

# Jubilate Deo

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

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## 220th Convention Focuses on Growth, Expansion and the Gospel; Resolutions Pass

By Joy Hunter, Editor

The 220th Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina was held February 18-19, 2011 at the Parish Church of St. Helena's in Beaufort.

Two resolutions, both of which passed at the previous convention, passed again, by more than the

required two-thirds margin in both the clergy and lay orders, amending the Diocesan Constitution. The first resolution removed the accession clause to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, and the second enabled the Convention to meet more frequently than annually, if needed.

These resolutions seek to protect the Diocese from any attempt at un-Constitutional intrusions into our corporate life in South Carolina and were in response to the revisions to the Title IV Canons of the Episcopal Church.

The vote on the resolutions, however, was not the focus of the Convention. The Rev. Ian Boyd, Associate Rector of Trinity, Myrtle Beach was overheard saying, at the close of the gathering, "Of all the conventions I've attended this is the one that got me the most excited about doing the work of the church."

The weekend began Friday afternoon with a presentation by the Rt. Rev. Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, who now serves South Carolina as Visiting Bishop for Anglican Communion Relationships, on "Triple Jeopardy: The Challenge of Islam, Secularism and Multiculturalism."

That evening, St. Helena's treated delegates to a rich service of Holy Eucharist with traditional music, brass, timpani, and a full choir of children and adults. Mrs. Ann Harrington, a delegate from St. Philip's Charleston, said she was so moved during the service, she actually raised her hands. "I'd never done that before!" she said. "I just could not help myself." Bishop Nazir-Ali preached on the authority, power and trustworthiness of the Scriptures. He closed, saying, in part, that he was praying that the convention "not tamper or adulterate the Word." And "that you will not forget the Word; that you will not forget the missionary mandate of proclaiming Christ, of bringing people to Christ, of transforming communities in the name of the Gospel."

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JOY HUNTER

## Bishop Lawrence Addresses 220th Diocesan Convention

*Editor's Note: This is an abbreviated version of the address Bishop Lawrence gave during the 220th Diocesan Convention held at St. Helena's, Beaufort on February 19, 2011. The unedited version may be found at [www.diosc.com](http://www.diosc.com).*

As I have spoken in recent days to Diocesan Council, the deans, and the Standing Committee, it is my expressed hope that this year of 2011 will be free from constitutional and canonical challenges from the "national" leadership of the Episcopal Church, and that we in the Diocese of South Carolina can get on with the work of growing our parishes, strengthening the lives of our parishioners and churches,

and planting new congregations. I am eager to be about this work of the Gospel. I am eager to see this Diocese of South Carolina add daily to its number those who are being saved; and what better way to do this than by growing our existing congregations and planting new ones. This work, not the controversies of the day, will be the thrust of this address.

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AUDRA GIBSON

*Cabins from left, Seastar (4) and Alligator (10) were two of the 20 St. Christopher structures fitted with solar hot water panels in October, 2010.*

## St. Christopher Receives Award for Going Greener

By Ned Collins, Chief of Operations  
St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

Your Diocesan Camp and Conference Center, St. Christopher, proudly received the 2010 Outstanding Solar Project of the Year Award from the South Carolina Solar Council for commitment to solar education and innovative solar project implementation.

St. Christopher now has solar water heaters in about half the buildings on the property thanks to a federal renewable energy grant awarded early last year by the S.C. Budget and Control Board's State Energy Office. The \$111,500 grant made possible 17 solar hot water systems on 15 structures, including most of the cabins, one of the lodge buildings, and most of the on-site residences.

"We would like to thank Sustainable Energy Solutions (S.E.S.) and CULP Contracting for their professional installation," noted new Executive Director, the Rev. Bob Lawrence. Sustainable Energy Solutions was in charge of engineering and installing the systems, as well

playing a key role in the grant writing process. Short videos made during the construction may be viewed on the S.E.S. website ([sccleanenergy.com](http://sccleanenergy.com)). CULP Contracting provided the carpentry and electrical services to accommodate the new systems. Lawrence added, "We would also like to thank our Project Manager from the S.C. Energy Office, Erika Myers, for her patient and skillful guidance throughout the project. We are grateful for this prime opportunity to be a living classroom for the future stewards of God's creation."

Information about the new solar systems is now incorporated into student orientations, Barrier Island coursework, and conference center tours at St. Christopher. Over the life of the project, these systems should help save the camp and conference center more than \$363,000 and will be studied or used by approximately 400,000 teachers, students, and visitors. Congratulations to all involved.

## Election Results 220th Diocesan Convention

The following individuals were elected at the 220th Diocesan Convention, February 18-19, 2011.

### Standing Committee (Three-Year Term)

The Very Rev. Ed Kelaher, the Rev. Greg Snyder, Mr. Ed Mitman and Mrs. Suzanne Schwank

### Diocesan Council-Clergy (Three-Year Term)

The Rev. Dagnall Free and the Rev. Greg Smith

### Diocesan Council-Lay (Three-Year Term)

Mrs. Alesia Flores and Mrs. Margie Williams

### Deputies to General Convention

The Very Rev. John Burwell, the Rev. Canon Jim Lewis, the Very Rev. David Thurlow, the Rev. Haden McCormick, the Rev. Andrew Pearson (Alternate); Mr. Reid Boylston, Mrs. Elizabeth Pennewill, Mrs. Lydia Evans, Mr. Lonnie Hamilton, Mrs. Dorothy Gervais Carter (Alternate), Mr. David Wright (Alternate), Mr. John Dugue (Alternate)

### Trustees

The Rev. Robert Horn, (Six-year term), The Rev. Jeff Miller, (Two-year term) and Mr. Bobby Kilgo (Six-year term)

### Ecclesiastical Court

(Three-Year Term)  
The Rev. Paul Fuener, the Rev. Hamilton Smith, Mr. Bruce W. McDonald and Ms. Karen Kusko

### University of the South-Clergy

(Three-Year Term)  
The Very Rev. John Barr

### Advancement Society-Clergy (Three-Year Term)

The Rev. Hank Avent

### Advancement Society-Lay (Three Year Term)

Mr. Ric Webb



Lawrence Addresses Convention Continued from Page One

When the word came to the apostle that a newly planted church was thriving in the town of Colossae some hundred miles inland from Ephesus, he was in prison. Epaphras, one of Paul's converts, had spread the news of Jesus throughout the Lycus valley of Asia Minor. Paul wrote to these recent believers to consolidate and establish this fellowship

congregation. These parishes are made better by their proximity to one another. Often a new congregation can invigorate an older one. To begin to think seriously about church planting is to begin to reframe the opportunities that lie before us. Imagine the vitality that would be released if two of our congregations in the four deaneries which have the greatest



Preparing to process to a service of Holy Eucharist are, from left, Bishops Alex Dickson, Michael Nazir-Ali, Mark Lawrence and Alden Hathaway.

within the unity of the larger Church. This is an example of what the renowned Anglican missionary and missiologist, Roland Allen, described as the spontaneous expansion of the Church. He suggested this was due mainly to the spontaneous activity of individuals. A newly-found joy impelled these rescued men and women to propagate the Gospel.

It is this faith and the dynamic movement and spontaneous expansion that is its fruit that we need today—particularly in a Church so rooted in institutional complexity and apparatus as ours. I suppose I could say we are in need of revival or renewal. But that is not quite what I mean. Such language might carry certain connotations especially for those of my generation who have witnessed the charismatic renewal, the growth of Cursillo, Faith Alive, and other such movements which have yielded important and godly fruit within the Episcopal Church. But these have not stemmed the tide of the cultural captivity, nor have they always brought what Roland Allen described as the spontaneous expansion of the Church. They brought renewal for those within the Church; today we need both a centrifugal and centripetal force. Early Christianity was a movement of expansion. As such it was not always tidy. If one desires safety and tidiness it is richly here in our heritage as Episcopalians. But I am reminded of a saying “The safest place for a ship is in the harbor, but that’s not why ships were built.”

Church Planting and Congregational Growth

In the late 20th Century, because of the explosive growth in the major cities around the world, the missiologist, Roger Greenwood (a missionary to both Sri Lanka and Mexico City) made the observation that “He who wins the city wins the world.” It is even truer today. Winning cities for Christ is not done only or even primarily by making big churches bigger—though it certainly helps. Sometimes a city is won by adding more congregations. Charleston for instance is known as the Holy City not because it has a huge mega church, but because it has many significant churches. What is astonishing to many outside of South Carolina is that there are seven Episcopal Churches within a fifteen minute walk of the Episcopal Residence. Three of these congregations (St. Philips, St. Michael’s and Grace) are among the larger Episcopal Churches in the country and three others (The Cathedral, Holy Communion and St. Stephen’s) are substantially larger than the median congregation in the Episcopal Church. There was clearly a vision among those who founded these congregations not merely to make one church ever bigger—but to reach a new neighborhood and a new niche of people by starting another

unchurched demographics (Beaufort, West Charleston, Charleston and Georgetown) planted two new congregations or satellites in the next five years. What new life would emerge within our communities and within the Diocese of South Carolina from eight new congregations or even twice that number? I believe this can be done even during a season of economic downturn. We often get fixated upon buildings and property. But for many in our present culture it is not the aesthetics of the building which attracts; it is the dynamism of the preaching, worship and fellowship which wins the heart of the unchurched person. Certainly we cannot leave entirely behind the need for property and buildings;

“Imagine the vitality that would be released if two of our congregations in the deaneries which have the greatest unchurched demographics planted two new congregations or satellites in the next five years...”

a drab setting blesses no one’s heart. But if we can focus upon reaching the lost I believe the issues of property and building will emerge in many cases as quite secondary to the winning of the seeker and the transformation of his or her life in Christ.

The Diocese has in recent years held to the model of established parishes being planters of new churches or congregations. This has worked well in such places as The Cross, Bluffton where a satellite congregation was established at the Buckwalter Campus. So also with Holy Cross, Sullivan’s Island in the planting of a satellite at Daniel Island and their future plan of a third satellite congregation at ‘Ion in the Mount Pleasant. Such vision is inspiring. Others like St. Paul’s Summerville, St. James’, James Island, St. John’s, Johns Island, and Christ Church, Mount Pleasant because of adjacent land were able to build ministry centers, essentially planting “congregations” on campus. There has been no lack of vision and creativity among us. Today, two of our congregations in the Georgetown deanery have begun initiatives as well. Trinity, Myrtle Beach, under the leadership of Rob Sturdy and Iain Boyd, has initiated a church plant in the Carolina Forest community. This is making good progress. The Rev. Wilmot Merchant and the people of St. Stephen’s, North Myrtle Beach with the help of the Congregational Development Committee purchased property in the Loris area for a potential church plant

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The Rev. Ted Duvall Called as New Rector of Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant

The Rev. Ted Duvall has accepted the call to serve as the Rector of Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, beginning on June 1. Duvall returns to the Diocese after having served at Christ Church, Greenville. Prior to his time in Greenville he was the Rector of St. Bartholomew’s in Hartsville, SC.

In a letter to the parish announcing Duvall’s acceptance of the call, the Search Committee and Vestry wrote,

“It is with great excitement and a firm belief in our Lord’s guidance that we announce that the Rev. Ted Duvall will be our next Rector at Christ Church. Ted is currently the Senior Associate Rector at Christ Episcopal Church, Greenville.

“Bishop Lawrence recommended several very gifted and strong candidates to our search committee. After several months of research, dialogue, and visits here and there, your search committee voted, wholeheartedly and unanimously, to recommend Ted Duvall as the single candidate for consideration as Rector. The Vestry then met with Ted and his wife, and after due consideration of the substantial information gathered during the search process, also voted unanimously to extend a call to Ted. It is with a great deal of thanksgiving and rejoicing that we report that Father Ted has accepted this call

and will begin as rector of Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, on June 1.

Ted, the son of an Episcopal priest (and eventual Bishop), grew up living in several towns across the Southeast. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and holds the Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary. Prior to joining Christ Church, Greenville, he served as the Rector of St. Bartholomew’s Church in Hartsville, SC, for ten years, and was the Associate Rector at St. Augustine’s in Augusta, GA, and Church of the Redeemer in Greenville. During his five years at Christ Church, Greenville, he focused a great deal of energy on Discipleship and worked to build up significant programming in this area. He also served as Priest In Charge for one year and most recently shifted more of his focus

to Pastoral Care. Ted is married to Katherine Dubose Duvall and they have two daughters. Beverly is a senior at Wofford College, and Anne Lawton is a rising freshman in high school.

We trust that you will join the 25 parish leaders serving on the Vestry and Search Committee in our unequivocal enthusiasm over Ted’s acceptance of this call. The future is very bright for Christ Church, and we are very excited about the opportunities to further God’s Kingdom together.”



Marriage Behind Closed Doors... Living Out of the Overflow of the Holy Spirit in Your Marriage

Christian Marriage Conference, July 15-17, St. Christopher

Come and honor your marriage before God and among friends at beautiful St. Christopher on the southern tip of Seabrook Island. Enjoy a time of relaxation and refreshment at one of South Carolina’s tropical barrier islands.

The Christian Marriage Conference is dedicated to enriching and empowering Christian marriage through Biblical teaching, fellowship, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. The theme of this year’s conference is two-fold: Marriage Behind Closed Doors....Living Out of the Overflow of the Holy Spirit in Your Marriage.

The Rev. Al Zadig and his wife, Elizabeth, will be speaking on what a marriage needs behind closed doors.

- What happens to conversation when the door is closed?
- How do we behave when no one is looking?
- How do we respect and adore our spouses when no one is looking?

In answering those questions, we realize Christian Marriage is impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit. So then the question becomes: How do we both in public and in private, live out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our marriages?

All couples, whether newly married or celebrating fifty years of marriage or more, are invited to attend and enjoy a time with

each other and to renew their commitment to God and their marriage. The all inclusive cost for the weekend is \$325 per couple. To learn more, download the brochure, or register, visit [www.dioceseofsc.org](http://www.dioceseofsc.org). Click “Marriage,” under the “Ministries tab.”



Al and Elizabeth Zadig The Zadigs, keynote speakers, are passionate not just about marriage, but about Christ-centered marriages. Married since 1995, they have three children Wimberly, Christian and Hudson. As Rector of St. Michael’s, Charleston Al spends a great deal of his time in the marriage ministry. St. Michael’s Church has a comprehensive marriage ministry Before the priesthood, Al worked as a sports anchor/reporter for a CBS television affiliate in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina then became the 6 p.m. news producer for Channel 4 in Charleston. Al holds degrees from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and the University of the South (Sewanee).

Elizabeth graduated from Converse College with a BA in Elementary and Deaf Education. She taught for eight years before becoming a full-time mother with part-time

work in business. In addition to her love of being a mother, she has a passion for prayer ministry and leading women’s Bible studies.

Al and Elizabeth consider their life in Christ a joint ministry, which has greatly transformed their marriage.



The Rev. Al Zadig and his wife, Elizabeth, are the conference keynote speakers.



# We Hear You. We're With You, Northern Uganda

St. John's, Johns Island, Sends Team, Begins Relationship with Northern Ugandan Church

By The Rev. Greg Snyder, Rector  
St. John's, Johns Island

"My father was a priest in this diocese all his life," she spoke defiantly, "and yet he never got anything from the diocese or the bishop. The Church really failed him and failed my family. I'm not sure I will ever be at another Church event. I've had it with the Church!" So spoke a thirty-year-old woman dressed in an attractive business suit, who bravely stood up at the first-ever retreat for the children of clergy in the Diocese of Northern Uganda. It had already been a long morning.

You see, in Northern Uganda, in the culture of the Acholi people of that region, every person is treated with utmost dignity. And so, all three hundred youth, all children of clergy, had the opportunity that morning to stand, to give their name and to speak their peace. It had taken up the whole morning. The Bishop of Northern Uganda, Johnson Gakumba, just over one year into his episcopacy, had set this meeting up with great care, compassion and purpose. Three hundred young people, ranging in age mostly from their thirties to toddlers, sat patiently and reverently in the Cathedral of St. Philip in the countryside a few miles from the main city of Gulu. It was blistering hot under a metal roof, and, of course, with no air-conditioning. Most of these young

people were dressed in their Sunday or workday finery. Near the front of the cathedral sat the only six white people in the church, six parishioners from a place far away, St. John's Parish Church, Johns Island, SC. The Bishop said that these white people (mizungus, in their language) had come far and wanted so much to be with these young people who had been through so much over the last twenty years.

In 1973, a charismatic army general named Idi Amin had taken over the country of Uganda amidst great rejoicing. However, within months his bloody purges began, which included murdering or otherwise disposing of any rivals. Amin saw the vast majority of the military leaders of his country as rivals. And, since many of these leaders hailed from the proud Acholi people of north-



After preaching on forgiveness, St. John's Rector, Greg Snyder, began to sit down. Bishop Oboma took Snyder's hand and said, "Father Greg, you can't preach such a sermon, about forgiveness, and not give these people the opportunity to seek forgiveness from one another." He made a plea to the people and over seventy of them came forward, some holding the hand of those they had offended.

ern Uganda, the Acholi particularly came under the dictator's wrath. In 1977, he even presided over the murder of the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, Janani Luwum, a member of the proud Acholi people. Idi Amin was finally deposed in 1979, but within a few years the so-called Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and their charismatic leader Joseph Kony, had begun their reign of terror in Northern Uganda. It was not until just a few years ago, as the LRA was forced into the Congo, that Northern Ugandans finally began to live under a peaceful

sky. But, thirty years of despotic rule, civil war, and living in displacement camps had taken their toll.

Northern Uganda is a beautiful and fertile country. But the people, especially the young people have only known war, deprivation, and displacement from their homes. Many of them have lived their whole lives relying on the international community for food, clothing, and shelter. They want so desperately to make their own way in this world, but many of them do not know how.

The Youth conference had opened with joy-filled singing. One learns quickly that song and dance are the life-blood of the Acholi people. But once the music stopped, the serious business of listening, especially for the six mizungus from South Carolina, began. It was one of the most difficult days of my life...just listening. Young person after young person recounted atrocity after atrocity – abduction, rape, death of family members, abandonment, famine. It was truly biblical in proportion. And yet, these same people can sing and dance with such

great passion, such joy, it is quite phenomenal.

Then, the six mizungus from South Carolina were asked to respond. How does one respond to this? The bishop turned first to me. He noticed that my neck was bent, my head hanging to cover the flood in my eyes. He asked, "Why are you sad, Fr. Greg? These people have just come out of a great wilderness. They are like the Israelites that have come into the Promised Land, and yet they don't know it. These youth are so focused on the past and their victimization that they cannot see the bright future ahead. They need to be encouraged to see their future life in Christ."

So, I started first by addressing the young woman, and her friends gathered around her, who had said that she wanted no part in the Church. I said that I was sad and that no words could express my grief. I too had two young daughters, twenty and seventeen years old, and I could not even fathom them having to live through such hardship and

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Above, Bishop Gideon Oboma, retired Bishop of Northern Uganda, strolls through Keyo, a typical Acholi village, with St. John's member, Peter Tetrev.

## Convention Focuses on Growth *Continued from page One*

On Saturday the convention reconvened with elections, all of which carried on single ballots. Results are on page one.

Bishop Lawrence's address to the convention focused primarily on growing our churches and planting new congregations. He told of a re-energized program to assist parishes and missions who are stagnant or shrinking, part of which would be hearing from those whose congregations are flourishing. He also spoke to the issue of stewardship and the distressing and steady decline in parish giving to our common life in the diocese over the past twenty years. He addressed, minimally, matters dealing with the Episcopal Church and the Title IV revisions, and closed speaking with hope about the forward movement seen in our vocation of Making Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age. An

abbreviated version of the Bishop's talk begins on page one. During the reports, a highlight was when two priests told of their efforts to reach young adults. The Rev. Andrew O'Dell, Rector of St. Matthew's, Darlington, spoke candidly about his aging congregation's failure to draw young people in with various programs and the dramatic change which took place when they followed Daron Taylor's advice to go out of the building. They began a ministry serving hot dogs at community softball games which resulted in the birth of a new community of believers. The Rev. Rob Sturdy, Rector of Trinity, Myrtle Beach, told how his congregation planted a new congregation of young, unchurched adults, in a new subdivision, again, not inviting the young people to come to them, but going to where young people are. Sturdy ended say-

ing, "If you wanted to do something like this, you need a really great, dynamic priest who's a good leader and a powerful preacher. One might even say you need a great high priest and He sits at the right hand of the Father and if He's in your church you can do this. I am the most incompetent pastor in the building. I'm 29. If we can do it, anybody can do it. We do it because we have a Great High Priest."

St. Helena's, led by their Rector, the Rev. Jeffrey Miller, did a phenomenal job hosting the convention, with over 70 parishioners participating in the effort. The 221st Convention of the Diocese will be held March 9-10, 2012, in Charleston, SC, at both St. Philip's Church and the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul.

## The Rev. David Dubay Called as New Vicar of La Iglesia de San Juan

By Sasha Milleman, San Juan Office Coordinator

La Iglesia de San Juan is excited to announce that we have called a new Vicar: The Rev. David Dubay. Recently, along with several other priests from our diocese, Padre David had been helping out at San Juan as preacher and celebrant on many Sunday evenings, doing pastoral care, and even taking charge of the music on many occasions. So when we heard that Padre David had heard the call to expand and solidify his role here at San Juan, we were thrilled and seized the opportunity. In addition to preaching Sunday evenings, as the part-time priest Padre David is also responsible for pastoral care. In addition to the pastoral care and spiritual support provided by Padre David, La Iglesia de San Juan offers

emergency financial assistance, assistance with food, transportation, and interpretation services. Padre David is in San Juan's office Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is available throughout the week by appointment. Padre David continues as the full-time rector at Holy Trinity Church in Charleston.

Padre David began his ministry as a lay youth minister in 1986. From 1986 to 2005 he served four churches as Director of Youth Ministry and, for a time, was the Director of Youth Ministry for the New Harmony Presbytery and for our diocese under Bishop Salmon. He attended seminary at the University of the South from 2003 to 2005, where he was blessed to have studied

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# Holy Trinity Calling

## Charleston Church Ventures into Bulk Phone Calling

By The Rev. David Dubay, Rector, Holy Trinity, Charleston

By nature I am a not an excellent communicator...I mumble, I miss details and I'm forgetful. Out of necessity I have learned how today's technology can turn anyone into a more efficient and effective communicator within one's parish. The key to healthy communication within a parish is redundancy. I'll write it again. The key to healthy communication within a parish is redundancy. See there, by now the theme of this article is clear to you. Communicating redundantly may be annoying, but it's effective.

I have been in ministry since 1986 and over the years I have found that **A:** Ministers don't always read their mail, and **B:** There will always be someone at your church who didn't hear, or read the news that you've so energetically distributed. I think that sometimes you could tattoo the message on their foreheads and they would miss it in the mirror, but I digress. We at Holy Trinity are not so different. So here, when communicating with the parish, we try and hit people from every media source we can access.

Currently we use:

- Our website ([www.htchas.com](http://www.htchas.com))
- Email for newsletters and prayerchain
- Twitter (@htpray)
- A Printed newsletter (to those who want print over email)
- Facebook (Holy Trinity Charleston)
- Bulletin boards, posters, Bumper Stickers
- Street signs

Recently we added a new phone service that is web-based that allows us to send bulk phone calls, text messages and attach a banner to our website that links one to the last recorded message.



It's this last communication tool that I want to describe. A few churches in the diocese have a black box attached to a computer that does bulk phone calling. That black box was not something we could afford; however, we could afford a small monthly fee. That's when I found One Call Now. We've used it for a little over a month, and it's been well-received. I have been able to set up subgroups for my vestry, the prayer chain, the choir, and the youth group. I record one message and it calls all of my members almost simultaneously so there

is no waiting for the message to go out. When the calls are finished going out, I am sent an email (to my phone) with the list of calls that were answered by people, which ones were recorded by voicemail, and sometimes the numbers that hung up fast and

did not receive the message. I can call those people myself and make sure that they know what is going on and also see if they're okay.

I have noticed that after beginning the phone calling service, attendance has increased at midweek events and services. It also sends the message to my phones so that I don't forget that there is something coming up either. There is more than just one company providing this service to people. A Google search for Online phone calling services will yield a helpful list. I found our company because a local non-denominational church was using it and the Internet with great success.

One phone call to 100 people takes about 5 minutes to record and send. Talk about your flying cars! I can access and control this service from any computer on the Internet in the world and with my phone. If you have any questions about increasing your presence on the internet or the phone lines please do not hesitate to call us at Holy Trinity. Or you could email us or find us on Facebook or use twitter or... you get the picture. We do all this so that we can be a light for Jesus Christ in an ever-changing world.



JOY HUNTER

## Are You Called?

As an Acolyte... Verger...  
Sub Deacon... Lay Reader...  
Lay Eucharistic Minister...  
Chorister... Sacristan... Usher...  
Bell Ringer... Greeter... Lector...

## To the Order of St. Vincent?

Join the Order of Saint Vincent, an international fellowship of lay ministers founded in 1882 and based in our Diocese. Anyone who is called, trained, and authorized according to church canons to perform a lay ministry can become a member of the Order – Men, women, boys and girls. We believe our Lord calls lay people to ministry just as He does the Ordained Clergy.

Our Purpose is ...

- To emphasize a world-wide fellowship of lay ministers within the Catholic Communion of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and apostolic Church.
- To encourage every lay minister at our Lord's altar to have a progressive rule of life based on all of the Church's Sacraments.
- To instill within each lay minister an interest in proper liturgies within their branch of the Church.
- To pray that all members will consider their service as lay ministers to be a vocation.

The Rules of the Order

- To pray each morning and each night.
- To be faithful in the reading and study of Holy Scriptures.
- If physically possible, to be present at the Holy Eucharist every Sunday and Holy Day.
- To make due preparation before the service and to say the prayer of the Order.
- To receive Holy Communion every Sunday and Holy Day if possible and to be duly prepared through self-examination and confession.
- To render loyalty and cooperation to clergy and to the spiritual leaders.
- To always speak reverently of holy things.
- To pray for the order and all her members.
- To pray for the unity of the Church.

To learn more about the order visit <http://orderstvincent.org>, or contact Phil Dixon, Director General at [director-general@orderstvincent.org](mailto:director-general@orderstvincent.org) or (843) 443-1288.

## We Hear You, Northern Uganda

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pain. But I told her, I told all of the youth, that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. And that I may have been able to turn a blind eye to them in my previous 50 years of life, but I and my brothers and sisters from St. John's Parish Church, Johns Island, SC were here for them. I didn't know what we could exactly do for or with them, but rest assured they would not be forgotten. We would continue to pray for them and help them in any way we could. My other team members then also had opportunities to address the youth. One spoke of having a

woman from the beginning and to apologize for the lack of support from the diocese. But, the diocese itself had no resources during that time. By the end of the day, through open and frank conversation, and through the listening of the six mizungus and the humble Bishop of Northern Uganda, a miracle occurred. The young woman who had gotten this session rolling with her frank assessment of the Diocese of Northern Uganda and its bishop rose to speak again. The defiance in her demeanor was gone. She just wanted to say one thing. She



Above, native Acholi dancers perform at the conclusion of a four and a half hour worship service at Pakwello Parish in Northern Uganda.

teenage son and that all these youth serve to remind her of him – a mother's cry of anguish at the injustice of the situation of our brothers and sisters in Northern Uganda. Another spoke of his own time under very difficult circumstances, in one case also under actual gunfire. Still others spoke only words of comfort. We had heard their cries. We were here with them. Bishop Johnson then addressed the youth about their bright future in Christ as well as in the new Northern Uganda. He even had an opportunity to address the young

had been wrong to say what she had said at the beginning of the day. In fact, she was now feeling a stirring, a call to return to the Church, possibly even a call to ordained ministry. The bishop smiled and rushed over to take her hand, calling her playfully "The Reverend." By the end of the day, we all knew that we were indeed One Body, and that we were called to be together, to help one another, and to be in relationship with one another.

Our six-member team from St. John's Parish Church, Johns Island, spent two weeks in

the Diocese of Northern Uganda. We spent a day with the diocesan staff, getting to know them and the passion they have for their programs and people. An enlightening day was spent with the clergy of the diocese, hearing about their history and their struggles, and their concern about their children and all the youth of Northern Uganda. Another day was spent on pilgrimage to the site at Keyo where Christianity was first preached by the mizungu Bishop Tucker just over a hundred years ago. One afternoon was spent on diocesan lands and at diocesan schools, seeing the great impact that school children in the U.S have made through the Invisible Children program. One afternoon we had the privilege of sitting at the feet of the retired bishop of Northern Uganda, Gideon Oboma, a most unpretentious man, who still lives in the house where his son was murdered by the LRA, bullet holes hauntingly visible in the walls and floor. He had been told to leave Northern Uganda, but said he could not leave his people without a shepherd. And, of course, we spent that very difficult day with the youth of the clergy of the diocese.

We visited some of the parishes, the largest town parish and the cathedral the first Sunday, a parish of several hundred members that worships under the trees another Sunday. The worship at this country parish lasted four and half hours...including a meal, the giving of gifts (goats, fruits and vegetables, cakes,...) to the bishop (he doesn't receive a salary); the presentation of candidates for political office, and prayer over them; the presentation of college students about to take exams, and prayer over them; confirmation of over a hundred youth and adults; all culminating in the native Acholi dancers at the end. I was privileged to preach a sermon and, considering what these people had been through over the last thirty years, I chose the theme of forgiveness. At the end of my sermon I went to take a seat. The bishop grabbed my hand and said, "Fr. Greg, you can't preach such a sermon, about forgiveness, and not give these people the opportunity to seek forgiveness from one another." He made a plea to the people and over seventy of them came forward, some holding the hand of those they had offended. I wept...again.

I know that the team we sent to Northern Uganda will never forget the Acholi people. And I look forward to the building and strengthening of relationships with these noble people, our brothers and sisters in Christ from Acholiland, the Diocese of Northern Uganda. The people of St. John's Parish Church have taken Bishop Johnson Gakumba and his people into our hearts...and our hearts will never be the same.



## Stewardship: Holding On In The Middle Of Seismos

By The Rev. James E. Taylor, Rector  
St. Thomas, Charleston

*“And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Save us, Lord; we are perishing.’ And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’ Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, ‘What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?’”* Matthew 8:23-27

In our Adult Education class at St. Thomas we are discussing a book by Max Lucado titled *Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear*. In his book, Lucado states that Jesus chose a particular word for “storm” in this scripture passage – Seismos. Over the past couple of years, many of us feel like we have been in a great Seismos – an event that has shaken us to our core. Some people in our diocese have lost their homes, jobs and life savings. At times, we can feel like the disciples in the middle of that chaotic sea. With a loud cry, we are saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.”

How can we continue to be committed stewards when resources are diminishing and life seems uncertain? To put it simply, we move forward each day with God by faith. Faith is an expression of the fact that we exist so that God can dwell in us and work through us for the well-being of the whole creation. Faith is the way we relate to God, as we seek God’s direction for our lives.

Yes, tragedy and catastrophic events happen in the course of human events. They are a part of life. They were in Jesus’ day, just as they are in our day. When things are not going well around us we get anxious and, like the disciples, we become filled with despair and hopelessness. It is during those times that Jesus teaches us to endure. Steadfastness is the name of the game. Whatever you do, do not panic. Continue to trust in God for clarity, perspective and answers. God is a God of hope and never abandons us. God wants us to endure and keep the faith during the Seismos events in our lives.

*The Rev. James E. Taylor is the newly appointed chairperson for the Stewardship Committee in the Diocese of South Carolina. If you would like to contact him about stewardship in your parish, email him at revjimtaylorgmail.com.*

## Medical Personnel/ Interpreters Needed for Diocesan Medical Mission Fall 2011 Trip Planned



The Diocesan Medical Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic is scheduled for Saturday, October 29 through Sunday, November 6. Dr. Howard Holl and Joy Holl, RN,

will coordinate the clinics.

The estimated cost per person is \$1250, depending on airfare. Clinics will be held in the communities of Angelina and Santa Fe, near the city of San Pedro de Macoris which is east of Santo Domingo.

There is a need for medical providers (physicians/nurse practitioners/physician assistants), nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and interpreters. Spanish interpreters should be knowledgeable of medical terms. For information, contact Joy Holl at joycu76@hotmail.com or (843) 729-4674. The first informational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 10, at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, Charleston.

# Doves, Checks and Kiosks

## St. Paul’s, Summerville, Introduces Electronic Giving Centers

On Sunday, March 6, 2011, St. Paul’s, Summerville, broke new ground in the Diocese by bringing two electronic giving kiosks onto their property. In a brochure called “Four Ways to Give,” St. Paul’s Financial Ministry Team explains, “Ways of giving have changed over the course of Biblical history – from doves and goats to cash to checks... and now to electronic methods.” On March 11, I sat down with Bob Hilton, a vestryman and chair of the Financial Ministry Team, and talked about this new electronic giving option.

Joy Hunter, Editor

**Jubilate Deo:** Bob, (pointing to the electronic giving machine) this is kind of weird.

**Hilton:** It is kind of weird. Even if you look in the more modern translations of scripture you can’t find any references to electronic giving. But, on the other hand, you can’t find any references to writing a check either. It’s a situation where we’re trying to make it easy for people to be generous. In the last couple of years, St. Paul’s (under Rector, Mike Lumpkin’s leadership) has put an emphasis on generous giving and the vestry realized that while we encouraged generosity we had road blocks.

**Jubilate Deo:** What kind of road blocks?

**Hilton:** The majority of Americans don’t carry cash or checkbooks anymore. I think statistics show that about 5% of people carry checkbooks and out of that, maybe 20% of Americans use checks as their primary bill paying mechanism. Forty-two percent are using debit cards so what we’re trying to do is make it easy for people to be generous. Buddy Heuer (another member of the Financial Ministry Team) and I talked to about 20 different churches, finding out how people were using things like kiosks or electronic giving machines.

**Jubilate Deo:** Did you find any local churches with kiosks?

**Hilton:** There aren’t many around here. Seacoast (in Mt. Pleasant) does have them.

**Jubilate Deo:** Any Episcopal churches?

**Hilton:** Yes. There was an Episcopal Church in Dallas.

**Jubilate Deo:** So, none in our Diocese.

**Hilton:** No. Not in our Diocese.

**Jubilate Deo:** You’re breaking new ground!

**Hilton:** We went online and googled “online giving for churches.” I spoke with a lady at Granger Community Church in Indiana. I saw from their website that they were a Financial Peace church (teaching Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University, FPU) and I said, “OK, how do you reconcile accepting credit cards and Financial Peace?” She said, “It’s funny you should ask that. I’m the FPU coordinator and I really struggled with this when we started, but what we found was that there were a number of people who use credit cards but pay them off every month because they want the rewards.” She said, for most people, after their house, their tithe may be their biggest expenditure of the year, and they say, ‘I want the points.’” So we have a disclaimer on the screen that says, “God and St. Paul’s don’t want you to go in debt to make your tithe and ask that you please not use your credit card if you don’t pay it off every month.”

**Jubilate Deo:** Does it accept debit cards?

**Hilton:** Yes. Originally we were just going to do debit cards, but everybody we talked to said they started off just doing debit cards but that they got such a backlash. Everybody wanted credit cards because they wanted to get the points. And so you kind of meet people where they are.



JOY HUNTER

Above, a member of the Vestry and Financial Ministry Team Bob Hilton makes use of St. Paul’s new electronic Giving Center.

**Jubilate Deo:** It makes sense to have online giving to keep up with the times, but why put a kiosk into a church building?

**Hilton:** Well, one of the articles we read in our search talked about the kiosk and the benefits of it. We talked to several companies and ended up going with SecureGive. They have an interesting story. The pastor of Stevens Creek, outside of Augusta, tells how his son said, “Dad, I never put anything in the plate, because I never have any money. I’ve got my debit card. That’s all I carry. If I could swipe my debit card I’d be a regular contributor.” So the pastor started looking around for somebody who had machines like that and didn’t find anything set up for churches, so he started this little company. It’s a family business. They put some units in their church, and it kind of took off. Now they’re in about 200 churches, and he continues to pastor Stevens Creek.

**Jubilate Deo:** That’s a great story. Have you gotten any flak for the machines?

**Hilton:** Not so far. Of course it’s only been a week, but in talking with the other churches, they said if it’s presented properly there isn’t much of a problem with that. It’s helped that the Financial Ministry Team has prepared the congregation by presenting humorous videos showing that most people do give online, and don’t carry cash.

**Jubilate Deo:** So what can people do with the kiosk?

**Hilton:** First of all they cannot get cash out of it.

**Jubilate Deo:** I was going to ask that! Bummer! (laughter)

**Hilton:** It’s for contributions only. The reason we have Four Ways to Give is to cover all the bases. First, of course, we still pass the plate. That’s not going to change. We have auto draft that you can set up through Kerry (St. Paul’s Parish Administrator). The downside with that is that it requires the office to initiate a transaction each time, whether it’s monthly or every other week. The online giving lets people give from home or wherever it’s convenient, and it also allows them to do recurring payments. The beauty of that is that it doesn’t add additional work to the church office. And now we have the Giving Center.

**Jubilate Deo:** Has it been used much, in this first week?

**Hilton:** We had it for Sunday, about 8-10 people used it that day, then on Monday we had a book sale. On Tuesday night at Alpha it was used quite a number of times for meals and such. About \$270 came in that night.

**Jubilate Deo:** Do you have to pay a fee for it?

**Hilton:** The parishioners do not have to pay a fee. The church does. It’s approximately 3% of the transaction for a credit card, and 45 cents per transaction for a debit card.

**Jubilate Deo:** So using your debit card is better for the church.

**Hilton:** Well, it depends on how much you give.

**Jubilate Deo:** If the average gift is \$150.

**Hilton:** Yes. But depending on your transaction, it may not be. It was one of the worries

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# Building our Lives on Solid Rock

## Over 125 Women Gather for Diocesan Women’s Retreat

By Mara Bateson, Church of the Resurrection, Surfside Beach

On February 11-13, 2011, women from across the diocese gathered at St. Christopher for the largest diocesan women’s retreat ever. Participants described it as, “A wonderful renewing of my mind!” and “The best diocesan women’s retreat to date!” The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident and powerful and the Lord indeed touched hearts and lives over the course of the weekend. Over 125 women ranging in age from 20-something to 70+ were in attendance for the wonderful weekend that was focused on the theme “Castles in the Sand: Building Our Lives on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ.” The speaker, Sharon Thomas of Established Footsteps Ministries, guided the group through four talks on how to gauge if they were building their lives on sand or solid rock, encouraging them to ask challenging questions about how and where they were building their spiritual houses. At one point on Sunday morning, those in attendance were asked to write in ten words or less who they used to be while building their houses on the sand and who they became after God touched their hearts and helped them begin to build their houses on the Rock. Many shared what they had written with the entire group. One attendee said, “I was challenged to do fruitful self-examination,” and another, “It was reviving of my spirit.” Thanks be to God!

The weekend was filled with great food, even better fellowship, door prizes, give-aways and lots of laughter, yet the teachings, table discussions and reflection time proved to be essential. There were inspiring times of worship offered each day, including Compline at the end of Friday evening, a service of Morning Prayer at Kimble Chapel that was standing room only on Saturday morning, and an amazingly powerful service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning. The music over the course of the weekend included a blend of traditional hymns as well as more contemporary praise

and worship songs so that everyone present could relate and connect at some point during worship no matter what style of music they preferred.

There was a substantial offering collected

around the vast expanse of St. Christopher. What a tremendous blessing!

After a short yet powerful visit and message from Bishop Lawrence about listening for the Father’s voice, Saturday afternoon was packed with opportunities to experience free time with Jesus in individual ways that met individual needs. There was a guided nature hike offered and there were knitting and jewelry making classes available as well. There was also an opportunity to leave the camp to shop (a wonderful blessing for those ladies who rarely get the opportunity to connect with other women without small children on their hips!). Many in attendance walked on the beach or simply sat and rested in His presence as they drank in the beauty of St. Christopher. One woman stated, “The free time was essential for me. I had a lot to think about.” And before the evening session began, there was a powerful time of Soaking Prayer offered in which approximately 60 women took part. The Holy Spirit moved mightily in that time as the retreat chaplain Louise Weld and Elizabeth Bumpas circled the room, interceding and laying hands on those who were resting in His presence.

Spiritual Life/Conference Coordinator for the Diocese, Sanna Greiser is already working on next year’s retreat which will be held again at St. Christopher March 2-4, 2012. She is taking the success of this year’s retreat and suggestions from the evaluation forms into consideration in order to make next year’s retreat even more successful. If you are interested in helping with the retreat, please contact her at sannagreiser@gmail.com and let her know. Please also be in prayer about attending next year’s retreat and who you may invite to join you. God has something powerful in store for the Women’s Ministry of the Diocese of South Carolina! What an honor it is to be able to be a part of His Kingdom-building work!



As shown above, the Parish Church of St. Helena’s had a large contingent at the Diocesan Women’s Retreat.

at the Sunday morning service that will be used to help with scholarships for women who would otherwise not be able to attend future retreats. The generosity of those in attendance with regard to this was nothing short of amazing! And speaking of generosity, the ECW of St. Thomas provided golf carts for the weekend, which helped many women to get

## One Goat, Rabbits and Chickens: From All Saints

By The Rev. Martha Horn, Deacon  
All Saints, Hampton

What do goats, chickens and rabbits have to do with All Saints Episcopal Church in Hampton, SC? They represent gifts of love sent to a needy family and village far



away from our church in the Diocese of South Carolina. Heifer International began in 1944 and has helped millions of impoverished families throughout the world. Livestock and agriculture specialists have developed successful programs to help families alleviate hunger and poverty. The young people of All Saints donated money to a special fund throughout the Christmas season and collected \$264.00. With this money they were able to buy one goat, three rabbits, and a flock of chickens to be sent through Heifer International to a deserving family and village. We folks at All Saints are also very much involved in providing canned goods and financial support on a regular basis for the Hope House, a non-profit outreach ministry in Hampton to those in need of food.

Though All Saints is small in number, we are blessed with a big heart for outreach. If you find yourself in Hampton on a Sunday come worship with us!

## Dubay Called

From Page Three

liturgical Spanish under Maria Lytle. However, his interest in Spanish and calling to Latinos began much earlier than seminary. Padre David studied the Spanish language throughout his entire time as an undergraduate at the College of Charleston where he majored in Vocal Performance. Also, as a youth minister he has participated in or lead a number of youth missions to Honduras, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Padre David has been at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church since December of 2008 and has been their rector since June 2009. Padre David invites you to join us for our Sunday evening services at 6 p.m. at St. John’s Parish, Johns Island (where La Iglesia de San Juan meets) He may be reached at Holy Trinity, Charleston, or La Iglesia de San Juan, Johns Island, throughout the week.

# Mere Anglicanism: A “Sumptuous Banquet”

“Sumptuous” is the word the Rev. Dr. Peter Moore used to describe this year’s Mere Anglicanism Conference held January 20-22, 2011, at St. Philip’s Church in Charleston. Over 200 participated in the sixth annual Conference, held this year in honor of the 12th Bishop of South Carolina, the Rt. Rev. C. FitzSimons Allison.

“Over half a century ago Dr. ‘Fitz’ Allison began preaching, teaching, and writing about the Word of God’s Grace in ways that are still bearing fruit in Anglicanism today,” said Conference organizer and retired Dean of South Carolina, the Very Rev. William McKeachie. “This year’s Mere Anglicanism Conference, the biggest and best ever, was the church’s way of saying, ‘Thank you,’ to this amazing bearer and sharer of God’s Grace.”

The theme for this year’s event was “Recovering the Power of the Word of God.” Conference speakers included Archbishop Mounier Anis, Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, and Bishop Mark Lawrence, as well as Dr. Stephen Noll, Dr. William Dickson, Dr. Ashley Null, Dr. Gillis Harp, Dr. Charles Raven, Dr. Steven Paulson and Dr. James Nestingen. The Rev. Jeffrey Miller and the Rev.

Dr. Leander Harding respectively opened and closed the conference preaching roster.

Videos of the talks are available for viewing online thanks to Anglican TV. Compact Disks of the talks are available for purchase. Visit [www.diosc.com](http://www.diosc.com) to learn more.

## Reflections on Mere Anglicanism

**The Rt. Rev. C. FitzSimons Allison,**  
*Retired Bishop of South Carolina*

“We were extraordinarily blessed by the outstanding scholars at the Mere Anglicanism conference. Speakers on the crucial subject of “Biblical Anglicanism for a Global Future: Recovering the Power of the Word of God” did an absolutely masterful job of encouraging us in the great heritage of our tradition and in the power of God’s Word. It was a rich and impressive company of presenters who spoke from their world-wide experience. I cannot think of a more needed or a more important subject for us. CD’s of the talks will be available from the Cathedral for those who were unable to attend, and they will be published by Trinity School for Ministry.

Never in my life have I been so delightfully surprised or more extravagantly complimented as I was at the Friday evening banquet. A friend reminded me, “Breathe deeply but do not inhale.” There was some discomfort on my part as sometimes at the end of one’s life things are said with such exaggeration that one wonders who the person really was and wish to look into the coffin to see. This discomfort, however, does not diminish one bit my deep gratitude to all who gave so much in so many ways to make the banquet such an enjoyable and huge success. My deep gratitude extends also to cherished friends who came from near and far to participate in the celebration.

I am left with the overwhelming conviction expressed by Edwin Muir: “As I look back on the part of the mystery which is my own life what I am most aware of is that we receive more than we can ever give.”

**The Rev. Dr. Peter C. Moore,**  
*Associate, St. Michael’s, Charleston*  
“The heavenly banquet we all



JOY HUNTER

Above, the Rev. Dr. Ashley Null reveals recent findings in Cranmer research.

look forward to can’t be a whole lot more sumptuous than this year’s menu at Mere Anglicanism – especially if you knew something of the history of 16th Century Anglicanism,” said the Rev. Dr. Peter Moore. “Dr. Ashley Null’s revelation of his recent discovery of new folios containing Archbishop Cranmer’s personal journey towards an understanding of Christ’s presence in the believer and in the Eucharistic service as a whole rather than the medieval view that he is present

in the consecrated host will soon reverberate throughout the scholarly world when published. For me also especially important was hearing Archbishop Mounier Anis of Egypt’s summary of how Anglicans have always believed in the supreme authority of the Bible, as well as his moving report on the New Year’s Eve killing of 21 Christians in Alexandria. I was struck by his calm personal words: “We are ready to die for Jesus Christ.”



High School Juniors  
and Seniors Wanted  
Youth Commission  
Accepting Applications

Developing the next generation of leadership in the church is a key component of our vision for youth ministries in this diocese. We seek to provide training and leadership experiences for students in such a way that leads to more meaningful and long-term participation in the life of our parishes. To this end, we assemble a Youth Commission each year consisting of students selected through an application process. These juniors and seniors (and occasionally sophomores) commit to attending training sessions and serving at several diocesan events throughout the year. Diocesan Youth Commission is currently seeking applicants for the 2011-2012 school year. We are seeking cheerful servants who demonstrate spiritual maturity and leadership gifts and who are interested in developing skills and serving our Lord. This leadership group serves on our middle school events as well as at Diocesan Convention each year. In addition to leading and serving, we teach leadership skills including how to lead Bible studies, small groups, prayer, and how to share your testimony. Students are expected to serve in some leadership capacity in their church as well. This may include such things as leading a small group Bible study, volunteering with middle school, or teaching children's Sunday School. For more information and applications visit [www.scyouth.org](http://www.scyouth.org).

Doves, Checks and Kiosks

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of the women running the Tea Room. They said, "Gosh, if a customer uses a credit card and we get \$13 for a meal, then 3%... that would really cut into it." And I said, "Well, that would be 39 cents." "Oh, well that's OK! That's not so bad!" It's a fear everybody has - that we're giving up a percentage. On the flip side what Stevens Creek found was that 27% of the people who used the kiosks had never given to the church before.

**Jubilate Deo:** Twenty-seven? That's a lot of new givers.

**Hilton:** Well, as I said, people don't carry cash or checkbooks anymore. You have to find a way to meet them where they are. It's all about taking away roadblocks to generosity.

The Barber Shop and the Body of Christ

By The Rev. Chuck Owens, Rector, Church of the Cross, Bluffton

I've been getting my hair cut at the same barber shop for 15 years: a little off the sides, a little off the back, a little off the top . . . 10 minutes . . . \$16 . . . It's not a social event. It's a necessary business transaction. Every Thursday is "Senior Discount Day" - I go when possible because I'm qualified to receive a haircut for \$11 . . . it's my equivalent to Becky's clipping coupons. Though I've saved a little money on each of my Thursday visits, I've always received an even greater blessing.

Several months ago I arrived early for my appointment and watched as an elderly man took his seat in the barber's chair. It was obvious that he hadn't had a haircut in many, many months. I listened as he explained that, since his wife's death four years earlier, he hadn't been the same. "Kinda lost my reason for doing anything much. It's just me and the old dog and he doesn't care how I look." At that point I was beginning to feel like I was overhearing a private confession. My barber, never known for holding back, asked the probing question: "Well, why did you decide to come in today?" The old fellow seemed rejuvenated as he began to talk about the widow who had recently moved in next door to him in Sun City: "She's at least sixteen years younger than me - I heard she just qualified for Medicare - and she's a looker! Who knows what might happen?" I was blessed when my barber exhibited uncommon grace by not responding condescendingly to an octogenarian's dream.

Last Thursday as I headed into the barber shop for my appointment, I noticed an elderly gentleman partially sitting in his car - driver's door open, both feet on the ground, one hand

on the open door and the other on the door frame. He wasn't moving, so I asked if he was alright. "I'm fine," he replied. "It just takes me a while to stand up." The barber was already at work on me when he entered and slowly, ever so slowly, sat down. A moment or two later another elderly gentleman came in from the

and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor . . ." (1 Corinthians 12:22-23) Those words have great significance for us as a multi-generational congregation. With so much happening presently and so much planned for the future, we must take care lest we shunt off to the sidelines those



cold. He began to struggle with his jacket - it got hung up on his shoulders in such a way that he couldn't get it off or back on. The old soul in the chair looked up at him and said, "If you'll wait a few minutes, I'll be able to get up and help you." The action before my eyes seemed at first to be a sad preview of the latter stages of the journey into senior, really senior, citizenship. But my pathos turned to joy as I recognized before my eyes a picture of the Body of Christ in action: one whose upper limbs were unable to function properly being assisted by one whose lower limbs were markedly debilitated - neither was complete but together they were whole.

Saint Paul writes, ". . . those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

who have slowed a bit or who appear infirmed in body or mind. Like us, they are weak - like us, functioning alone is difficult - like us, they need what only the Body of Christ can offer . . . unconditional love rooted in God's love. As was done for us in our infancy, we must do for them in their dotage, ". . . so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other." (1 Corinthians 12:25)

The haircuts for the two gentlemen following me were paid for by an anonymous benefactor last Thursday - it was "Senior Discount Day" and he had received a blessed reminder of the great debt he owes to those who have walked before him and those who still are.

Bishop Allison is a Christian Mere Anglicanism Honors the Rt. Rev. C. FitzSimons Allison

James A. W. Rembert, Emeritus Professor of English at the Citadel, pictured below left, was one of the many speakers at a dinner honoring Bishop Allison, pictured below right, during the 2011 Mere Anglicanism Conference. What follows are his remarks.

Bishop Allison, Martha, Distinguished Members of the Clergy, Theologians, Friends of the Church Universal,

My friend the Rev. Billy Shand who spoke a moment ago mentioned that we are cousins. I would not be surprised if we turned out to be kin to Fitz and to Martha. After all, South Carolina is not a state of the union but a vast cousinage.

My worthy charge this evening is to pay tribute to our esteemed friend FitzSimons Allison, a charge for which I am unworthy, except perhaps on three counts in which I approach the far end of his wake. It is a wake he has left astern in a life navigating through calm and stormy doctrinal seas with never a shunting aside, always sailing toward that safe harbor for which we all yearn. The first of the three minor counts happened at age 15 at the Kanuga Young Peoples Conference when 27-year old

Fitz climbed those 70-foot white pines lining the road still today in front of the dormitory cabins at Kanuga. He ascended the tall trees to pull down festooning toilet paper streamers thrown up there in rolls by two 15-year old Charleston rapsallions who had talked me into joining them. Second count, as Fitz loves to drive his large diesel tractor mowing and musing on the country property where he lives in Georgetown County, so I love to mow and think with my small diesel tractor on the small country property where I live in Charleston County; we have discussed the pleasures of diesel tractor mowing. And finally, as Fitz has a doctorate in Church History from Oxford, I have one from Cambridge in English literature, and here alone I will not defer to him absolutely, not quite, because I am almost equally a devotee of the English language well used, although perhaps not demonstrated so well here at this moment. Fitz grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, as I did, where our families knew each other, both communicants of Trinity Episcopal Church before it became the Cathedral. Trying to make a decision my senior year in college between seminary and graduate school in English, I had a good, focused talk with Fitz

as he drove me to my family home from church. It was a close call, the result not as far from the cloth as some might think. I spent forty years explaining to college students the truth behind and within the poetry and prose of Herbert, Donne, Milton, Dryden, Swift and others, and a host of Christian essayists in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

As I wrote in the *Charleston Mercury* a year ago, Bishop Allison's most recent book, *Trust in an Age of Arrogance*, plants his standard on high ground, surveys the mess around him in his accustomed manner and shows how we can learn to bypass popular heresies to return to orthodox Christianity, remove her veil and enjoy her light in our lives.

The book has two main themes advanced relentlessly but so gracefully and effectively throughout that the reader easily catches on. He thinks I've got it, and then finds himself swept into eddies and down rapids on a powerful river of thought. He has signed on for the paddling trip, so he does not want to give up, but he must do his paddling to keep the

bow heading downstream and not nosing into a convenient bank for relief. Any reader interested in the subject, or a bit unsure about this God and man business, is appropriate for this river trip. The stakes are only the reader's immortal soul, the author would say.

The book begins with a brief personal family anecdote and ends

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CHRISTOPHER HUMPHREY PHOTOGRAPHY



CHRISTOPHER HUMPHREY PHOTOGRAPHY



Lawrence Addresses Convention Continued from Page Two

in the future. They are presently making a strong witness for Christ by their volunteer work in Loris Elementary School therein making a difference in children's lives. It will also work as a relational base from which to plant a congregation in

to berate us, but rather to alert us to the clear challenges we face in reaching our society for Jesus Christ. Even more to the point I wish to stir us to positive action. In many cases we are failing to effectively disciple and catechize our parishioners,

time priest it becomes increasingly difficult to arrest the trajectory of decline. This reality is making itself felt in congregations in the rural communities and smaller towns of our diocese, as well as among our African-American congregations even within Charleston. Combined with this, the current economic recession has cut dramatically into the diocesan funds available for our Congregational Development Committee to assist struggling congregations. But frankly, this was not why this committee was created. The purpose was to enable parishes and missions which had a growth posture and an outreach focus to accomplish their God-given vision; not just to keep the doors open another year. The straightforward truth is that I have had to say to several of our smaller congregations what St. Peter said to the lame beggar sitting at the Gate called "Beautiful" in Jerusalem: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk"; this is the genesis of upcoming Deanery Workshops for changing congregation DNA—"The Future & Your Church." (Editor's Note: one workshop was held March 5 and others are being scheduled). We will begin with a session entitled "Reality Therapy". We need to face reality as it is, not as it was, nor as we wish it were, but as it is. We have a window of opportunity and we need to seize it. This is the implementation of a process to nurture a growth posture in our smaller congregations. After we have taken this workshop to other parts of the diocese we will return with The Future & Your Church: Take II in order to build on what we've done. Our plan is that the deanery clericus will be an ongoing support for the clergy in our more isolated congregations. This marks an important shift for our Congregational Development Committee, while not losing sight of our prior work.

Garden, House, Mansion or Ranch size congregation and are moving forward in ministry and mission to his Diocesan Convention. He mentioned that parish giving to the diocese was 4.4%. He was concerned



The Rt. Rev. Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, who now serves South Carolina as Visiting Bishop for Anglican Communion Relationships, spoke Friday afternoon on "Triple Jeopardy: The Challenge of Islam, Secularism and Multiculturalism."

the future. Nevertheless, elsewhere we have lagged behind, and others have seized the day—God will have his witnesses – with or without us.

The future of two other initiatives is more complicated and raises the question of Diocesan leadership in planting or acknowledging more complex cases. The Well By the Sea at Market Commons, in the area between Surfside and Myrtle Beach, is a "congregation" that has already outgrown its rented facilities and is at a crossroads. There are issues that need to be clarified and worked out and we are seeking to address these at both deanery and diocesan levels. Likewise, the presence of St. Mark's Chapel in Port Royal raises questions which need answering. In both cases the role of the Bishop and the deanery come to play in how such initiatives are recognized.

Then there is a question of how the Bishop and the Congregational Development Committee assist church plants, and recruit ordained and lay persons who have a calling or vocation for such work. The establishment of St. John's Chapel on the East Side of Charleston is one such "diocesan" plant and has included significant financial support from some of our larger parishes, such as Church of the Cross, Bluffton, St. Michael's, Charleston, Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island and St. Andrew's Mt. Pleasant (when it was still part of the diocese).

Related to diocesan involvement in church planting is our recent reconfiguration of The Protestant Episcopal Society for the Advancement of Christianity in South Carolina (the first society organized in the Episcopal Church for the extension of the gospel). Your gifts and membership in this Society will enable us to reconnect with the rich evangelistic heritage of this diocese.

Moving From Fighting Fires to Detecting Smoke

Too often we wait until a house is in flames before we call for help. Just yesterday there was a report from the Religious News Service which confirmed what we all knew, that "Mainline Protestant churches that have seen a fall in membership since the 1970s continued their decline." Of course the Episcopal Church is included in this declining membership. I do not reference this in order

or reach the unchurched in our communities. Recently the Church Insurance Company has revealed "that every month more than three congregations close their doors for good. This alarming situation threatens the health and life of the Episcopal Church."

**The Challenge of our Smaller Churches:** The most recent statistics from the Episcopal Church shows 6,895 congregations in the U.S. The Median Size congregation has 160 members with a Median Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of 66—down from 74 ASA in 2002. This may not appear to be that big of a problem, but it is a most disconcerting trend. It is a challenge beyond just numerical decline. The present demographics in our Church will have a profound effect



"The Diocese of South Carolina is a blessed fellowship," said the Rev. Jeffrey Miller, Rector of St. Helena's (shown above). "St. Helena's counted it a great honor to host our brothers and sisters in Christ for this year's convention! Soli Deo Gloria!"

in the next decade if not before. With the passing of the GI generation (those who fought WWII) and the ageing of the Silent generation (Korean War, post WW II) and the first of the Baby Boomer generation entering into their retirement years (those born between 1946—1964) we are facing a dramatic decline in the next ten years in financial resources for our smaller congregations as well as further dramatic decreases in average Sunday attendance. If you are member of a small church, look around this Sunday and ask yourself realistically how many of these people will be here ten years from now? Once a congregation can no longer afford a full

Medium and Large Congregations: Gardens, Houses, Mansions & Ranches.

I wish I had time to describe and address the opportunity and challenges before each of these different size congregations. These congregations are the backbone of any diocese and we have some of the finest examples of these congregations in the Episcopal Church. For years as a parish priest I sat in Diocesan Conventions and heard the unique or novel spoken of with excitement only to see it pass away in a few years, but the hard, steady work of shepherding and growing these size parishes would go unnoticed. If you are the rector of a



"I am eager to see this Diocese of South Carolina add daily to its number those who are being saved; and what better way to do this than by growing our existing congregations and planting new ones," said Bishop Lawrence, above.

you have my profound respect for I know from experience your work is never done. There is always more to do than you have time in your calendar. We have enough exemplary rectors of such congregations to hold in-house workshops in the diocese just as we are doing for our smaller congregations with—"The Future & Your Church." That will be another project for our Congregational Development Committee. Stay tuned.

Stewardship

I turn now to a sensitive subject—Money. It's sensitive because it touches that most sensitive nerve – the one that runs from the human heart to the pocketbook. Recently I was reading a bishop's address

and he should be. I came here to South Carolina from a diocese which had a percentage formula for assessments. The higher the parish income the greater was the percentage of assessment. The parish I served was getting dangerously close to 25% of our annual disposable income. I soon became an advocate of the 10—10—10 model which South Carolina adopted back in early 1990s. The model is biblical, clear, and easily communicated at every level. Parishioners are asked to give ten percent of their annual income to support the local parish. The parish is asked to give ten percent of its annual income to support the diocese, and the diocese gives ten percent of its income to the larger Church. This has proven to be a tremendous means of financial

Diocese of South Carolina  
Pledge History Report  
Estimated vs. Actual NDBI

	Estimated NDBI	Actual NDBI	Actual Pledge	Pledge % of Estimated NDBI	Pledge % of Actual NDBI
1990	\$10,165,748	\$9,604,885	\$1,486,228	14.62%	15.47%
1991	\$11,086,810	\$10,630,676	\$1,466,785	13.23%	13.80%
1992	\$10,787,281	\$11,066,976	\$1,388,303	12.87%	12.54%
1993	\$11,724,240	\$12,622,039	\$1,450,297	12.37%	11.49%
1994	\$11,800,999	\$12,835,352	\$1,369,288	11.60%	10.67%
1995	\$13,212,532	\$14,150,252	\$1,411,424	10.68%	9.97%
1996	\$13,827,520	\$15,418,504	\$1,352,925	9.78%	8.77%
1997	\$14,928,804	\$17,270,871	\$1,381,788	9.26%	8.00%
1998	\$17,105,095	\$19,211,934	\$1,458,210	8.53%	7.59%
1999	\$18,050,220	\$20,839,069	\$1,537,198	8.52%	7.38%
2000	\$20,735,392	\$23,031,524	\$1,702,966	8.21%	7.39%
2001	\$21,998,249	\$24,308,065	\$1,719,575	7.82%	7.07%
2002	\$23,327,933	\$25,792,095	\$1,768,645	7.58%	6.86%
2003	\$24,593,759	\$27,599,959	\$1,816,727	7.39%	6.58%
2004	\$26,240,127	\$28,072,572	\$1,895,549	7.22%	6.75%
2005	\$28,871,148	\$29,912,697	\$2,036,579	7.05%	6.81%
2006	\$29,897,836	\$33,224,878	\$2,261,400	7.56%	6.81%
2007	\$31,530,119	\$34,243,339	\$2,468,733	7.83%	7.21%
2008	\$31,812,009	\$34,436,669	\$2,363,593	7.43%	6.86%
2009	\$30,957,803	\$34,084,645	\$2,048,947	6.62%	6.01%
2010	\$27,037,146				



expansion in the Diocese of South Carolina.

In 1990 the estimated disposable income of the Diocese of South Carolina, all of its parishes, was \$10,165,748. The actual turned out to be \$9,604,885. The actual pledge of parishes to the Diocese was \$1,486,228 which produced an estimated pledge of 14.62%. It was

“The 10—10—10 model is proving to be a study in steady decline on the parish to diocesan level thereby hindering what the diocesan leadership (clergy and lay) can accomplish.”

at that time the Diocese decided to move to the 10—10—10 model. It declined in '91 to 13%, '92 to 12%, '93 to 12%, '94 to 11% and for one year, and one year only the parishes of the Diocese of South Carolina gave to the Diocesan budget 10%. It then began to decline 9.78, 9.26, 8.53, 8.52, 8.21, 7.82, 7.58, 7.39, 7.22, 7.05, 7.56, 7.83, 7.43, 6.62.

Even a cursory reading of this chart, however, will show that while a move to the 10% asking has been a tremendous boost to total diocesan growth, it has not allowed for diocesan staffing or program to keep even a lagging pace. During these 20 years Total Net Disposable Budgeted Income has increased by 350% while



JOY HUNTER

giving to the diocesan budget has increased only 40 %, barely keeping pace with inflation. As our parishes have steadily declined in their giving to the diocesan budget it has curtailed the initiatives which the Diocesan staff might otherwise have pursued, particularly in assisting growing parishes and missions, and in planting new congregations. The 10—10—10 model is proving to be a study in steady decline on the parish to diocesan level thereby hindering what the diocesan leadership (clergy and lay) can accomplish in expanding the mission and ministry of the Church. This ebbing trajectory predates not only the recent economic decline which hit in mid 2008, but also predates the intense controversies of the Episcopal Church during last seven years. It has nothing to do with either one of those.

In stating this I am in no way suggesting that the main work of the gospel is done somewhere other than on the local level. What I am suggesting is that given our ecclesiology, the ministry and mission of the local congregation will eventually be thwarted by a diocese being hindered from providing what only a diocese can provide. Please know I am grateful for every dollar that our parishes and missions contribute to

the common work of our diocese. And some have given at real sacrifice to their congregational life. Others I have granted a temporary “exemption” from giving until they can work out of a financial crisis. If you are in that role, please feel no guilt. But if not, you can feel a little. But I believe the temptation to balance the parish budget by giving less to the diocese has proven to be less than helpful for our common life, and frankly less than helpful to our congregations. The Diocesan Council and I have just reestablished the Diocesan Stewardship Committee. I have appointed the Rev. Jim Taylor as the chair. Our first two tasks will be:

- To restore the original vision for Diocesan Stewardship of the 10—10—10 model, through teachings on Biblical Stewardship.
- To Establish a Planned Giving and Estate Planning Task Force in each deanery to be available to give presentations in our parishes and missions.

### Title IV Revisions and our Constitutional Concerns/Issues with the Episcopal Church

Let me give a bullet point account of developments regarding events and experiences since our Reconvened Convention on October 15th of last year.

- Several other dioceses have followed our lead in expressing concerns with the Title IV revisions—these are Central Florida,

Dallas, and Western Louisiana.

- I have addressed some of our concerns with the Province IV Bishops and they have expressed their concerns with the stands and actions of South Carolina. I believe this was honest, forthright and ultimately fruitful conversation.
- I was invited by Bishop Nathan Baxter to speak at the recent Clergy Conference of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania on the challenges we face as a “Conserving Diocese in The Episcopal Church” and to explain our approach to ecclesiology and mission. Again I believe this was fruitful and well worth the effort to converse with others within the Episcopal Church.
- I have received no official comment from the Presiding Bishop regarding our Reconvened Convention in October.

Certainly there remain, however, significant differences for many of us with the direction of the Episcopal Church. So I believe we need to finish what we set out to do at our Convention in 2010, upholding the heritage and Constitution of our Church. I believe we have done a service to everyone in the Episcopal Church by pointing out the problems inherent in the Title IV revisions.



JOY HUNTER

### Making Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age

Finally, I believe we have made a godly witness by holding steadfast to our calling. Nowhere is this more significant than in our vision to help shape emerging Anglicanism in the 21st Century. The fault lines that emerged in the Anglican Communion with increasing clarity in 2003 have in the past month become starker than ever. The Instruments of Unity have proven inadequate to mend the net of Anglicanism. While the Episcopal Church has solidified its place within these Instruments, the unity which the Instruments were meant to hold has run like water through an open hand. Communication, let alone communion, between many Provinces, has all but ceased. Yet our diocesan vision of Making Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age grows more prophetic with each passing day.

I am grateful for Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali's witness as our Visiting Bishop for Anglican Communion Relationships at this Annual Convention. His sermon last evening was deeply encouraging to me. His teaching yesterday and in our deaneries has been exemplary, spanning such diverse topics as Islam, multiculturalism, secularism, current developments in the Middle East, and within the Anglican Communion. Thank you, Bishop Michael

“I believe we have made a godly witness by holding steadfast to our calling. Nowhere is this more significant than in our vision to help shape emerging Anglicanism in the 21st Century.”

and Valerie. As a consequence we are better equipped to help shape emerging Anglicanism in this 21st Century.

This could hardly be more relevant or timely. Last fall, while in Cairo at the invitation of Bishop Mouner Anis to lead a retreat for the clergy of Egypt, the Horn of Af-

rica and North Africa, I was joined by Mike Clarkson and Chris Royer from our Anglican Communion Development Committee (ACD). While there we initiated a companion relationship between our dioceses. Then the Rev. Emad Mikhail, Principal of the Alexandria School of Theology (AST) and a priest in the Diocese of Egypt joined us for our Clergy Retreat in November and spoke of the challenges the Church faces in a dominantly Islamic country. This January one of the senior priests of South Carolina, the Rev. Rick Belser and his wife, Anne, went to Alexandria to teach at AST during Fr. Mikhail's sabbatical. Shortly after the Belser's arrival dramatic events unfolded in this pivotal and key country of the Middle East. We pray for them at this crucial and pivotal time in their country and give thanks to God that our prayers and efforts can play some modest role in the lives of these brothers and sisters in Christ. I encourage every congregation to include our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Egypt in the Prayers of the People on a regular basis.

If only time permitted I could speak of our diocesan ministries and relationships in other places around the Anglican Communion. Instead,

I refer you to the map produced by our diocesan Anglican Communion Development Committee (ACD) which shows the various parish and diocesan relationships around the world. You may find this on our diocesan website.

### Conclusion

There are so many dimensions of our diocesan life that I could have mentioned. I have chosen only these four—First, the need to focus afresh on growing our churches and to plant new congregations whether through spontaneous expansion, parish-led initiatives, or diocesan ventures. Secondly, there is a need for addressing faithful stewardship with our parishioners, our congregations, and the diocese. Thirdly, I have touched briefly on matters dealing with the Episcopal Church, particularly our concerns with the Title IV revisions. Fourthly, I have reminded you of our vocation to help shape emerging Anglicanism by Making Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age. May God continue to guide and empower us to hold firmly to the Truth and to venture out with the Gospel.

### Bishop Allison is a Christian *Continued from Page 7*

with quoted poetry. Now and then a personal remark occurs, always precisely to the point discussed, and frequently references to the poetry of Emily Dickinson, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Frost, Coleridge, Auden, Herbert, Donne, Shakespeare and many other poets confirm or amplify one of the author's scores of illuminations of Scripture and of Christian theology gone astray in some of today's interpretations. I mention anecdotes and poetry because they show the accessibility of Bishop Allison's style.

His writing style indeed is unusually clear, cogent, thoroughly understandable, and alas, still a problem because hard to place. A reader finds a biblical scholar, an interpreter of biblical texts based on knowledge that enlightens, an historian, literary critic, literary scholar, crafter of metaphors and analogies, a powerful selector of apt quotations and much more. Far more important than all of these qualities, the author is a Christian.

I mentioned talking with Fitz about graduate school in English or seminary. The question I had for him ultimately was a practical one, but he answered with this, “The most

important question is, Are you a Christian?” I answered yes with certainty and never forgot his question. Decades later in the review of his recent book I turned it back on him not as a question but in a statement, “the author is a Christian,” stated as simply as his question.

Fitz has always been affectionate towards me, maybe the old Columbia connection, maybe the Cambridge/Oxford connection, I don't know, but he has for me the warmest of all greetings I ever receive. He has a Fitz-affect on everyone hereabouts. No one talks much about that famous pulpit delivery, but all have experienced the voice that changes from rational persuasion to resonant, booming peroration one can imagine issuing from an Old Testament prophet. Bishop FitzSimons Allison, one has to believe, does not fully realize the effect he has on others simply by showing up. Then when he teaches or preaches the audience is usually beyond belief and into a sphere of concentrated acceptance, actually from the moment he enters the room. He has that effect in South Carolina and nearby states. In New Hampshire, I don't know.



# CORE Program at St. Christopher

By Joseph and Michelle Gibson

There's a new buzz word around St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center and in parts of the diocese. People are asking: What is the CORE? The best people to answer that question would



JOSEPH GIBSON

Above, CORE participant Wesley Kapp helps the kitchen staff prepare a meal for guests.

probably be Wesley Kapp, Ben Thompson, and Andrea Torres. They are this semester's CORE participants and their days are spent working in the service ministries here at St. Christopher and going through the disciple-

Continued on page 11

# Package Rates for Summer Personal Retreats

By Elizabeth Bumpas  
Director, Conference Center  
St. Christopher

Are you looking for a place to get away from it all this summer? Why not spend it at St. Christopher? Many people don't realize that they can enjoy the beauty of St. Christopher apart from a group conference or retreat. We love to host individuals, couples and families for Personal Retreats. This summer we are running special rates for the months of June, July, and August for Personal Retreats. Come join us at the beach. There is so much to do! Here are some of the options for Personal Retreat guests:

- Hike our 300 acres of unspoiled maritime forest.
- Bring your binoculars to enjoy a birdwatchers paradise!
- Sit on Crab Dock, our private dock on Privateer Creek (a tidal creek) and watch the sun set over the marsh.
- Bring your bikes and ride around the island!
- Walk our beach, swim in the ocean, or soak up the sun while reading a good book!
- Walk to "the point" on our beach and watch the pods of dolphins.
- Bring your fishing gear and fish in one of our two freshwater ponds or on the beach.



AUDRA GIBSON

The perfect place to be renewed. Above, Lauren Holmer spends time reading her Bible and writing in her journal on St. Christopher's Crab Dock.

- Relax in rocking chairs on the deck and admire the amazing views.
  - Observe an abundance of wildlife here on property, including deer that can often be seen walking in the early morning and evening.
  - Be prepared to eat some really good food in our dining hall!!
- Our Summer Package includes one lodge room for two nights and five meals in our dining hall. Meals begin with dinner on day of arrival and end with breakfast on the day of

departure. The couple's rate is \$232.00, and the single rate is \$165.00. Additional guests age 12 and up are \$70.00 per person, and additional guests age 6 to 11 are \$30.00 per person. Additional children age 0 to 5 are free of charge. This is a package deal, and these rates are discounted 20% off our regular rates. We will begin taking reservations May 15. To learn more about our personal retreats and details of our special summer package, visit the Personal Retreats section (under Conference Center) of our website, [www.stchristopher.org](http://www.stchristopher.org), or call us at (843) 768-0429. We look forward to hosting you very soon!

# Sponsor a Cabin, Volunteer, Give Opportunities Abound to Support and Serve St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

By The Rev. Robert S. Lawrence, Executive Director, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

In my first six months of serving as the new Executive Director of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center, I have been excited to welcome so many different groups and to recognize more fully how much St. Christopher truly serves as a gathering place for the diocese as well as others. It has also been exciting to witness and hear of the transformational work of the Holy Spirit in the restoration and healing of lives touched through God's ministry that takes place here. While it remains a busy place most of the time, during the weekends in the month of February alone, St. Chris-

topher was blessed to offer hospitality to hundreds by hosting the diocesan Women's Retreat, the diocesan Christian Men's Conference, and the diocesan Jesus Weekend for youth confirmation. Those events were also bookended by Cursillo in late January and a retreat for the Daughters of the King in March. As all of these large group events brought folks together from throughout the diocese, they did so specifically for the nurture of their Christian faith. St. Christopher clearly exists to provide a gathering place where lives are eternally changed because of Jesus Christ. We as a diocese are truly blessed with the legacy that has been handed

down to us by past generations for almost 72 years. We are also challenged to care for the aging time-honored facilities and properties of St. Christopher that contribute so significantly to the memories and experiences shared. While I recognize that challenge daily, all of us within the diocese have that opportunity to do so. How can you help?

**Pray!**  
Pray for the staff and guests of St. Christopher on a regular basis. We need that spiritual cover and we won't have it without your participation. Every two months we also host a Saturday morning of

intercessory prayer. Come pray and stay for lunch. It's our treat!

**Contribute!**  
Our annual budget of just under \$3.2 million depends on God's provision of providing the guests we are privileged to host throughout the year. Included within this amount is also the \$175,000 we hope to raise through the 2011 Annual Fund. We need your partnership in this effort as every dollar offered makes a difference.

**Volunteer!**  
On the weekends a volunteer welcomes arriving guests, greets them at all meals, and staffs the Welcome Center and Gift Shop.

Additionally, volunteers are needed for a new Chapel Guild to better care for our Chapels and to provide assistance as needed to visiting groups. Periodic work days hosted by St. Christopher, or one initiated by a particular group for a specific project, also provide volunteer opportunities.

**Sponsor a Cabin!**  
As a parish or a group within a parish, St. Christopher invites sponsorship of one of our Cabins. They are used throughout the weekdays by visiting school groups to our Barrier Island Educational Program, throughout the summer for Summer Camp, and on many weekends for youth and other events. Consequently, they are all in need of some sprucing up and loving care. With parish sponsors for all of our cabins, they could better serve our guests and provide some real and appropriate "ownership" for what already is a blessing to the whole of the diocese.

While these are ways that you can help St. Christopher, all of the ministry associates of St. Christopher know that we are here first and foremost to help you, and to serve you with the offering of Christian hospitality. For further information about how we might serve you, or how you might help us, please contact me at [blawrence@stchristopher.org](mailto:blawrence@stchristopher.org) or (843) 768-0429. Whether you come again as a conference guest, as one on a personal retreat, a prayer intercessor or a volunteer, we hope to welcome you soon and to welcome you often.



**Prefer to give online?**  
Please visit  
[www.stchristopher.org](http://www.stchristopher.org)  
to contribute.



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☐ Please contact me in regard to planned giving or including St. Christopher in my will. ....

Enclosed is my/our gift of:  
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Phones (home): ..... (work): .....

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Make checks payable to: Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Please mail this card with your gift to: St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center, Attention: Annual Fund, 2810 Seabrook Island Road, Johns Island, SC 29455-6219.



## CORE Program

*Continued from Page Ten*

ship training program led by the Director of Summer Camp and CORE, Joseph Gibson, and his wife, Michelle Gibson.

Evan Adams, a CORE alumnus, had this to say about how the program encouraged him: "I've grown in my ability to serve without questioning. It taught me how to be humble. I learned how to use time wisely and how to work hard for God's glory. It helped me overcome some apathy and laziness, and the Lord spoke life to me and helped me understand my calling. It also built up my potential and gifting in leading worship." Evan went on to say the best thing about the CORE program was, "learning how to bring God's presence into all the areas of your life and places you go." When asked if he would recommend the CORE, Evan replied, "Yes. It's a great opportunity to be in a safe Christian environment, to be fed, encouraged, and built up. It's a time to discern future plans and a chance to learn how to serve people. It's a great tool for evangelism."

The service ministries staff are the ones who make everything that happens at St. Christopher possible. They include our house-keeping team, kitchen staff, and facilities crew. CORE members rotate through each of these teams and come alongside to help in what each department is doing. They may spend one week making beds and doing laundry and the next making St. Christopher's famous



JOSEPH GIBSON

Above, CORE participant Ben Thompson works with the facilities staff to clear the road ways of leaves and other debris.

mud pie. Whatever they are doing, they are encouraged to be seeking God through service, hospitality and teamwork.

In addition to the skills and training they're receiving as a team members, they also participate in weekly training that includes study, prayer, and Biblical discussions, where they are taught and equipped to respond to Jesus' great commission to "go make disciples." Each participant is encouraged and supported during their season here by a mentor who meets with them regularly. Through the discipleship training and mentoring, each member is encouraged, challenged, and held accountable while discerning what season of life God is calling them to after their time at St. Christopher.

Another benefit of participating in the CORE is getting to be in community at St. Christopher with the Barrier Island Naturalists and other full-time staff, while living at the beach and getting to immerse oneself in God's amazing creation. Participants are given room, board, and a stipend.

If you know anyone who is between the ages 18 and 25 and is seeking to spend a season of life serving at St. Christopher and deliberately setting aside time for God, please contact Joseph Gibson for further information at [core@stchristopher.org](mailto:core@stchristopher.org).

# Snack Sacks, Courtesy of Holy Apostles

## Holy Apostles, Barnwell, Provides Weekend Snacks for Needy Children

*By Sara H. Noel, Church of the Holy Apostles, Barnwell*

When Bishop Lawrence asked us if we were at work...at work in our community...at work building the Kingdom...at work as the Body of Christ, Holy Apostles had just begun a new and exciting journey. We answered the Bishop with a tenuous "yes." We can now answer with a resounding "YES," because we have dedicated ourselves to a mission which is truly blessing our church and our community with an energy that can only come from a commitment to sharing our work with others and inviting them to join us in sharing the joy.

In January of 2010, a very small group of women at Holy Apostles decided that there was work to be done; that we wanted to jump start our spiritual commitment and that we wanted to have a presence in our community. From a casual conversation over coffee, the women of Holy Apostles turned the page in the life of the church and reorganized the Episcopal Church Women. Whether Mission or Ministry, we knew that we were going to do something that gave purpose to our organization and impacted the community in a vital way.

There was little doubt that we had found our mission when Terri Smith invited her daughter, Huntley Smith Crouch, to speak to us about an important program that serves school age children who often go hungry on weekends and long holidays during the school year. Huntley told us of the Snack Sack Program she started at her Methodist church in Lexington several years ago. The program is simple and inexpensive, but it fills an enormous need; a need recognized by school personnel. It seems that there are many feeding programs in place for children who need breakfast or lunch during the school term or meals during the summer months. But, there are no programs that fill the gap created by



TOMMY FAIRCLOTH

Above, from left, Kathy Kearns, Snack Sack Coordinator, works with Liz Ringus and Louise Boylston filling snack sacks.

weekends and long school holidays such as Christmas and Easter while school is in session.

We sent our Snack Sack Coordinator, Kathy Kearns, to the local schools to research the need in our community for such a program. When Kathy asked if the schools had a need for a weekend feeding program only during the school year and, if so, would the schools be interested in having us begin such a program, the answer she got was, "Yes. How soon can you start?"

Here's how it works. The children in Barnwell's Primary and Elementary schools are identified by school personnel as needing assistance with accessing enough food on weekends and holidays. Holy Apostles fills grocery bags with healthy, child-friendly

snacks and delivers a predetermined number of sacks to the school each week. Extra food is supplied for long holidays such as Christmas and Easter. We don't know who the children are, and they don't know who we are except for a note in each Snack Sack saying "From the Christian Community of Barnwell."

Since the delivery of our first 20 "Snack Sacks" in August of 2010, we have had an incredible outpouring of support from our community, in monetary donations, food and time spent in filling "Snack Sacks." As a result, we are now delivering 33 "Snack Sacks" each week during the school term, and anticipating growth of the program during the upcoming school year. This "Snack Sack" program is increasingly important as the economy

worsens, and there are similar programs in place across the State of South Carolina. Together, Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in Barnwell and its friends in the community are making a difference. We are filling a need for our children. We are providing food to those children who are unable to provide themselves with enough food to eat during the weekend or during extended school holidays. We are doing what He said in His name.

We invite anyone who is interested in joining our program or who may want to start one of their own to contact our Snack Sack Coordinator, Kathy Kearns. Kathy can be reached at (803) 300-4830.

## Age to Age – Heart to Heart Family Ministry Retreat, July 1-5 at St. Christopher

*By Peter Rothermel, Diocesan Director of Christian Faith Formation*

Once again St. Christopher is partnering with the Diocese of South Carolina's Department of Christian Faith Formation to offer a time of fun, fellowship and ministry for the whole family through our annual Family Ministry Retreat. The Retreat will be held at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center July 1-5. Our theme this year is Age to Age and Heart to Heart.

From age to age and heart to heart, the

message of hope has been passed down to us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of us have been awakened to the privilege and responsibility we have as parents to share this message with our families and children. However, the fact is, many of us are not quite sure how to do it. There are many strong Christian parents who have never shared their faith or testimony with their children. Many do not pray or read scripture together with

their children and feel ill-equipped to teach their children about faith in Christ.

Age to Age and Heart to Heart is designed to help. This retreat will provide you with opportunities to meet together as a family among families for times of Intergenerational Worship as we revisit the basic truths of the Gospel through fun interactive lessons. We will learn how to be intentional about the spiritual growth of our children from several different families and how to do this with younger children as well as with teens.

Come and be encouraged and connect with other parents committed to developing faith in the home. There will be great times of fellowship on the beach, loads of fun activities like kayaking and sailing, camp fires and singing as well as fantastic food.

This retreat is also an excellent place to recommend to families who through baptismal and confirmation preparation, have been awakened to the call of being intentional in shaping the hearts of their children for the Lord. Imagine all the fun of a vacation at the beach coupled with times of teaching and equipping the family for ministry.

For more information or to download a registration form, go to [www.stchristopher.org](http://www.stchristopher.org) and click on Upcoming Events and then Family Ministry Retreat or call Elizabeth Bumpas at (843) 768-0429.



DAVID SADD



People News

❖ **Cheryl Allen**, a member of Holy Communion, Charleston, has stepped down from her role as Coordinator of the South Carolina Episcopal Diocesan Medical Mission Team. The Diocesan Medical Mission makes annual short-term medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Cheryl has served in this capacity on behalf of our diocese during the past eleven years. What a wonderful ministry she has provided for people in the DR and within the Diocese of South Carolina! At Bishop Lawrence's request, Dr. Howard and Mrs. Joy Holl, members of the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, have answered the call to be the new Coordinator's of this important ministry. See page five for information on the upcoming mission.



❖ Please keep **the Rev. Rick Belser**, and his wife **Anne** in your prayers. They are in Egypt where Rick is teaching Pastoral Care at the Alexandria School of Theology and preaching at St. Mark's Anglican Church. You can read updates from the Belsers on the Diocesan website, [www.diosc.com](http://www.diosc.com). The Belsers plan to return to Charleston in mid-July.



❖ Please keep **the Rev. Craig Borrett**, Rector of Christ St. Paul's, Yonges Island, and his family in your prayers. Craig's mother, **Jackie**, age 93, died on January 7, 2011.

❖ **The Rev. Iain Boyd**, Associate at Trinity Church, Myrtle Beach, and his wife, **Shelly**, welcomed their first child, a son **Josiah Westfield**, on September 7, 2010. Congratulations to the Boyd family.



❖ Please keep the family of **the Rev. John Burley**, who is a member of the Diocese, serving at St. Andrew's, Mt. Pleasant, in your prayers. John's father, **Charles Burley**, died on January 2 in Columbia, SC.

❖ **The Rev. Ted Duvall** has accepted the call to serve as the Rector of Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, beginning on June 1. See story on page two.

❖ Please keep the family of **the Rev. John Burnett Morris** in your prayers. Morris died on December 28, 2010, in a retirement home in Evans, Georgia. He was an early leader in the efforts to integrate the Episcopal Church and in the Civil Rights movement and was canonically resident in the Diocese since his ordination to the priesthood in 1955. A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary (1954), he served as Deacon-in-Charge of

Christ Church, Mullins, SC 1954; Priest-in-Charge of St. Barnabas, Dillon, 1954-1958; Priest-in-Charge St. Luke's, Latta, SC 1957-1958. He was Founder and Executive Director of the Episcopal Society of Cultural and Racial Unity (ESCRU) and a civil rights activist in the 1950's-1960's, and praised personally by Martin Luther King. The memorial service was held January 8 in Atlanta, GA.

❖ Please keep the family of **the Rt. Rev. Edward W. Neufville, II**, the retired Bishop of Liberia, in your prayers. Bishop Neufville died on January 10.



Because of Liberia's civil war the Neufville family has been living in the Diocese of South Carolina intermittently, in Sumter, for over a decade. Bishop

Neufville retired as Bishop of Liberia in 2007. He was the 11th Diocesan Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, 2nd Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Liberia, and Former Dean of the Anglican Province of West Africa. Bishop Neufville is survived by his wife of 42 years, **Louise Morais Neufville**, his children, several foster children, five grandchildren, seven siblings, several nieces and nephews, cousins, and a host of other relatives. The celebration of thanksgiving for the life and peaceful home-going of Bishop Neufville, was held January 27, 2011 at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, in Charleston, South Carolina.

❖ **The Rev. Andrew Pearson**, Associate at St. Helena's, Beaufort, and his wife, **Lauren**, welcomed their second child, **Mary Cabell Pearson** on January 26, 2011. Congratulations to the Pearsons.



❖ **The Rev. Rob Sturdy**, Rector of Trinity Church, Myrtle Beach, and his wife, **Stephanie**, welcomed their second child, **Genevieve Noelle** on January 6.



Genevieve is shown with her very proud big brother, David. Congratulations to the Sturdys.

❖ **The Rev. Tommy Tipton**, Rector of Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in Pawleys Island, SC, has announced that he has accepted the position of Canon to the Ordinary in The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. In this position,

Tipton will serve as diocesan chief of staff and will assist the bishop with management, oversight, and operations of the diocese as well as congregational and leadership development.

❖ Please keep **the Rev. Jeff Wallace**, an Associate Rector at Christ the King, Waccamaw, and his family in your prayers. Jeff's father, **Bill Wallace**, died on Sunday, January 30. The funeral service was held on February 1 at Church of the Resurrection, Surfside, where Bill was a member.

### Founders Day at York Place May 1, 2011

All are invited to the annual York Place Founders Day celebration. This is a day when York Place celebrates its past, gives thanks for its present and looks forward to the future. This day of worship, fried chicken and fun has been honored for years. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday May 1, 2011  
10:00 a.m. Registration  
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
12:30 p.m. Picnic on the Grounds  
1:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony and Program

Please join us for a worshipful celebration of your Episcopal Ministry for children.

*Continued on Page 14*

# Bear One Another's Burdens

## Shining The Light on Disability, Reaching out to Caregivers

By Mary Tutterow, Founder of Healing Farm Ministries

*"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."*

1 Corinthians 12:21-26 (New International Version, ©2011)

Did you know April is Autism Awareness Month? And March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month? With that in mind, I'd like to encourage you to take a moment to say a prayer for someone you know who is developmentally or intellectually challenged and their family. With the dramatic increase in autism alone (now one in 110 families are affected), I am sure we can all call a family member or friend to mind. I would imagine words like "devotion, sacrifice and selflessness" come to mind. If we are honest, many of us would say, "I don't know how they do it."

The truth is, families touched by disability are in crisis. The divorce rate is at an alarming 85%! Hopelessness and depression run rampant among caregivers opening the door for high statistics of abuse and neglect. Deep budget cuts to essential assistance have left families staggering alone under tremendous financial, physical and emotional burdens. The burning question is, "Where will their help come from?"

Our local churches can be a great source of comfort and help, extending the love of Jesus through prayer, counseling, financial support, programs, respite and so much more, yet sadly, special needs families are leaving our churches. Only 10% of people with cognitive challenges have ever been exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Most churches don't set out to exclude or isolate these families. As a matter of fact, most churches are eager to embrace them but just don't know how. The idea of starting a "special needs" ministry can be daunting – funding, staffing, training, space, liability, etc., but there are some simple, more practical ways to meet the needs.
1. The most effective way is to begin by caring for the person who is the primary caregiver in the family, recognizing his or her needs and praying for her and her family.
  2. Start a small group for families touched by disability, a safe place where they can share burdens and receive scriptural and prayerful support. Invite special needs families from



- the community to share in this group. You can find a good start up curriculum at [www.theheartofthecaregiver.com](http://www.theheartofthecaregiver.com).
3. Encourage the existing ministries at your church to surround the caregivers group with love. The prayer ministry can provide healing and intercessory prayer. Outreach and hospitality ministries can meet a variety of needs (food, funds for special equipment/treatments, throw a birthday party, offer to sit, etc.).
  4. Begin a respite ministry. Respite is temporary relief of care giving responsibilities. Every caregiver needs a break. Your church can find comprehensive information on starting a respite ministry at [www.familyconnections.org/resources/family\\_connection\\_materials/](http://www.familyconnections.org/resources/family_connection_materials/).
  5. Joni and Friends offers family retreats, times of rest and fun for all abilities. Your church can sponsor a family. For more information visit [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org).
  6. Encourage your church to engage in activities with people with intellectual disabilities like Special Olympics ([www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)) and The Miracle League ([www.miracleleague.com](http://www.miracleleague.com)) or get involved in organizations that will make a difference for the future and

quality of life like Healing Farm Ministries ([www.healingfarm.org](http://www.healingfarm.org)).

Through recognition, outreach and love, families will re-connect with the church in practical, helpful ways and your church will gain understanding of how to best meet need.

Responding to the particular needs of our neighbor is a commandment for all, not simply an option for some or a vocation for the skilled. Our churches are called to be communities of compassion for all people.



### United Thank Offering

Spring Ingathering is Coming...  
The suggested date is June 5

Prepare for the UTO ingathering by visiting the UTO website at [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto), ordering materials, viewing the current grant list and planning your parish's ingathering. For additional information contact Nancy Pickering (843) 263-0444 or [npicks2@charter.net](mailto:npicks2@charter.net)

*The United Thank Offering addresses compelling human need through grants to projects that alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally, within the Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses.*





# What Do 30 Knobs, 35 Upperclassmen, 58 Athletes, 8 Corporals and 4 Sergeants Equal?

By The Rev. Greg Smith, Chaplain, Citadel

One hundred and thirty-five Cadets who show up each week for worship, Bible studies, and Eucharist. Without double counting, funny math, or any exaggeration—that’s a large group of cadets at The Citadel who

most important stories. Let me share three with you.

First, this semester three cadets have given their lives to Christ, realizing for the first time that Jesus is real and wants to have a relationship with them. They have moved into

worship each week. Increasingly they are taking leadership of Corps Bible Studies, worship and retreats.

Finally, one cadet mentioned of St. Alban’s:

“I am surrounded by people who struggle with the same challenges as



are served by St. Alban’s Chapel and Church of the Holy Cross. In fact, that’s roughly double the size of the average church in the United States! And it doesn’t include the 60 or so other knobs who routinely come by the office daily to enjoy a snack, soda, or quick nap on the couches.

But those numbers don’t tell the

relationships with upperclass cadets who are mentoring them in their spiritual journey.

Secondly, the vestry leadership of St. Alban’s has grown and now includes 12 upperclassmen. These leaders meet weekly for group discipleship and mentoring and then go forth and lead Bible Studies and

me each and every day. My life is so much more fulfilling especially as I start off the week with my eyes and heart pointed towards God.”

Cadets at The Citadel are being formed into leaders – and as they set their “eyes and heart” on Christ they will have the tools and skills to lead others exceptionally well. Just last week I was in a meeting with the Commandant and he stated what we know to be true: Leadership begins with a spiritual foundation.

For many cadets, that spiritual foundation is set through Holy Cross, Citadel – and through your partnership. Thank you for all you’ve done this year to help us grow these young men and women. We can’t do it alone!

## Renewal Conference at Kanuga, June 26 – July 1

By Ellen Lumpkin, Renewal Conference Co-Coordinator

“This is the best spiritual retreat I have ever attended!” “Every member of our family had a fabulous time!” “The Renewal Conference is a place where your heart can rejoice and your soul can be filled with the Holy Spirit.” These are a few of the comments made by participants of last year’s Renewal Conference at Kanuga. Makes you want to go, doesn’t it?

The Rt. Rev. Mike Hill, Bishop of Bristol, England, is back by popular demand as our keynote speaker this summer. A world-renowned, dynamic teacher, he will captivate, entertain, enlighten and challenge us to become more focused on Jesus and the help of His most amazing Holy Spirit. As he says, “Following Jesus in the 21st century is not easy, if indeed it ever was. We are constantly distracted and permanently being bombarded with competing claims for our attention and allegiance. The world will not be attracted by Christians whose commitment is skin deep. Come along and get refreshed and challenged and, ‘step it up.’”

An awesome conference experience is the result of multiple factors. The 2011 Renewal Conference is designed to “hit a home run” on all fronts. In addition to one of the best speakers available, the music will be exceptionally rich. The 5 O’Clock Praise Band from the Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham, AL, will not only delight us with a wide variety of offerings but will

lead us in heart-melting worship. To complement Mike Hill’s teachings, there will be afternoon workshops designed to inform, convict, encourage and refresh us in our spiritual journeys with the Lord.

Young or old, single or married, with children or without, there is something special for everyone. Children of all ages will be blessed by the variety of activities provided by the Kanuga staff and our own children’s and youth ministers.

A perfect family vacation, the Renewal Conference allows for grown-up time and family time to enjoy the recreations available on Kanuga’s 1400 acres such as hiking, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and tennis.

Cost comparison with a similar mountain vacation for a family of four revealed that Kanuga is actually about a third less expensive!

Discounts are available for groups of three or more adults. Go to the Renewal Conference site at [www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org) for rate information and Team Rebate forms. It’s more affordable than you might think and a limited number of financial scholarships are available from Kanuga.

Please prayerfully consider joining us this summer for the 2011 Renewal Conference. You will leave renewed, refreshed, and reminded that Jesus is Lord and He loves you.

Laura Barr and Ellen Lumpkin are conference coordinators and the Rev. Marcus Kaiser and Peter Rothermel will be the chaplains.

“This is the best spiritual retreat I have ever attended.”

## Single Parenting: Mission Impossible?

Visionary Parenting Conference, May 14, 2011

By Rob Rienow

### To-Do List

- Pay the bills
- Shop for groceries
- Pray and read the Bible
- Get an oil change
- Help with homework
- Get diapers
- Catch up on email
- Organize the bedroom
- Register for soccer
- Settle 13 arguments
- Exercise
- Pray with the kids before bed.

Raising children and running a home is an overwhelming responsibility. Today, many mothers and fathers face this mission alone. This was the challenge my mother faced after my parents divorced. Part of the challenge of single parenting is acknowledging that there are not enough hours in the day to do everything that needs to be done. Some things are going to have to take a back seat. But how do you decide?

It is easy to lose sight of what our children need the most. They don’t need to be great athletes. They don’t need to have a high IQ. They don’t need great friends. They don’t need to be up on the latest music and gadgets.



So what do they need? What is the most important thing you can give them? What your children need more than anything else is to know God and love Him. God has created you and called you in this chapter of your life to do all in your power to impress the hearts of your children with a love for God!

If you want your children to grow into men and women of faith and character, I invite you to join me for the upcoming Visionary Parenting: Encouragement for Single Parents Conference on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at James Island Christian Church, Charleston, ([www.jicc.us](http://www.jicc.us)) You will come away encouraged, refreshed, and refocused on the things that matter most! Call (843) 795-9449 to learn more.



LISA GREENSLIT

Dr. Mark Greenslit and his daughter Faya enjoy some relaxing time together on last year’s Renewal Conference.

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes Reborn on Campus

According to Archbishop William Temple, “The Church exists for those who are not yet members.” Last year through a simple question by the Commandant, we found out that Corps Squad Athletes were “not here.” In fact, they weren’t anywhere.

Because of the unique demands on the athletes and scheduling conflicts, it is impossible for a cadet who wants to go to church to actually attend. Citadel campus religious events are restricted to 6:30 p.m. on Monday and Thursday evenings – right at the time most athletes finish their daily workouts! It became clear that we needed a different way to reach these cadets.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes had been a vital presence on campus, but it had waned in the past years and was not present. By God’s Grace, FCA has been reborn! At the request of Chaplain Harris and with cooperation from all the campus pastors, Holy Cross, Citadel, was chosen to lead up an effort to engage athletes in religious activities. Through a partnership with FCA we’ve begun a huddle and have grown quite rapidly in the past few months... regularly hosting around 60 cadets in worship on Monday evenings.



# New Banners for Trinity

By Mark Chaney, Organist and Choirmaster, Trinity, Myrtle Beach

A new set of processional banners was recently introduced at Trinity in Myrtle Beach. The banners were designed specifically for an Advent lessons and carols service, and they were constructed entirely by members of Trinity's choir. The service, which took place on December 15, was a series of seven lessons and carols organized around a set of Advent prayers known as the "Great O" Antiphons. During the liturgy, the banners were processed into the church one by one as their respective antiphons were being sung.

The planning of the service, as

had such large emotional investment that they went out of their way to invite lots of friends; the surprise of the evening was just how many visitors there were, and how many unchurched came and heard the story of the Gospel presented through the Scriptures, music and artwork."

Another important aspect of this project was that it was locally inspired and executed. The fabric was purchased, but the rest of the work (which was considerable) was a labor of love. Certainly all our parishes benefit from the availability of ready-made or made-to-order

by addressing the Messiah by one of the prophetic titles found in the Old Testament:

- December 17: O Sapientia (Wisdom)
- December 18: O Adonai (Lord and Law-Giver)
- December 19 : O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
- December 20: O Clavis David (Key of David)
- December 21: O Oriens (Dayspring)
- December 22: O Rex Genitum (King of the nations)
- December 23: O Emmanuel (God with us)



Banners designed and constructed for an Advent lessons and carols service are displayed in the chancel of Trinity, Myrtle Beach. From left to right: O Adonai, O Key of David, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel, O Dayspring, O Root of Jesse, O Wisdom

well as the design and construction of the banners, was a source of deepened fellowship and partnership in ministry for those who were a part of it. Particularly enjoyable were several work days on which choir members brought scissors and sewing machines to the choir room, reminiscent of an old-fashioned sewing bee. The sharing of ideas and talents that went into the project was truly invigorating, and there was a real sense of anticipation and excitement in the days leading up to the carol service itself.

Trinity's rector Rob Sturdy comments, "The members of the choir

paraments and worship furnishings, but we need not be bound by them; the rich imagery of Scripture and our Anglican liturgical tradition provide limitless inspiration and opportunity for creativity. With a little imagination and forethought, it is possible to create things that really enrich and deepen worship, to do it at an affordable cost, with love.

The "Great O" Antiphons come from medieval monastic practice, when they were sung along with the Magnificat at Vespers on the seven nights before Christmas Eve. Each antiphon is a fervent prayer for deliverance, and they all begin

These antiphons embed a striking acrostic: read in inverse order from last to first, the second letter of each antiphon spells out the words ERO CRAS, which in Latin means "tomorrow I will be with you," a message that is not revealed until the final antiphon is sung on December 23.

For the full text of the Great O Antiphons, to see additional pictures of the banners, or to listen to music from the Advent Lessons and Carols service, please visit Trinity's music ministry blog at [trinitymb-music.wordpress.com](http://trinitymb-music.wordpress.com).



DAVE WRIGHT

Above, teens from the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh gather with teens from our Diocese on top of Knocknarea, the highest point overlooking Sligo in the northwest of Ireland.

## The Irish are Coming!

By Dave Wright, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth Ministries

Invading our senior session at St. Christopher and visiting several of our parishes this summer will be a dozen Irish teenagers and their leaders from the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh. This visit represents the second stage in the development of a partnership between our two dioceses. Last summer fourteen of our teens travelled to Ireland to meet the youth of their diocese. We built relationships, shared testimonies, studied scripture together, and learned about life and faith in their context. It was eye-opening for our teens to visit churches in Ireland and discover the decline of Christianity there, a condition described by their bishop as "spiritual poverty." Yet with great excitement he added that Ireland is very open to the Gospel at the moment. Hence we consider this partnership vital for our two dioceses as we seek to get to know one another, forge relationships, and see how we can encourage one another.

A partnership begun by youth, this relationship is intended to extend beyond the boundaries of teens. This was the intention of both of our bishops when they first

met at Lambeth in 2008. It might be that various churches in our diocese begin to connect with churches there. Clergy may visit one another and preach in each other's churches. Vestries might organize exchange visits to encourage and learn from one another. Already one of our priests, the Rev. Chuck Owens visited Kilmore in order to speak at a clergy gathering. Priests there were very encouraged by the visionary approach that transformed the Church of the Cross in Bluffton over the years. The partnership may extend to church schools, men's groups, women's groups, and so forth. The possibilities are endless. For this summer though, many in our diocese will have the opportunity to meet teens from Ireland and those Irish visitors will learn much about South Carolina that they can take back and share in their parishes as well. As this missional partnership takes root and our hearts and lives begin to connect, we will see the wider kingdom and the advancement of the Gospel on both sides of the Atlantic. More information about this summer's visit will be posted at [www.scyouth.org](http://www.scyouth.org).

## York Place Founders Day

Continued from Page Twelve

RSVP by April 25 to Shirley Goss (803) 684-4011, ext. 1023 or [sgoss@yorkplace.org](mailto:sgoss@yorkplace.org). **A Note to Former Residents:** An Alumni Breakfast

will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, York. Contact Joyce Sanders, (803) 684-4011 X 1009, [jsanders@yorkplace.org](mailto:jsanders@yorkplace.org) for details.

## ER&D Supports Japan and Other Initiatives

In recent months, Episcopal Relief & Development (ER&D) has been involved with several new initiatives designed to helping people in need around the world. Involvement in such projects normally starts when a bishop of our church requests help for something in his/her diocese. ER&D responds to the best of its ability. Recent initiatives include:

**Reacting to the worst disaster in some time which happened near Sendai, Japan,** where a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck on March 11, followed by a huge tsunami which killed thousands of people. If that were not bad enough, there is the possibility that radioactive contamination could affect many people. Immediately after the earthquake, ER&D was talking with officials in the Anglican Communion in Japan and offering our prayers and financial assistance. An initial contribution was made and further funds will be sent when The Anglican Communion in Japan assesses its needs and develops long-term recovery



Episcopal Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

By Harmon B. Person  
Diocesan Representative for ERD

plans. A special "Japanese Relief" fund has been set up by ER&D. Many of us are unaware that there are 10 Anglican dioceses in Japan.

The Diocese of Tohoku is headquartered in Sendai. We are the third largest Christian denomination in the country. The church there was started in 1859 by some Episcopal missionaries from the U. S. Now that they need our help, we should be generous.

**Supporting relief services provided by the Episcopal Diocese of Central Ecuador,** to meet the needs of some 40,000 Colombian refugees who have crossed the border into Ecuador to flee the violence of that country's civil war. ER&D also supports ongoing programs in the Diocese of Colombia which strengthen communities there both socially and financially.

**Providing financial support to the Church in New Zealand,** which is helping

people who were devastated by the February 22 earthquake near Christchurch. Approximately 150 people were killed by the earthquake. Twenty-two Anglican churches suffered some physical damage, including the downtown Anglican Cathedral where the bell tower was toppled. That area had experienced an even larger earthquake less than six months earlier. Previously, the bell tower at the Cathedral had collapsed during a 1901 earthquake. A special "Christchurch Earthquake" fund has been set up by ER&D.

**Continuing to support the Episcopal Church of Sudan** as it provides assistance to refugees who have returned to the area in great numbers following the January elections. In those elections, nearly 99% of the people of the southern part of the country voted to secede from the rest of the country, which is predominantly ruled by Muslim Arabs. Overall, the election was relatively peaceful, but in the border areas between North and South, there were some violent clashes. In response to this situation, the Archbishop of the Church of Sudan has put together a team that will travel to seven different border localities, in hopes of accelerating the peace-making process. ER&D is helping fund these visits.

**Supporting the Anglican Diocese of Colombo,** by providing food and shelter for people in Sri Lanka who have been displaced by two successive waves of flooding. Although these floods did not get a lot of publicity in the United States, about 1,500,000 people were displaced during either the January or February flooding. Rice is the staple food of Sri Lanka. Large areas of rice crops were wiped out – up to 90% of the crops in some areas. The magnitude of damage caused by this flooding was exceeded only by that of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Seven years later, ER&D continues to be involved with several programs assisting communities which were devastated by that tsunami.

## Donations Appreciated

We certainly appreciate all donations. You can feel confident that they were used efficiently. Donations can be made online at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org) or by mailing them to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Thank you for your continued support.



# A Different Feeling in the Room

## Eighth and Ninth Graders Experience Jesus Weekend

By Dorothy Holland, Youth Minister for Holy Trinity Church and Old St. Andrew's Church

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*

When I was a teenager, I had no idea what those words meant. I knew that Jesus had died for my sins, I believed in Him, but I did not truly understand who He was or why He did what He

did, or how that saved me. I did not really understand the connection between Jesus and the Eucharist. I loved Him, but I did not understand how completely He loves me.

Joyfully, I do know Jesus now. Even more joyfully, the youth of our Diocese have an opportunity to meet Yeshua Ben Yosef, and find out who He is, why He is relevant to their lives and how He loves them. The Jesus Weekend teaches all that

and more, in an intense and meaningful way that cannot be accomplished in Sunday School or youth group. Although it was originally conceived as a confirmation retreat, it has grown, expanded and become so much more to so many young people.

From the very beginning of the weekend, the feeling in the room is different from other retreats, even though they happen in the very same room, with a lot of the very same people, and even though the structure and the teachings change very little from year to year. The presence of the Holy Spirit fills the space, and there is a sense of anticipation and excitement. Imagine 130 eighth and ninth graders gathered together to meet the real Jesus, to worship and praise Him, to let Him fill their hearts. Over the course of about forty hours, through



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our primary speaker The Rev. Trip Cormeny, students learned about Jesus, from His birth in the stable to His death and resurrection. Jonny Keys, Dorothy Holland, and Dave Wright shared additional teaching. The diocesan Youth Commission led small groups and helped run the weekend. Our sessions were woven together with worship music led by Erin Cooley. On Saturday night, the community gathered together to participate in a Seder meal that helped to make the connection between the Gospel and our Lit-

urgy. Finally, the Rev. Karl Burns celebrated Eucharist on Sunday morning with a group of young people who had come to understand it in a whole new way.

Unique to our Diocese, Jesus Weekend happens every spring, giving our eighth and ninth graders an opportunity to meet the real Jesus in this amazing way! Jesus Weekend is created and led by a team of our youth ministers. We are grateful to them all for the hard work they put into creating a powerful retreat experience!

## Youth Ministry Apprentices Completing Training

Three youth ministry apprentices will be completing our training program this spring. Brad Nettles has been apprenticing at St. John's Parish on Johns Island alongside Youth Minister Rob Schluter. Brad grew up at Old St. Andrew's in West Ashley.

Corey Prescott has been apprenticing at Church of the Good Shepherd in West Ashley alongside Jamie Sosnowski, who is also a graduate of our apprenticeship program. Corey grew up at St. Michael's in Charleston.

David Crosby has been apprenticing at St. Michael's alongside Justin Hare, a graduate of our apprentice program as well. David grew up at Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island.

The youth ministry apprenticeship was established to train new and potential youth ministers who are typically recent college graduates and prepare them for a full-time ministry position. Along with a placement gaining experience in a church, apprentices receive extensive teaching in biblical, historical,

and systematic theology; skills for biblical interpretation, leadership, and youth ministry theory and practice. Many of our current youth ministers are graduates of this program. For more information on the apprenticeship program, contact Dave Wright at Diocesan House, (843) 722-4075.



From left, Brad Nettles, Corey Prescott and David Crosby will all be completing the Diocese of South Carolina's Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program this spring.

## Are We Raising a Generation That is "Almost Christian?"

By Dave Wright, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth Ministries

"American young people are, theoretically, fine with religious faith-but it does not concern them very much, and it is not durable enough to survive long after they graduate from high school. One more thing: we're responsible." Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, professor at Princeton Seminary states that this is the gist of her new book *Almost Christian - What the faith of our teenagers is telling the American Church*. The book is not so much about youth ministry as it is about the church in general. She uses research on the faith of teens to point to the peril that the church faces and does so on the basis that youth ministry has more or less been the research and development arm of the church for several decades now.

The peril that Dean identifies is that we have been perpetuating a faith that is almost Christian. It is not the faith of our forefathers, nor the Christianity we read about in the Bible. "The National Study of Youth and Religion reveals a theological fault line running underneath American churches: an adherence to a do-good, feel-good spirituality that has little to do with the Triune God of Christian tradition and even less to do with loving Jesus Christ enough to follow him into the world." What Dean is pointing out, as the findings of this study show, is that the church, specifically mainline protestant denominations, have been passing on a faith that is

watered down to the extent that it is no longer truly Christian. The statistics of other organizations such as the Barna Research Group and LifeWay Research indicate that young people are leaving the church at the point of graduating from high school and not returning. Why should they return to a faith that does not matter? If we want to see the church thrive in the future, we must question how we managed to do this.

Several assumptions may well be contributing to the peril of the church. These have been the normal mode of thinking in many denominations across America and have shaped youth ministry for decades. These have equally been driving "seeker" and non-denominational churches as well. Let's explore just four assumptions that factor into the equation.

### 1. Bigger is better.

This thinking is honorably derived from a desire to see people reached with the gospel and brought into the church. Youth ministry, like any aspect of the church needs to be evangelistic and we know that there are vast numbers not being reached. However, we have tended to measure success by the input rather than the outcome.

Steve Wright, a youth pastor in North Carolina, grew his youth group from 40-240. Then he discov-

ered that prior to his big program, 35 of his 40 kids joined the church after college. From his 240, less than 10 kids a year were coming back. He had the humility to go to his board and say, "I am not a hero, I am killing our church. I don't know what I'm doing wrong, but here are the numbers...". There is nothing wrong with wanting a large youth ministry. However, the overall number of participants should not be our goal. Real success should be measured by how many are sticking with the church over time. How we achieve that matters. Youth groups that perpetuate almost Christianity are fast growing but do not sustain discipleship.

### 2. Youth groups need to be trendy and "cool."

In a *Wall Street Journal* Op Ed titled, "The Perils of 'Wannabe Cool' Christianity," Brett McCracken states that "If the evangelical Christian leadership thinks that 'cool Christianity' is a sustainable path forward, they are severely mistaken. As a twenty-something, I can say with confidence that when it comes to church, we don't want cool as much as we want real. If we are interested in Christianity in any sort of serious way, it is not because it's easy or trendy or popular. It's because Jesus himself is appealing, and what he says rings true. It's because the world we inhabit is utterly phony,

ephemeral, narcissistic, image-obsessed and sex-drenched—and we want an alternative." What students need is to experience the church as the body of Christ, an authentic group of people following Jesus that meet to do what God wants us to do together... study scripture, pray, worship, share our lives, and reach out to the world around us.

### 3. Students will be bored with the Bible.

Too often church leaders and parents assume that all teens want and need is recreation, entertainment, and attractive social activities. The truth is that these pursuits do not sustain a group. Without substance, the youth group becomes meaningless. The Center for Youth and Family Ministry (2009) surveyed high school seniors and found that 56% wanted "more" or "much more" Bible study. Only 28 percent said they wanted more games. All good youth ministries are playful, enjoyable and relational, but ones that impact lives are driven not by games but by the content of passing the faith from one generation to the next. When we assume that students do not want to study God's word, does that reflect our own boredom? If the church gets excited about God's primary means of revealing himself, then youth should as well. The Bible is far from boring!

### 4. Teens cannot rise to challenges.

We live in a society where we have relegated the teen years to something of a carefree vacation, protected from consequences and responsibilities. Alex and Brett Harris challenge this notion persuasively in their book, *Do Hard Things*. When we don't expect teens to rise to challenges, the thought of teaching doctrine or theology is far from our minds. However, this lack of faith in teens has left us with an ignorant generation (or several) in regard to what the church actually believes. The National Study of Youth and Religion notes that "The vast majority of teens who call themselves Christians haven't been well educated in religious doctrine and therefore really don't know what they believe." (Smith, 2005) It is strange that we teach young people complex calculus and physics but don't think they can handle or will be interested in understanding the significance of the trinity or the atonement.

The watering down of Christianity is what has created generations of "almost Christians" according to Dean. It is this faith that is revealing itself in the sharp decline of the church. The average Episcopalian in America is rapidly approaching sixty years of age and there are no



St. Philip’s Church Tea Room, May 2 - 6

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church will hold their annual Tea Room May 2 - 6, from 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Tea Room is located in the Parish Hall, at the corner of Church and Cumberland Streets in Charleston.

Lowcountry luncheon favorites such as “Charleston Receipts” okra soup, classic chicken salad and shrimp salad will return, as will parishioner-made desserts including Hummingbird Cake, Grand

Marnier Cheesecake and Huguenot Torte.

They are once again excited to provide several dining choices for guests. Due to its popularity, guests may choose to take advantage of the Tea Room’s original 1952 outdoor format which allows them to either dine outside in the beautiful courtyard or on the Parish Hall’s veranda. The Parish Hall will also have plenty of indoor seating with live piano music to enjoy during lunch. In addition to in-house dining, patrons pressed for time will have the opportunity to place take out orders with delivery provided to downtown locations. In order to place a takeout order, please call (843) 722-7291.

Throughout the week, home-made items, baked goods and St. Philip’s souvenirs will be sold in the Tea Room gift shop, and the sanctuary and grounds of the church will be open for tours. Proceeds from the Tea Room benefit St. Philip’s foreign and home missions, St. Philip’s choirs, and junior and senior high youth ministries. For more information, log onto [www.stphilipschurchsc.org](http://www.stphilipschurchsc.org).



JOY HUNTER

Don’t Miss Important Diocesan News

Subscribe to the Bi-Weekly Enews. Visit [www.dioceseofsc.org](http://www.dioceseofsc.org) to sign up.

ECW Annual Meeting, May 21  
The Rev. Martha Horn, Keynote Speaker

The 127th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of South Carolina will be held May 21 at Saint James, James Island, with Sue Brunson, President, presiding.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. The registration form, directions, and additional information will be available at [www.st-james.org](http://www.st-james.org) and [www.dioceseofsc.org](http://www.dioceseofsc.org). Contact Joyce Wichmann at (843) 296-9129 with questions.

Nominees for the 2011-2012 ECW Diocesan Project are Fostering Hope (offering support/services for improving the lives of foster children in Horry, Marion, and Georgetown Counties); Water Missions International (providing clean

safe water); and York Place (caring for emotionally disturbed children).

Ann Dennis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, will present a slate of ECW Diocesan Board nominees who will be voted on at the meeting.

The keynote speaker, the Rev. Martha Horn, will speak on the ECW theme for 2010-1011: “*Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*” Isaiah 60:1.



Bishop Lawrence will deliver the homily at the Eucharist and install the newly elected officers.

All women in the diocese are invited to attend. Please bring your ECW or parish banners and join in this special day!

Jubilate Deo

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The Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence Bishop

Contributions for the next issue must reach the editor by **July 1**. Send articles to BOTH Editor and the Assistant Editor. Send photographs to the Editor only.

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Calendar Notes

Canterbury House Celebrates 40th Anniversary, April 28

The Episcopal-sponsored Canterbury House, the oldest senior HUD housing property in South Carolina, will be celebrating their 40th anniversary (April 1971-April 2011), Thursday, April 28 at 11 a.m. with a special ceremony. All are invited to join in the festivities.

Cathedral’s Maine Event April 30

The annual Maine Event lobster or steak dinner fundraiser will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul on Saturday, April 30, in the Bishop Allison Close at the Cathedral. Tickets are limited and will go on sale on April 8. No tickets will be available after April 25. Tickets, which include dinner and two beverages, are \$30.00 each and may be purchased by calling Betty Schaffer at (843) 762-0127. Visit [www.your-cathedral.org](http://www.your-cathedral.org) to learn more.

All Saints Garden Tour May 15

On Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., All Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island will present its annual Garden Tour at six fine private gardens. Tickets cost \$30 and include a luncheon. A boutique and bake sale will be held in the parish hall. All proceeds from the event are donated to local charities. Tickets are available at the church and at retail outlets located on Hilton Head Island and in Bluffton. The church is located at 3001 Meeting Street, off of Main Street. For more info, call (843) 681-8333.

Homecoming, Christ Church Florence, June 5

Christ Episcopal Church in Florence will celebrate their 151st anniversary on June 5, with a homecoming celebration. The Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence will lead the congregation in the Holy Eucharist service at 4 p.m. Church clergy, the Rev. Michael Burton and the Rev. Hiram Moseley will assist. St. John’s choir will provide the music. A reception will follow on the beautiful historic church grounds. Since their 150th anniversary, there are some new additions. The church has a new organ

and Steve Guyton, a well known artist in Florence, painted a 4’ by 8’ depiction of a portion of Michelangelo’s Creation on the ceiling of the new little chapel. Visit <http://www.christchurchflorence.org> to learn more.

20th Annual HIV / AIDS Retreat, June 10 - 12

Province IV of the Episcopal Church is sponsoring the 20th Annual HIV/ AIDS Retreat at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina, June 10 - 12. This retreat is a time to listen for one another’s hearts and experience laughter, tears and love. Come experience and contemplate with us the theme of The Gathering of Spirits. The retreat leader is the Rev. Lesley Brogan from Atlanta, Georgia, a Church of Christ Minister who has served in AIDS non-profits and as a hospice chaplain. Providing the music leadership this year is Fred Childers, a talented musician who has served as a church organist for 25 years. The cost is \$185.00, including meals and accommodations. Participants are responsible for their own transportation. Some scholarships are available. For more information, contact David Hoyle, 1242 Falling Moss Drive, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466, (843) 8340-2386 or [david.hoyle@gmail.com](mailto:david.hoyle@gmail.com).

Sewanee Church Music Conference, July 11-17

The 61st Sewanee Church Music Conference will be held July 11-17 at the University of the South and the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. The Sewanee Conference is the oldest and largest Episcopal music conference in the country and can accept only 150 registrants. To learn more visit <http://www.frogmusic.com/sewaneeconf>.

Almost Christian

Continued from Page Fifteen

significant signs of change in this trend. Young people have left or are leaving the church of do-good, feel-good spirituality and will not return unless we offer them something to believe in. C.S. Lewis once said, “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

To learn more about the following events visit the calendar at [www.dioceseofsc.org](http://www.dioceseofsc.org).

- Canterbury House Anniversary, April 28, (see left)
- Cursillo 163, April 28-30
- Cathedral’s Maine Event, April 30, (see left)
- York Place Founders, April 1, (see page 12 )
- St. Philip’s Tea Room, May 2-6, (see above)
- Single Parenting Workshop, May 14, (page 13)
- All Saints Garden Tour, May 15, (see left)
- ECW Annual Meeting, May 21, (see above)
- Grace Church Tea Room, May 30-June 10
- Golf Tournament, Epiphany, June 4
- Christ Church Homecoming, June 5, (see left)
- HIV/AIDS Retreat, June 10-12, (see left)
- Jubilate Deo Deadline, July 1
- Sewanee Music Conference, July 11-17, (see left)
- Marriage Conference, July 15-17, (see page two)
- Cursillo 164, July 21-25

Exceptional New Discipleship Resource

Peter Moore’s  
A Step Further



Respected theologian and author, JI Packer says of Peter Moore’s new discipleship course, “Clear, economical exposition with vivid illustrations...a Bible-based, Creed-centered catechetical course that will serve the church well.” Over 350 people have pioneered this course so far and found it energized their walk with Jesus, and expanded their horizon about what they believe. Grounded in historic Christian affirmations and solidly rooted in Scripture, these talks and companion books explain the journey in simple but forceful ways. Just what your church, group, fellowship, or adult class needs to go deeper. The course can be done in eight weeks as The Traveler’s Guide explains. But sixteen is preferable. It’s perfect as a follow-up to Alpha – excellent as a church discipleship tool. The course includes the main text, *A Step Further: The Journey in Discipleship*, two DVDs containing eight 30-35 minute talks by Peter Moore and a Traveler’s Guide to the course – readings, questions and more. To learn more visit <http://astepfurtherdiscipleship.com>.

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