gathering will include an address from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and General Convention deputy orientation in addition to the Province III business meeting and elections.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the Province III Ministries on Evangelism will present "Communications as Evangelism: Using the Media, Social Media and Common Sense to Draw People to Your Church." The workshop will be led by Jim Naughton of Canticle Communications and founder of the blog Episcopal Cafe. Go to the "Workshops, Training & Events" page of diosova.org for more information and registration for the Synod and communications workshop.

120th Annual Council - Feb. 10-11 in Williamsburg

Clockwise from top left: College representatives in session; Bishop Hollerith lunches with Youth Delegation; keynote speaker the Rev. Canon C.K. Robertson; Bishop Hollerith addresses Council; liturgical dancers & Susie Engle-Hill during the closing Eucharist.
Calendar of Events

Visit the “Workshops, Training & Events” and “Youth” pages of our website for even more upcoming events, www.diosova.org.

Chanco Monument Dedication - March 22, 1:30 p.m., Chanco on the James. A reception will follow the dedication. Contact Talley Banazek for information or to RSVP, talley@banazek.com or 804-399-4019.

Blackstone 2012 - March 23-25 at VUMAC in Blackstone. At this Spring gathering, Senior High youth come together for more amazing worship, outreach, community-building, and fun in Christian community. We will also elect new members to the EYC Board. The usual favorites like small groups, the dance and the talent show will also be part of this weekend. Go to diosova.org/youth.

Who's on First? Equipping & Guiding New Vestries - March 24, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Christ & Grace, Petersburg. This training will also be offered on April 28 at Emmanuel, Hampton. Click on the Workshops link on the Congregation Resources page at diosova.org.

Saint Paul's College Open House - March 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For prospective students and their families. Also on April 14 and May 5. Please call Admissions, 434-848-1877, to reserve your spot. www.saintpaulsnet.com

Saint Paul's College Open House - April 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For prospective students and their families. Also on May 5. Please call Admissions, 434-848-1877, to reserve your spot. www.saintpaulsnet.com

Buildings for a New Tomorrow - April 15-17, Baltimore MD. The Episcopal Church Building Fund is hosting a national symposium to bring people together to discuss the complex issues of church buildings, in an open, honest and realistic forum. It will challenge people to think differently--about their buildings, what they represented, how they supported ministry, how to use them for revenue, and when to close them. Go to http://www.ecbf.org/symposium.html for more information and registration.


Creating Safe Churches for Congregations & Children - April 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Barnabas, Richmond. This classroom safe church training includes the child and adult sessions. You may take one or both sessions. Lunch provided only to those taking both sessions. Cost for one session is $5; cost for both sessions $10. Deadline to register is April 9. Click on the Workshops link on the Congregation Resources page at diosova.org.

Who’s on First? Equipping & Guiding New Vestries - April 28, 9 a.m. to noon, Emmanuel, Hampton. Click on the Workshops link on the Congregation Resources page at diosova.org.

Who’s on First? Equipping & Guiding New Vestries - April 28, 9 a.m. to noon, Emmanuel, Hampton. Click on the Workshops link on the Congregation Resources page at diosova.org.

Making the Move to Year Round Stewardship - May 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Martin’s Williamsburg. Click on the Workshops link on the Congregation Resources page at diosova.org for information and registration.

Province III Small Church Conference - May 28-31, Shrine Mont. Join colleagues from Province III in discussing the small church in the 21st century. This conference will give participants the chance to get together and discuss issues shared by and challenging congregations from small churches. Go to the “Workshops, training & events” page of diosova.org for registration.

First Annual Bishop’s Ball - June 9. Diocese of Southern Virginia Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians is sponsoring an evening of great food and dancing at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel to benefit Saint Paul’s College and the local UBE Chapter. Tickets $60. Contact Olivia Osei-Sarfo at 757-288-2611 or David Flores at 757-466-1991 or silverfox42639@aol.com.

Bishop’s Days for Parish Leadership - October 20 at Redeemer, Midlothian and October 27 at Emmanuel, Virginia Beach. More information available soon.
Inside this issue...

_Jamestown Cross Retrospective_ by editor Carlyle Gravely

Actions of the 120th Annual Council

“Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday in Gretna, Powhatan and Norfolk

New homeless overnight shelter ministry on the Eastern Shore

Visit us online at
www.diosova.org

Look to the diocesan website for congregational and clergy resources, news and upcoming events.