Signaling a clear commitment to the growth of Latino ministries in our diocese, the Executive Board recently approved calling Angelica Garcia-Randle to a part-time, contracted position as Latino Ministries Coordinator for the Eastern Shore. The move represents a critical step toward strengthening Latino ministries throughout Southern Virginia by capitalizing on efforts already underway on the Eastern Shore. The Mission Network and Congregational Vitality ministries, under the direction of Bishop Hollerith, are seeking to develop ministry with the growing Latino population in Southern Virginia.

Ms. Garcia-Randle is a native of Los Angeles, CA and the daughter of immigrants to the United States. Her mother emigrated from El Salvador and her father comes from a small village in the Mexican state of Guanajuato. Angelica, who is fluent in written and spoken Spanish, moved to Virginia from Southern California in 2011 when her husband, The Rev. Cameron Randle, was called as rector of St. James, Accomac and St. George’s, Pungoteague. Together, the Garcia-Randles have pioneered Latino and Food Justice ministries in Southern Virginia.

Angelica is Director of Dos Santos Food Pantry, a ministry of the churches of St. George’s Parish. Dos Santos (two saints) is a partner agency of the Foodbank of Southeast Virginia and the Eastern Shore and the only Spanish-speaking pantry in the region. The outreach serves a sizable migrant farmworker and Latino immigrant community by providing staple foods such as corn flour for tortillas, rice, beans, poultry and fresh vegetables, along with clothing and personal hygiene items.

In the past year, Dos Santos has expanded to include an organic community garden to help supply the pantry and a vibrant new tutoring program for children of Latino immigrant parents in two key Accomack County public elementary schools. A mobile version of the pantry also distributes food and other necessities in trailer parks and migrant camps.

A marketing professional with photography and graphic design experience, Angelica has studied at the Paier College of Art in Hamden, CT and The Rhode Island School of Design. She is presently working toward a degree in Applied Design with a concentration in Photography at The University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, MD. She is a liaison to the Migrant Services Council of the Eastern Shore and has served on the board of Boys & Girls Club (Eastern Shore Unit), United Way and Una Familia, a tutoring program of the United Methodist Church in partnership with Dos Santos tutoring.

“I am honored to be able to help people in need and to contribute to cultural awareness on a broader level,” she explains.

In her new diocesan role, Angelica will make available resources and information for parishes and parish leaders drawn to establishing or cultivating Latino ministries. This includes cultural education and information exchange across the diocese through workshops, site visits, etc. A seven-member Advisory Board for Episcopal Latino Ministries was recently formed to provide oversight and create benchmarks and goals for the venture.

“Latino ministry has been part of Bishop Hollerith’s vision since the beginning of his episcopate, and the Eastern Shore, with the largest percentage of Latino population is the logical place to begin our concentrated efforts,” said the Rev. Canon Jeunee Godsey, Diocese of Southern Virginia’s Canon for Congregational Development.

“Angelica’s work incorporates what we learned through the Hispanic Ministry Conference last spring, and I believe we will see much spiritual fruit from this investment of our Mission and Ministry grant funds to support this venture. Our diocese is blessed to have Angelica offer her skills, gifts, and experience not only to grow the Latino ministry on the Eastern Shore, but also to serve as a resource to explore and expand Latino ministries throughout the diocese.”
Clergy transitions

The Rev. Mignon (Sarah) Brockenbrough left Bruton Parish, Williamsburg to accept a call in Diocese of Virginia, 9/20/2015

The Rev. Mark Riley began as Assistant Rector at St. John's, Hampton, 9/21/2015

The Rev. Terrence Walker resigned as Long Term Supply Priest at Trinity, South Hill and All Saints, South Hill, 9/26/2015

The Rev. Marguerite Alley began as Deacon at St. Andrew's, Norfolk, 10/11/2015

The Rev. Mary (Mimi) Lacey began as Rector of Emmanuel, Virginia Beach, 11/1/2015

The Rev. Ross Keener retired from Glebe, Suffolk, 11/30/2015

Southern Virginia mourns the passing of Gordon Tayloe, Jr.

Gordon B. Tayloe, Jr. died on October 12, 2015. Gordon will be remembered as a family man, public servant, common sense jurist and leader in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. Gordon was active in the Episcopal Church for years. He served on the vestry and as Senior Warden at Trinity, Portsmouth, and Good Shepherd, Norfolk. He was also head of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Chancellor.

124th Annual Council to convene in Williamsburg Feb. 5-6, 2016

The Diocese of Southern will hold its 124th Annual Council February 5-6, 2016 at the Williamsburg Lodge Convention Center in Williamsburg, VA. The theme for this year's Council is Continuing the Sacred Conversation: Racial Justice and the Role of the Church.

The keynote speaker for this year’s Annual Council will be the Very Rev. Mike Kinman, dean of Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis, MO. Following the Ferguson police killing of Michael Brown, Jr., Kinman was an advocate for the Black Lives Matter movement and provided sanctuary for the movement at Christ Church Cathedral. “As a church leader, I go where I see Christ,” Kinman told The St. Louis American in an interview. “And right now, I see Him in the young people. I see Him in the young people non-violently leading this movement.”

Kinman will make two presentations during this year’s Council: Feb. 5 - #Ferguson Theology: The new civil rights movement is nothing new. For us as Christians, it draws its authority from the witness of God throughout scripture. We'll spend this hour together building a scriptural foundation or our sacred conversations about race & class, power & protest. Feb. 6 - Sacred Conversations About Race and Class, Power and Protest: Building on our conversations about scripture, we will listen to some of the voices of the new civil rights movement, talk honestly about the inequities that are being revealed and grapple with what the role of the church is in this unique moment in history.

Preacher at the Council Eucharist will be The Rev. Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson, rector of St. Andrew and Holy Communion Episcopal Church in South Orange, New Jersey.

Registration for Annual Council is open now. Register before January 5, 2016 to avoid a late fee. For complete information on this year’s Annual Council go to www.diosova.org.

Recovery Ready Parishes training

Join us on Saturday, January 23 at Trinity, South Boston, for a day-long formation event for individuals and parish teams to learn more about the disease of addiction and how to create Recovery Ready parishes. Hosted by the Addictions and Recovery Commission of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Facilitated by Jan M. Brown, Founding/Executive Director of Spiritworks Foundation and the Rev. Lauren McDonald, Director of Spiritual and Community Programming at SpiritWorks. Event is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is included. $25 per person or $75 for a team of four or more. Scholarships are available - contact Canon Caroline Black, cblack@diosova.org or 757-213-3377. Go to www.diosova.org to register.
Trinity Institute 2016 to be live webcast at Diocesan Office

The Trinity Institute’s 45th annual conference - Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice - will be webcast live at the Diocesan office in Newport News, Jan. 21-23, 2016. This year’s conference focuses on racial justice. It is for anyone who is interested in a theological perspective on racial justice and a fuller understanding of present realities and ways to transform them. Featured speakers include Nicholas Kristof, Anna Deavere Smith, Emilie Townes, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and many more. Get more information and register online at www.diosova.org.

Diocese of Southern Virginia receives award from Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal church

By The Rev. Lauren McDonald, St. Stephen’s, Newport News and CNU Chaplain

The last week in October, Jan M. Brown and the Rev. Lauren McDonald, co-chairs of the Addictions and Recovery Commission (ARC) of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, attended the annual Gathering of Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church (RMEC) at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Seattle. This year’s Gathering featured presentations by the Rev. Becca Stevens, Anne Lamott, and Sybil MacBeth. Jan, who was elected Vice President of the RMEC Board during the Gathering, facilitated an afternoon of “telling our recovery stories,” in which Gathering participants learned to share their stories in five sentences. It was a powerful afternoon of honest and open sharing.

This year, at the Friday night banquet, RMEC presented two awards that had been given out in the past but had not been awarded recently. One was the Sam Shoemaker Award given to an individual who has made significant contributions in the field of addiction in the Episcopal Community. The other was the Russell Horton Award given to a Diocese with a new or renewed recovery commission that has had a significant increase in activity, a creative/renewed ministry, and has supported RMEC’s goals of making a difference in and through the Episcopal Community in the field of recovery from addiction. This year the Russell Horton Award was given to the Diocese of Southern Virginia in recognition of restarting our Addictions and Recovery Commission and working to create Recovery Ready churches and a Recovery Ready Diocese. Jan and Lauren received the award on behalf of Southern Virginia, and Lauren gave a presentation to those gathered on what the ARC has done in the past year.

In 2016 the RMEC Gathering will be held in Williamsburg, hosted by the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Those interested in helping with the conference may contact Lauren at 757-903-0000 or lauren@spiritworksfoundation.org. We look forward to showing the rest of the Episcopal Church our Southern Virginia hospitality.

2016 Vestry Training Days

Healthy, skilled vestries who understand their role in the life of the church and their relationship to the clergy and congregation are essential in creating and maintaining vital congregations.

These workshops are designed for all vestry members, and will include: Presentations on the role and duties of the vestry; Best practices; Opportunities to have conversations with other vestry members; Discussion of common challenges that vestries face.

In 2016, we will be hosting 3 events:

- **February 13** at St. John's, Halifax - Anyone is welcome, but this will be focused on the churches of Convocations 8 & 9, as their context is somewhat different from parishes in other parts of our diocese.
- **February 20** at Good Shepherd, Norfolk
- **February 27** at St. David’s, Chesterfield - At this session there will be a concurrent workshop for new senior wardens with the Bishop.

Further details and registration will be available in January, but please save one of these dates to join us, along with your fellow vestry members. Spread the word!
Jan Brown named to Episcopal Church Commission on Impairment and Leadership

Member of the newly-formed Episcopal Church Commission on Impairment and Leadership were announced in October, 2015. They include Jan Brown from the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Brown is a member of the board of Episcopal Recovery Ministries and co-Director of SpiritWorks Foundation, a recovery community organization serving individuals affected by the disease of addiction. The members were appointed by 26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in consultation with President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings.

Jefferts Schori said, "I pray that this body will help us foster a culture of open awareness and learning about addiction as well as fierce commitment to healing of body, mind, soul, and community."

The enabling resolutions charge the Commission to serve as "an independent commission to explore the canonical, environmental, behavioral and procedural dimensions of matters involving the serious impairment of individuals serving as leaders in the Church, with special attention to issues of addiction and substance abuse." The commission also must prepare a report to "include recommendations for both action and further review, as appropriate, in order to clarify lines of authority, to ensure mutual accountability, and to promote justice, well-being and safety within both the Church and the world."

The Diocese of Southern Virginia is actively participating in the Episcopal Asset Map project. Bishop Hollerith has asked churches to designate someone to help manage their presence on the map. Communications Officer Ann Turner is the diocesan map administrator. Please contact her if you have any questions about the Asset Map, aturner@diosova.org. Our diocesan page can be found at www.edsva.episcopalassetmap.org.

November Weekend 2015 hits maximum capacity!

By Ashley Scruggs, Diocesan Youth Missioner

Nearly 70 individuals gathered at Chanco for our annual middle school retreat, and we used every available conference room to host these teens. This year's turnout was the largest ever; the program has grown steadily since it originally kicked off as an overnight lock-in at St. Martin's, Williamsburg, in 2010. Now November Weekend runs from Friday evening through Sunday morning at Chanco and features engaging worship, music, mixers and games, a dance, zip lines, and field games. To learn more about our diocesan youth programs visit www.diosova.org/youth or contact diocesan Youth Missioner Ashley Scruggs at ascruggs@diosova.org.
First Holiday Lock-In at Chanco a great success

December 4-5, 35 registrants participated in the first ever Holiday Lock-In for teens in grades 6-12 at Chanco. Beginning with icebreakers, followed by Eucharist, and finally a massive dance party on Friday night, the weekend continued with more games, discussions, worship and outdoor recreation on Saturday. Teens brought their sleeping bags and camped out overnight in Conference Rooms C and D. The fee to attend was just $15 along with a donation of canned goods. The donations from the youth were generous and will go to support the food pantry at St. Paul's, Newport News. We were blessed mild and sunny weather for the event, so we were able to enjoy a little gaga and a walk down to the dock. Initial feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and they all said they would like to see us host more of these relaxed, affordable, short-term programs. So be on the lookout for another lock-in soon!

College ministries come together for retreat at Chanco

By The Rev. Wendy Wilkinson, Good Samaritan, Virginia Beach, and ODU Chaplain

Four campus ministries - William & Mary, Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University and Longwood/ Hampden Sydney - came together for a retreat at Chanco on the James Oct. 30-31. The time away provided an opportunity for the students to build relationships with each other and discuss how their faith impacts their life on campus. The retreat was built around the Daily Offices with the intention that they students would find a place of calm and spiritual renewal in the midst of their hectic class schedules. They found time to enjoy Chanco's zip lines and the high ropes course as well. One of the parts of the retreat that the students found calming was to experience the Great Silence from the evening Compline service until the next morning's opening worship. At the close of the retreat, students were eager to find an opportunity to get together again in the spring.

ECW Board members installed at Fall Annual Meeting

By Nancy Smith, St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach

Folks woke up to ice-coated windshields in Clarksville on October 18. St. Timothy's, Clarksville, ECW, led by Jean Crowe, ECW President, welcomed women who traveled across the diocese to the ECW Fall Annual Meeting that morning, with fresh-baked donuts and hot coffee.

The principal business at ECW Fall Annual Meetings is the installation of new board members. During the Celebration of Holy Eucharist, the Very Reverend Dr. Susan Grimm, Rector, St. Timothy's, Clarksville, installed the ECW board members: Kathy Haney, Recording Secretary, Christ Church, Danville; Andrea Morgan, Prayer/Worship Chair, Trinity, Portsmouth; Louise Boss, Second Vice President, Christ Church, Eastville/Bridgetown and Deborah Austin, Church Periodical Club Director, St. Mark's, Suffolk. They will serve a two-year term beginning in January 2016.

Megan-Drew Tiller, Church Relations, the Boys Home of Virginia, and Tod Balsbaugh, Vice President of Advancement, Jackson-Feild Homes attended the meeting and received contributions from parishes for God Bless the Children: ECW's 2015-16 Outreach Project. At lunch Molly Kratt, a member of St. Timothy's, shared Seven Stylish Tips for Tying Your Scarf.

ECW dues, $3 per member, are due November 1. Technically, all Episcopal Church Women, are members of ECW. Two dollars ($2) fund donations given to recipients in the diocese, nation and the world through the ECW Diocesan Budget. Imagine what sizable donations those would be, if every women in diocese gave $3. For information about recipients go to www.diosova.org.

PHOTO: Back row, l. to r.: Kathy Haney, Recording Secretary, Christ Church, Danville and Rev. Susan Grimm. Front row, l. to r.: Andrea Morgan, Prayer/Worship Chair, Trinity, Portsmouth; Louise Boss, Second Vice President, Christ Church, Eastville/Bridgetown; Presenter, Nancy Sands, ECW Diocesan President, Christ Church, Danville and Deborah Austin, Church Periodical Club Director, St. Mark's, Suffolk.
Women-to-Women expanding ministry in Africa

*By Susan Broaddus, Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk*

Women-to-Women have decided to expand from helping only Bukavu Diocese to also helping the new Diocese of Kamango which is being formed out of the Diocese of North Kivu near the Uganda border. Pictured here is Madame Damalie Tibafa (she’s the one with the Christ & St. Luke’s apron), wife of bishop-elect Canon Sabiti Tibafa who is currently Vice-Chancellor of the Anglican University in Bunia. Here in 2013, she is teaching me to cook a squash and tomato dish, one of my favorites. As the Bishop’s wife, she will head the Mothers’ Union in that Diocese. Happily, she is trained to do so and was the Provincial Mothers’ Union Rep years ago. Help us help them by joining Women-to-Women. Call Susan Broaddus for more information, 757-613-7004.

Outreach volunteers nicknamed "Ramps R Us" for their building projects on the Eastern Shore

*By Evelyn Lawrence, Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge*

Every September for the past 13 years, Emmanuel, Jenkins Bridge, has reached out to the local community to help handicapped or needy persons live independently. This year the Eastern Shore towns of Hallwood and Horntown are the recipients of the generosity of this small church.

The volunteers say they are often referred to as "Ramps-R-Us" because that is normally one of the projects. This year Outreach Week includes building a ramp, plus repairs to three other homes, from repairing a door to resealing a roof, etc. Referrals come from the Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living and other local agencies.

"We get a lot of personal satisfaction from working together for a common need, and we get great rewards with the feedback from helping others," said year’s chairman, Eric Redifer. "We are a small church with little money, but we make it up with our enthusiasm and hard work."

Assisting them each year are friends Jack and Henry from St. Matthias, Midlothian, who are believers in the project, even to donating funds for the cause.

Plans have been in the works for months, but the kickoff begins with a Monday morning breakfast at the church, where final assignments are made. Planners research each project, purchase supplies, and make a list of jobs. On Tuesday evening they gather together for dinner and fellowship at a local restaurant.

Redifer says it's not just men working either. "Women can handle a hammer and drill just as well." Emmanuel's Rector, the Rev. Claire Hunkins, is right among them and she asks that if you can't work, to just come pray with and visit with the folks they are working for. Sounds like a win/win situation!

A happy Thanksgiving at St. Paul’s, Newport News

On Wednesday, November 25, more than sixty homeless members of the St. Paul’s, Newport News, community were treated to a sit-down dinner in St. Paul’s parish hall. The meal, initiated by the outreach program of Grace, Yorktown, was cooked, transported and served by volunteers from Grace. The dinner was enhanced by piano selections of Christmas music throughout the meal. St. Paul’s annually sponsors holiday meals for its community on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and is deeply indebted to the many parishioners of a Grace Church for making this year’s dinner such a success.
Boardwalk Ministry: “How may I pray for you?”
By John Parker, Galilee, Virginia Beach

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to ask a complete stranger - How may I pray for you? The Boardwalk Ministry of Galilee, Virginia Beach, is back for the second time to share the good news of Christ's love with the world. This group does it by mingling among strangers along the Boardwalk at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. They wear t-shirts with "How may I pray for you" on the front and the cross of Christ resurrected on the back. The back of the shirt says simply - “Something always happens”.

The groups’ experience shows that people are amazing. They do stop - some to watch, some to talk, some actually have prayer requests for themselves, their families and this nation. It is a real eye opener. People are caring for others and others are feeling good because they, in the midst of the pace of life, have forgotten that people do care. At the center of it all, the team is reminding people about the Gospel of hope as we lift up Jesus Christ as The One who cares for us all.

Welcome Home Initiative offers healing for combat veterans

The Welcome Home Initiative is a program for war-zone veterans who suffer from post traumatic stress or moral injury. It is an intense, focused three-day retreat for military veterans (and their immediate families); who served their country in combat and may be suffering, in varying degrees, from post-traumatic stress. The format is designed to bring about awareness of even the hidden impact of combat service upon veterans; assuring them of a welcoming and safe place to accomplish essential spiritual and emotional healing. The program is geared to help every participant know and experience that they are “welcomed home” in every sense.

The Rev. Nigel Mumford, priest associate at Galilee, Virginia Beach, and the Welcome Home Initiative team, are all veterans who have served. Thanks to the people who support the Welcome Home Initiative, the program is offered free of charge for a veteran and spouse to attend. Hotel accommodations and meals are also provided.

After each retreat, the public is invited to come to the closing ceremony to show appreciation to these veterans who risked their lives for us. An opportunity to say "thank you" “welcome home!”

On Nov. 14, at Galilee, Virginia Beach, parishioners were joined by several hundred well-wishers, a veterans' motorcycle team, other veterans, a color guard, musicians, a retired US Navy admiral, to "Welcome Home" 29 veterans and 15 spouses in a special closing ceremony as part of the Welcome Home Initiative through the By His Wounds Christian Ministry. You can watch video of the very moving closing ceremony at http://bit.ly/1I8T1xL. To learn more about this ministry, go to www.byhiswoundsministry.org.

St. Andrew’s School 2016 Open House dates

St. Andrew’s School, Newport News, invites you to join them at one of their 2016 Open House events. St. Andrew’s is exactly what an elementary school should be! It all starts with a visit.

- January 10, 1-3 p.m.
- January 13, 9-11 a.m.
- March 5, 10 a.m. to noon
- March 9, 5 to 7 p.m.
- March 24, 8 a.m. coffee, musical and tours

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Kristi Elliott, 757-596-6261 or kelliott@standrewsschool.com.
News from Mission of the Holy Spirit
By Keith Josey, Lay Pastor

As we prepare for the holiday season I would like to take a moment to remind you that many families depend on the generosity of individuals like yourselves to ensure that their family has a blessed holiday session.

Each year our challenges are increased due to the ever-growing needs of others. The generosity of churches and individuals like you has allowed us to serve numerous families. This year we have seen great changes and have enjoyed the growth of our members in the following ways: Currently our Sunday service has a Eucharistic presence on the second and fourth Sunday, we now have a number of parents who attend weekly and actively participate in the worship experience alongside their children. This helps to create a stable environment both at the Mission and in their homes. Our enrichment program has assisted many of our youth to achieve academic success. We continue to offer support to our college students and are excited about the members who will graduate this May. We have another exciting year of health and wellness with nursing interns from ODU here to assist our members and encourage healthy life choices for our children, adolescents, and adults.

Overall we are doing well, but there is a continued need for funding and the development of continued resources for the Mission. Remember that people tend to give to the organizations they know and trust, so this is why I'm sharing our successes and educating you about the needs we strive to meet.

While I am grateful for the support of all the Individuals and churches, we especially need your continued support for the following:

- Groups and individuals to assist with donations for Christmas gifts for the children and Christmas food baskets
- Volunteers to assist with enrichment and other programs
- Volunteers who can help coordinate regular fundraising activities
- Volunteer who wish to become members of our board

As we work to leave the hardships of our past behind us and live in the present, we must keep looking toward the future. Remember: "He who is not courageous enough to take risk will accomplish nothing in life." --Muhammad Ali

For more information or to volunteer—757-858-0010 or info@MissionoftheHolySpirit.org.

Farewell message from 26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori issued the following statement in October, 2015:

"The Episcopal Church has come a long way in the last 10 years. We are no longer consumed by internal conflict over various social issues. We are clearer about who we are - a multinational church, with congregations in 17 nations, worshipping in countless different languages, thriving in international, immigrant, and multicultural contexts everywhere, and discovering the abundant life that comes in turning outward to love the neighbors nearby and far away. We are far more conscious about our vocation as partners in the mission of God to reconcile and heal the world, particularly shaped by the Five Anglican Marks of Mission. We are holding our identity as Episcopal Christians a bit more confidently, even in the midst of our diversity. We are also more willing to hold that identity lightly and gracefully in engaging other Christians and people of other religious traditions, searching for what we dream of in common - shalom, the Reign of God, a more just and peaceful world, with abundant life for all creation.

I am deeply grateful for what God has been up to in the midst of our journey together, and I look forward to seeing how this church of the middle way will continue to lead and partner as we travel the road home, into God's fullest dream of abundant life for all. I thank the people of this Church and beyond for your prayers over the last nine years - especially in recognition that we do this work together, never alone. May God bless the next chapter of The Episcopal Church's engagement in God's mission, as we go together into Galilee!"
Curry installed at 27th Presiding Bishop
From Episcopal News Service

After knocking on the west doors of Washington National Cathedral in the traditional manner and being admitted to the cathedral by the Very Rev. Gary Hall, the cathedral’s dean, and Diocese of Washington Bishop Mariann Budde, Curry was asked to “tell us who you are.”

“I am Michael Bruce Curry, a child of God, baptized in St. Simon of Cyrene Church, Maywood, Illinois, on May 3, 1953, and since that time I have sought to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ,” he replied.

“Michael, Bishop in the Church of God, we have anticipated your arrival with great joy,” 26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori told him. “In the Name of Christ, we greet you,” she added, and the greeting was echoed by the more than 2,500 people in attendance.

Curry, the former bishop of North Carolina, promised to be a “faithful shepherd and pastor” and, when asked by Jefferts Schori if they would support Curry in his ministry, those attending roared in reply, “We will.”

“God has not given up on God’s world,” Curry told the congregation and the thousands of people watching the service’s live webcast. “And God is not finished with The Episcopal Church yet. God has work for us to do.”

Curry had officially become the 27th presiding bishop and The Episcopal Church’s chief pastor and primate at midnight. During the three-hour service, he was seated in the cathedral (Washington National Cathedral has been the presiding bishop’s seat since 1941). Jefferts Schori then gave him the primatial staff that she had carried for the past nine years and then warmly embraced him as the congregation loudly applauded and shouted its approval.

In his 37-minute sermon, Curry returned again and again to evangelism and reconciliation, especially racial reconciliation, calling it “some of the most difficult work possible.”

“But don’t worry,” he said. “We can do it. The Holy Spirit has done this work before in The Episcopal Church. And it can be done again for a new day.”

He called for an evangelism that is “genuine and authentic to us as Episcopalians, not a way that imitates or judges anyone else” and that is “about helping others find their way to a relationship with God without our trying to control the outcome.” Such evangelism, he said, ought to involve both sharing the faith that is in us and listening to and learning from others’ experiences.

Curry said that racial reconciliation is “just the beginning for the hard and holy work of real reconciliation that realizes justice across all the borders and boundaries that divide the human family of God.”

Elected at General Convention

The House of Bishops elected Curry June 27 during General Convention on the first ballot. It was a landslide; he received 121 votes of a total 174 cast. The number of votes needed for election was 89. It was the first time the bishops had elected a presiding bishop on the first ballot. Curry’s election was confirmed an hour later by the House of Deputies, as outlined in the church’s canons, by a vote of 800 to 12.

It’s the second time in a row that the church will make history with its installation of a presiding bishop. In 2006, 26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori became the first woman elected presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. She was also the first female among the primates, or ordained leaders, of the Anglican Communion’s 38 provinces, a distinction she still holds.
God came among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to show us the Way. He came to show us the Way to life, the Way to love. He came to show us the Way beyond what often can be the nightmares of our own devisings and into the dream of God’s intending. That’s why, when Jesus called his first followers he did it with the simple words “Follow me.”

“Follow me,” he said, “and I will make you fish for people.” Follow me and love will show you how to become more than you ever dreamed you could be. Follow me and I will help you change the world from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends. Jesus came and started a movement and we are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

Near the end of Matthew’s Gospel story of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Mary Magdalene and some of the women go to the tomb to anoint his body. When they get there they find that the tomb is empty, the stone has been rolled away and there is no body there. Then they see and hear an angel who says to them, “This Jesus of Nazareth whom you seek, he is not here, he has been raised as he said he would be and he has now gone ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him. It is in Galilee that the Risen Lord will be found and seen for he has gone ahead of us.”


A few years ago I was in a coffee shop in Raleigh, North Carolina, just a few blocks away from our Diocesan House there. While in line I started a conversation with a gentleman who turned out to be a Mennonite pastor. He had been sent to Raleigh to organize a church in the community on the streets without walls. As we were talking over our coffee, he said something to me that I have not forgotten. He said the Mennonite community asked him to do this because they believed that in this environment in which we live, the church can no longer wait for its congregation to come to it, the church must go where the congregation is.

Now is our time to go. To go into the world to share the good news of God and Jesus Christ. To go into the world and help to be agents and instruments of God’s reconciliation. To go into the world, let the world know that there is a God who loves us, a God who will not let us go, and that that love can set us all free.

This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus’ movement in this world.

God bless you, and keep the faith.

Get more news from Southern Virginia! Sign up for our weekly eNews at www.diosova.org.
If you’ve been to Chanco, you are well familiar with the term “the Spirit of Chanco”. If you are a camper, you see it in new friendships, in Eucharist on the bluff, in the adventure of trying something completely new, and you hear it in the Chanco song sung every evening as you lock arm in arm with friends old and new to close out the day. If you are a retreat guest, you have seen the Spirit of Chanco in the team building activities on a low ropes course, or the adventure of a zip line, or worship outdoors, or in the loving faces of new friends. If you’ve never been to Chanco, you may have seen the words “Spirit of Chanco” but not having had your own Chanco experience, you may wonder, “What is that all about anyway?”

The good news is that more and more friends are becoming acquainted with the Spirit of Chanco. With 574 campers this past summer (89 more than last summer!), camp numbers for 2015 were as high as any year in the last nine years. November Weekend middle school youth retreat 2015 hit maximum capacity with nearly 70 participants and was the largest November Weekend held to date. Recent Cursillo weekends have been strong in numbers of candidates and team members. And new programs such as Winter Camp and a Holiday Lock-In mean new faces and different experiences abound at Chanco. The Board and Staff of Chanco on the James is incredibly grateful to all those who make these events possible through gifts of time, talent and treasure. Volunteers, staff members, donors, and guests give the Spirit of Chanco its vibrant life and are the vessels through which God works to offer His ministry year-round at Chanco on the James.

One of our Cursillo #158 retreat participants describes this Spirit beautifully sharing, “Thanks be to God for wonderful people like you and all involved in Cursillo #158. I truly saw the rainbow of God’s hope, love and grace through the team’s infectious, generous joy, the community’s outpouring of palanca, and my sister/fellow candidates’ unfettered kindness”. If “God’s hope, love and grace” and “infectious, generous joy” sound appealing to you, find out more at www.cursillodsv.org. Cursillo weekends are held three times annually and offer an experience of learning, laughter, friendship and faith.

A 2015 camper shares her experience of the Spirit of Chanco writing, “Chanco brings a glistening happiness in my life and whenever I’m present in the Spirit of Chanco my life seems complete. Chanco is a place where you can forget all your worries and personal problems. Chanco is a huge part of my life and will never be forgotten. The memories I’ve made during my time at Chanco make me who I am today. I’ve continued coming to Chanco for seven years in a row and I hope to come here for many, many more. Not only did Chanco introduce me to a new type of happiness, but it also introduced me to my best friend, Carter. We don’t see each other out of Chanco, but each year we seem to get closer and closer and that is because of Chanco. Chanco will forever and always be my home.”

Get more news from Chanco on the James!
Sign up for the Chanco Chatter newsletter at www.diosova.org.
Come join us at a place many consider their “second home”. Winter Camp is around the corner, Men’s and Women’s Cursillo Weekends are this spring, Happening #64 will be in March followed by May Weekend diocesan youth retreat, to name just a few of the upcoming opportunities to experience the “Spirit of Chanco.” Camp Chanco 2016 promises to be as full of adventure, faith, friendship and fun as always and registration is in full swing at www.chanco.org (120 campers already registered!). Don’t miss it! And if you are a parent or grandparent, giving the Spirit of Chanco for Christmas might solve all your Christmas shopping conundrums! J See below for the list of 2016 camp dates and rates and visit our website for a certificate that can be printed, filled out and wrapped for under the tree! Merry Christmas to all of our thousands of friends who make the Spirit of Chanco possible and may God’s grace, love, peace and joy fill your holiday this season and always.

Cursillo Weekend #158
The Spirit of Chanco
By Talley Banazek, Development/Marketing Coordinator, Chanco on the James

2016 Camp Dates & Rates

Registration is open for 2016 camp sessions!
More information & registration at WWW.CHANCO.ORG

Open House: March 19 and May 15, 2016 from 1-5 pm

*NEW* Winter Camp (ages 7-12): January 15-17, 2016 $125.00
Session One (ages 8-11): June 26 - July 1, 2016 $495.00
Mariners’ Camp (ages 12-16): June 26 - July 1, 2016 $495.00
Session Two (ages 8-16): July 3 - July 15, 2016 $825.00
Session Three (ages 8-16): July 17 - 29, 2016 $825.00
Ropes Camp (ages 12-16): July 24 - July 29, 2016 $495.00
Session Four (ages 8-16): July 31 - August 12, 2016 $825.00
Family Camp (all ages): August 18 - 21, 2016 $125.00 per person*

*Stay in motel-style rooms for an additional $100 per person*

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Calendar of Events

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

Trinity Institute Live Webcast: Jan. 21-23. The conference is sponsored by Trinity Wall Street, an Episcopal parish in New York City. The Diocese of Southern Virginia is proud to be a Partner Site, making this year’s conference available to Southern Virginia via live webcast. This year’s conference – TI2016: Listen for a Change – focuses on racial justice. TI2016 is for anyone who is interested in a theological perspective on racial justice and a fuller understanding of present realities and ways to transform them. Cost is $25 for full program. Registration deadline is Jan. 8. Go to www.diosova.org for information.

Addictions & Recovery Commission: Recovery Ready Parishes. January 23 at Trinity, South Boston. A day-long formation event for individuals and parish teams to learn more about the disease of addiction and how to create Recovery Ready parishes. Hosted by the Addictions and Recovery Commission of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Event is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is included. $25 per person or $75 for a team of four or more. Scholarships are available - contact Canon Caroline Black, cblack@diosova.org or 757-213-3377. Go to www.diosova.org for more info and registration.


Vestry Training Days 2016. These workshops are designed for all vestry members, and will include: Presentations on the role and duties of the vestry; Best practices; Opportunities to have conversations with other vestry members; Discussion of common challenges that vestries face. In 2016, we will be hosting three events:

- **February 13 at St. John’s, Halifax** – Anyone is welcome, but this will be focused on the churches of Convocations 8 & 9, as their context is somewhat different from parishes in other parts of our diocese.
- **February 20 at Good Shepherd, Norfolk**
- **February 27 at St. David’s, Chesterfield** – At this session there will be a concurrent workshop for new senior wardens with the Bishop.

Pre-Happening Staff Weekend: February 27-28, 2016, Chanco on the James. More information and registration coming soon.


Cursillo Men’s Weekend: April 14-17, 2016, Chanco on the James. Cursillo is defined as a movement within the Episcopal Church designed to help us grow closer to Jesus Christ. For more information and application go to www.cursilloodsv.org. Rector: Joe Jerauld

Cursillo Women’s Weekend: April 28-May 1, 2016, Chanco on the James. Cursillo is defined as a movement within the Episcopal Church designed to help us grow closer to Jesus Christ. For more information and application go to www.cursilloodsv.org. Rector: Debbie Hazzard


Pilgrimage & Mission Opportunities

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, Oct. 5-16, 2016. Hosted by St. John’s, Chester. If you are interested in participating, contact the Rev. Dale Custer, rdalecuster@gmail.com, or Doris Custer, custerdd@gmail.com.

Mission Trip to Ghana, July 13-26, 2016. The Congregations of St. James, Portsmouth, and St. Mark’s, Suffolk, invite you to join them on a Mission Trip to Ghana. The group will visit prisons, historical castles, the gold mines, the head of the Ghanian Chiefs ”Asantehene Otumufo”, Anglican cathedrals, churches, schools, former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan’s historical place of birth among others. The cost of the trip is $2330 which include air fare, hotel, and transportation. Contact: Faye Felton, ffelton012@gmail.com or the Rev Canon Frederick Walker, frederickwalker328@gmail.com.

Safe Church training

Go to www.diosova.org for more information and registration.

- Jan. 23, 2016 - Johns Memorial, Farmville.
- Feb. 27, 2016 - Good Shepherd, Richmond.
- Mar. 19, 2016 - St. John’s, Hopewell.
- May 21, 2016 - St. Christopher's, Portsmouth.
- Jun. 18, 2016 - Good Shepherd, Norfolk.
- Sep. 17, 2016 - Galilee, Virginia Beach.
- Oct. 1, 2016 - St. Augustine’s, Newport News.