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## COMMISSION ON MISSION AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Dr. Gordon Smith, Chair

The Commission on Mission and International Concerns seeks to integrate activities of the Diocese into the life and work of the local, national, and global communities and insure that the goals, achievements, and needs of our outreach programs are communicated to congregations of the Diocese. Below are descriptions of the major programs reporting to the Commission and summaries of their activities this year. This year we have successfully expanded our Matthew 25 grant program, conducted Racial Reconciliation programs in many parishes, launched the Voorhees Scholars Program in concert with the SC Bishops' Public Education Initiative, and established a working group on Environmental Stewardship and Justice that will begin offering workshops in parishes throughout the Diocese.

While all of the programs under the Commission are engaged in active outreach to people in need, we want to especially feature the example of the Fresh Start ministry at St. Luke's. Driven by a strong sense of call by God for the parish to become a beacon in the Waverly Community and following the mandate found in Micah 6:8 "...to show mercy, love justice and walk humbly with your God.," Fresh Start began in 2016 with the receipt of a modest grant from the Matthew 25 program as a place for the working poor, the disabled and homeless to find respite as well free laundry services, showers, food, clothing, HIV testing, blood pressure monitoring, and pastoral care. Not only does Fresh Start fulfill a Biblical mandate, it also is a perfect example of Presiding Bishop Curry's vision of creating the "Beloved Community." With minimal advertising, the numbers of clients have steadily increased. To date more than 1000 individuals have received services, with an average of more than 100 clients per day.

Not only has the number of clients steadily increased, so has the number of community agencies and individuals who have asked to partner with Fresh Start. Community partners include:

Eau Claire Health Services  
Palmetto Health Behavioral Health  
Midlands Technical College – Office of Human Services  
United Way of the Midlands  
Harvest Hope  
MACH – Midlands Area Consortium for Homelessness  
AIDS Healthcare Foundation  
Columbia Oral Health Clinic  
Little Caesar's Pizza – Lexington  
Bi-Lo – West Columbia

Sharing God's Love – Irmo  
Grace Medical - Columbia

St. Peter's Lutheran Church – Lexington  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church – Columbia  
St. Martin's-in-the-Fields – Columbia  
Trinity Cathedral – Columbia; Daughters of the Holy Cross  
St. Augustine of Canterbury – Aiken  
St. Michael and all Angels – Columbia  
All Saints Episcopal Church – Cayce  
St. John's Episcopal Church – Columbia

In addition, private individuals are assisting, not necessarily representing a church.

The Fresh Start Ministry has breathed new life into the St. Luke's congregation. It has created a "Fresh Start" for the O'Neal Center and a "Fresh Start" for our clients. Two clients have been confirmed and have joined St. Luke's parish and several others attend St. Luke's on Sundays with their families.

Presentations about the Fresh Start ministry have been made at St. Timothy's and St. John's, Shandon. We were especially proud that the Fresh Start ministry was featured in an article in the January 2018 issue of [Columbia Living Magazine](#).

## **Environmental Stewardship and Justice**

The Diocesan Committee on Environmental Stewardship and Justice seeks to encourage and support an awareness of our responsibility to think as stewards of creation and to assist congregations throughout the Diocese of Upper South Carolina to realize that mission through ministry, outreach, education, community relations, and environmental advocacy. A number of steps have been taken or are in process, to accomplish that goal. These efforts include a direct focus on individual churches, a focus on the Diocese as a whole, and a focus on the larger community in which our churches play a part.

In the focus on individual churches, the first phase has been to include questions relevant to environmental ministry in the asset mapping of churches that currently is in process. This assessment includes the first attempt to establish what environmental ministry projects are already in place in individual churches, and what other churches would be interested in adopting environmental programs. This assessment also gauges enthusiasm among churches for launching environmental ministry.

To support that effort, the Committee has created a web page on the Diocesan website that gives an exhaustive list of resources available for environmental ministry, including suggestions for specific programs and a list of how-to resources. The web page also includes resources for curricula on environmental issues, as well as available video and written resources. The web page is dynamic and can be expanded as needed.

In our focus on the Diocese as a whole, the Committee is participating in Leadership Day for the November Diocesan Convention. The keynote speaker is an expert in environmental issues, particularly climate change, and the Committee is planning and developing the discussion sessions that follow the speaker's address. Working with Diocesan staff, the Committee is engaged in selecting and procuring environmental specialists to make presentations on five focus areas, including energy, climate change, food systems, water quality, and land conservation. Following the presentations, discussion sessions will be held to identify what specific environmental stewardship ministry initiatives can be, or already have been, adopted by churches in the Diocese. The goal of Leadership Day is to make environmental stewardship and justice a reality in the life of every church in the Diocese. The Committee will assist in that process and launch a follow up program afterwards.

In connection with these efforts, the Committee is developing a series of theological reflections as a focus for environmental stewardship and justice, to be used as churches present environmental ministry. In addition, plans are being discussed to develop curricula for Christian formation classes that emphasize environmental stewardship.

To expand our focus to the larger community, the Committee is planning to initiate an advocacy education program to identify environmental issues at stake that affect particular Convocations, and to outline ways of engaging with the community on those issues. This project is expected to encourage churches to take leadership positions on issues that directly affect the communities that they serve, and have outcomes that are positive for parishioners, the community, and the environment. To supplement that project, the Committee plans to increase our presence on social media, and to launch a program to contact every church in the Diocese regarding environmental stewardship ministry and advocacy opportunities. We are also developing contacts with similar programs in other Dioceses to share ideas and resources.

The past months have been a formational stage in the overall impact of the Committee within the Diocese. A number of important projects have been accomplished, and others are in process. The hope of the Committee is that its efforts and goals will have lasting impact on all the churches in the Diocese, and all the parishioners served by those churches. In addition, the Committee looks for inspiration to the 18 resolutions on care of creation passed by the 2018 General Convention. So far, Committee efforts have incurred small costs directly, however, as the Committee extends its efforts, adequate funding becomes a necessity. This is a ministry designed

to reach every church in the Diocese, as well as community organizations and other churches, with the intention to make care of creation an integral part of life.

*Submitted by Dr. Katherine Robinson, Chair*

## **Race Relations - Race and Reconciliation**

St. Luke's Columbia held a joint MLK Service at Trinity Cathedral featuring the Voorhees College Chapel Choir.

Absalom Jones Feast Day: Several parishioners from EDUSC attended the Absalom Jones Feast Day celebration at Voorhees College. Bishop W. Andrew Waldo and The Rev'd Deacon Dianna Deaderick served at the celebration mass.

Race and Reconciliation Committee members have conducted workshops throughout the diocese during the past year. Committee members are available to conduct similar workshops for interested congregations.

The Committee held its annual Retreat held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields to welcome new members.

MORE Justice Ministry participating Midlands congregations: St. Luke's, Trinity Cathedral, St. Michael and All Angel's

*Submitted by the Reverend Deacon Dianna Deaderick*

## **HIV/AIDS**

We received funding from Prov. IV to continue our collaboration with the Columbia Oral Health Clinic to provide free dental care for those living with HIV/AIDS. Funds are managed through the Fresh Start Ministry at St. Luke's Columbia.

The annual HIV testing event was held at St. Luke's on June 21 (in cooperation with Eau Claire Medical Center and Grace Medical in Columbia). Those testing HIV+ were placed into care.

EDUSC HIV/AIDS Committee met with Congressman Joe Wilson to discuss HIV/AIDS and access to care in rural areas of South Carolina.

Plans are underway for an event at the Statehouse on World AIDS Day on Saturday, December 1.

Two grants from AIDS Healthcare Foundation were awarded to the Dare to Care HIV/AIDS Committee at St. Luke's Columbia and the Fresh Start Ministry; one for HIV testing supplies and one for condoms.

The sixth annual HIV/AIDS awareness day and testing event was held at Voorhees College with the Reverend Deacon Dianna Deaderick speaking at the chapel service. Testing was provided by AIDS Healthcare Foundation's mobile testing van and Hope Health, Orangeburg.

The monthly First Thursday Advocacy Days continue to be sponsored by the Dare to Care HIV/AIDS Committee at St. Luke's Columbia and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Lunch is provided, followed by a program concerning issues in HIV/AIDS and other health concerns.

The Reverend Deacon Dianna Deaderick was recognized by the SC Black Pride organization and presented with its annual Flamethrower award for her dedication to HIV/AIDS work in South Carolina.

*Submitted by the Reverend Deacon Dianna Deaderick*

## **Episcopal Relief and Development**

For over 75 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been the Episcopal Church's primary outreach mission around the world. Each year the organization facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives for more than 3 million people struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease. Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 25, Episcopal Relief & Development leverages the expertise and resources of Anglican and other partners to deliver measurable and sustainable change in three signature program areas: Women, Children and Climate.

During 2018, support for the critical mission of Episcopal Relief & Development was coordinated by Deacon Timothy Ervolina, along with Diocesan communication staff, local congregations and partners in the faith and nonprofit sectors.

Using the Diocesan newsletter and presentations to local congregations, regular opportunities are being provided to Episcopalians in Upper South Carolina to respond to the world mission work of ERD in providing support and emergency assistance following the devastation of disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, and earthquakes at home and abroad.

Our sisters and brothers along the coast in South Carolina and North Carolina were battered by Hurricane Florence in September and dozens of lives were lost in the immediate aftermath. Record-breaking rainfall, dangerous flooding and extensive damage to tens of thousands of homes and farms will mean that long term recovery will be needed for years—especially in communities that have not fully recovered from Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster team worked closely with our neighbor Dioceses and the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry to provide urgent assistance to migrant and seasonal farmworkers including water, food, cleaning supplies, hygiene kits, clothing and transportation

to safe locations and by providing critical support such as food, water, gas cards, cleaning supplies as well as day care programs.

At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time to encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development. We encourage every parish in the dioceses to celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on the first Sunday in Lent, or another convenient Sunday during the Lenten season. Contact the Diocesan office to request speakers or promotional materials to increase awareness and support for ERD.

During the past year, Deacon Ervolina represented the Diocese as a member of South Carolina Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (SCVOAD) which is responsible for coordinating the response of communities of faith to disasters throughout the state.

Our Diocese has a fully equipped Diocesan Disaster Response Trailer stocked with tools and supplies that can be used following a regional or national disaster. Volunteers can be deployed quickly and efficiently and directed, in coordination with VOAD groups in the affected areas. Currently, the trailer is stored at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Columbia.

For 2019, the Statement of Mission Request includes a new effort to encourage Episcopal congregations to prepare for disasters with 15 \$100 mini-grants.

- Who qualifies?
  - Congregations who utilize Episcopal Relief & Development's *Comprehensive Preparedness Planning Guide for Congregations and Parishes* to establish a Parish Disaster Leadership Team that will create a plan for responding to a local disaster including completion of the Episcopal Asset Map.
- How do they receive their funds?
  - Submit a copy of the parish plan to Episcopal Relief & Development Committee (electronic preferred) along with a request by the Senior Warden for the grant.
- What may the funds be spent on?
  - Purchase of preparedness supplies (like First Aid Kits) or to offset the costs of producing the plan

Additionally, travel to annual Episcopal Relief and Development Network Meeting and Provincial Disaster Preparedness and Response Training: \$1000.

*Submitted by the Reverend Deacon Tim Ervolina*

## **Matthew 25 Grants**

The purpose of a Matthew 25 grant is to encourage convocations and congregations to engage and expand ministries of compassion and justice that address the needs of the poor and at-risk in their own communities and throughout the world. All proposals must exhibit clear plans to sustain their ministries beyond the grant year.

### **2018 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients:**

#### **Grace Episcopal Church, Anderson – Community Garden**

Grace Church will expand the newly planted garden assist our neighbors living in a food desert with access to healthy food and to provide resources on preparing meals in an affordable manner and to include raised beds for the neighbors who are wheelchair bound.

#### **St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Greenville – Textile Village Service Corps**

The Textile Village Service Corps aims to combine a need for spiritual growth in the young adults in our community and a need for more active people to help in the work of the low-income neighbors.

#### **St. Francis Episcopal Church, Greenville--Hispanic Community Assistance Speakers**

The ministry of St. Francis consists of a holistic approach to the Latino community embracing their spiritual needs as well as access to help to address the special needs and situations that they face. St. Francis Church will have a lawyer give classes on preparing Power of Attorney packets in the event of deportation, hold a workshop on Immigration Law, classes in Child Development, and provide school supplies to children who do not have Medicaid so are not eligible for the bags provided by United Way.

#### **St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Columbia—Fresh Start**

Fresh Start is a program designed to provide free laundry service, showers, clothing, and a food pantry. Fresh Start needs to expand its services. The expansion service would include the purchase of bus tickets for the clients most of whom have no transportation other than public transport.

#### **St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Spartanburg-- Ruby Mae’s Attic**

Ruby Mae’s Attic seeks empower victims of domestic abuse to become independent, productive members of our community. We provide personal care items and occasional gift packages for children to help alleviate the stress and cost associated with the holidays, birthdays, etc. Ruby Mae’s Closet is using Thistle Farms in Nashville, Tennessee as a model as we expand our ministry.

### **Trinity Cathedral, Columbia -Bishop's Art Institute**

Trinity Cathedral in collaboration with St. Lawrence Place and the Bishops' Public Education Initiative launched a pilot program of Suzuki recorder classes for children who live at St. Lawrence Place. The goal is to continue this class in the fall and to expand to other offerings. The first expansion will include plucked strings and piano. A major goal of this project is to have students across economic divides study music together.

### **Reports from 2017 Recipients of Matthew 25 Grants:**

#### **The Episcopal Church of the Ridge, North Augusta, SC-Kangaroo Kids Backpack Ministry**

The grant enabled the Daughters of the King of The Episcopal Church of the Ridge along with Mount Calvary Lutheran Church to provide 49 children with six meals a week during the school year.

**St. Francis Church, Greenville, SC-Outreach services to the Latino Community (See above).**

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Columbia, SC- Fresh Start (See above).**

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Spartanburg, SC- Ruby Mae's Attic (See above).**

#### **The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, Rock Hill-Little Street Pantry**

The Little Street Pantry has met a great need in the community and continues to do so. People have been able to have access to food when they had nothing else. Children and youth from the parish have learned a great deal from filling the pantry on a regular basis and have seen what a difference it makes understanding the needs of the community.

The following appeared in EDUSC News:

In June of 2017, The Church of Our Saviour, Rock Hill, received a Matthew 25 grant to put up a Little Street Pantry in front of our church. This pantry helps to fill the needs of people in the community. Several times a day the pantry is filled and emptied of snacks, water bottles, juice, toiletries, seasonal items (hats, gloves, socks, rain ponchos), and really anything that people want to donate. This pantry is located on the sidewalk in front of our parish hall. It is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. There are no forms to fill out to receive items from the pantry, no one judges or counts the number of items that people take. Anyone can donate items at anytime, no amount is too small. We have a collection box for donations in our parish hall that church members can place items in to be put in the pantry later. The Rock Hill community has been wonderful in helping us keep our pantry stocked. Most of our pantry visitors are homeless and many have stopped to tell us thank you and how much they appreciate this ministry. It has been a great reminder to us all that we are all "neighbors helping neighbors". So please come and "take what you need, leave what you can, and come back often!"

Members of the committee are: Libba Rhoad, St. Alban's, Lexington, Stewart Smith, St. Luke's Columbia, Michelle Ingram-Stewart, St. Luke's, Columbia, and The Rev. Deacon Mary Jeffers

*Submitted by Rev. Deacon Mary Jeffers*

## **South Carolina Bishops' Public Education Initiative (BPEI)**

This Initiative works to draw people from the denominations it represents into active support of high-quality public education for all children in South Carolina. The Initiative has expanded to include the A.M.E, A.M.E. Zion and C.M.E. churches and continues to build on its work of connecting people to opportunities for this service.

**All Our Children**, a nation network of church-school partnerships, hosted a Symposium at Trinity Cathedral 16-18 January 2018. On behalf of the BPEI, a group of education advocates from around the state helped to plan and staff this event. Ideas were exchanged, support given and received.

The Bishops hosted two days of Advocacy Training and Action in support of the Initiative's legislative goals. People came to Columbia from around the State for this training. Calls were made on Legislators and several Caucuses. This exercise was well received and will be repeated in 2019

The Bishops hosted their annual breakfast for members of the South Carolina State Legislature in the spring of 2018. Conversations and actions of mutual support continue with Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education. These connections represent some of the ways the Initiative is known for its commitment to education and the teaching profession.

In collaboration with Trinity Cathedral and St. Lawrence Place, the Initiative continued a program to bring high level arts education to underserved children. The beginning classes were Suzuki recorder lessons taught by Mary Waldo. With the help of a Matthew 25 Grant, this program is expanding to include voice and piano lessons. Students from Logan Elementary School will be the initial target.

**The Voorhees Scholars Program:** Fourteen rising ninth graders at Denmark-Olar High School spent a week in residence at Voorhees College as the first class of Voorhees Scholars. They will continue to meet one Saturday each month throughout the school year to participate in team-building and academic enrichment activities. The program is designed to tap academically gifted students who may not have college in their sites to set higher education as a goal. The students are introduced to a number of skills and experiences which will help them reach this goal. The Program received a grant from Province IV which made launching it possible. The Voorhees Scholars program was awarded a UTO grant at General Convention for 2019. SOM funds and other grants will allow the program to continue and expand.

**Camp AIR** (Adventures In Reading) expanded in two ways this summer. The residential model continued at Camp Gravatt but moved from the Conference side to Camp side. This incorporation

was seamless and well received all around. Plans are being made for extending the reach of Camp AIR at Gravatt in 2019.

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields offered a day camp version of Camp AIR last summer. Plans are in the works to expand next summer. Replication of this model in other locations and collaboration with congregations in the BPEI are two ways this will happen. SOM funds designated for Camp AIR will make further expansion feasible.

*Submitted by the Reverend Susan Heath*

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

Formerly known as Millennium Development Goals, these are funds mandated by resolutions of the 83<sup>rd</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Conventions. Diocesan SDG funds for 2018 were disbursed to support our long-standing ministries in the Central Plateau of Haiti and support the work of our Diocesan missionaries, Cameron and Roberto Vivanco, helping families in extreme poverty in Quito, Ecuador.

### **Ecuador Programs**

EDUSC missionaries in Ecuador, Cameron and Roberto Vivanco, continue to provide a variety of programs working with the most vulnerable people in Quito and two surrounding remote rural areas. In the past year they transplanted the first ever Cursillo from a team sent by EDUSC to the Episcopal Church in Ecuador Denter, in addition to overseeing the eighth Diocesan Happening event. It was another busy year for organizing and hosting short-term vision/mission groups including groups from St. Mary's (Richmond, VA), Chapel of the Cross (Chapel Hill, NC), Sewanee (Sewanee, TN), St. Peter's (Fernandina Beach, FL), St. John's Methodist (Rock Hill), St. John's Tallahassee, FL, a joint team from Holy Cross (Simpsonville), St. John's (Columbia), Grace (Anderson), and St. James (Greenville), as well as the McMillan Family of Spartanburg.

The Vivancos also direct Education=Hope in Ecuador to support the education of 340 students in Ecuador that are in desperate and difficult situations. EDUSC funding supports students at three Episcopal churches (Buen Pastor, Cristo Liberador, and Emaus) to help with tuition, supplies, transportation, or uniforms. This academic year we are supporting 56 students.

They are also involved in various music ministries and leadership positions in the organizations that provide platforms for ministry in Ecuador (the English Fellowship Church and Youth World), as well as engaged with many local parishes in EDUSC.

Here is an example of the ways in which EDUSC is assisting:

**The Laguatasig Family at the Episcopal Church Buen Pastor:** The mother of three children disappeared three years ago; it is assumed that the children's father was the culprit and in fact killed her. He is since been jailed for drug-trafficking charges. The children live with their grandmother. The grandmother is also caring for a daughter with a disability and the grandmother is also fighting cancer. A gift from EDUSC through Education = Hope is the only way that the grandmother can provide for the education of the children, since they can't afford uniforms or meals. They live in free government housing in the city, however, they do not have power, as they cannot afford to pay the bill. They scavenge for discarded food at the local curb market. We celebrate that in the midst of it all the grandmother has not lost hope or faith in God.

*Submitted by Cameron Vivanco*

### **World Missions Committee**

Your World Missions Committee continues to be very active in coordinating our diocesan ongoing focus on our work in Haiti, which is now close to four decades of sustained productive partnership with our brothers and sisters in and around Cange. Our partnership has continued to focus on the 3 main areas with which are work began: Access to safe water, education, and basic medical care. Our report will summarize briefly our projects in each area.

- 1) Safe water: As many of you remember, our work and Haiti began in the early 80s with the funding of a very simple public water system for the unincorporated village of Cange. As the village grew and our original system aged, we committed in 2008 to a substantial expansion and upgrade of this system which now provides the only chlorinated municipal water in the entire country. This also marked the creation of CEDC (Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries) and the extremely valuable partnership with the College of Engineering at Clemson University in the maintenance of the system in Cange as well as provision of safe water in several surrounding villages. As a result of these efforts, despite the widespread and deadly cholera outbreak in the Artebonite Valley, the village of Cange had **zero** locally contracted cases and therefore no mortality among villagers from our area. Provision of safe water continues to be our most important contribution in this mission and will continue to be a primary focus for our committee going forward.
- 2) Education: Again in the early 80s our diocese funded the first and only primary school in Cange, Ecole Bon Sauveur (EBS). The school began with K-5 and has grown over the 40 years to offer a Baccalaureate degree with a very high percentage pass rate on the national exams. When Partners in Health rather abruptly withdrew their funding of the school after the earthquake in 2010, EDUSC again stepped up to support education with a generous campaign to keep the school open. EBS again is under local operation. Our support is primarily in the form of scholarships to the most needy students; not only to students at EBS but also to other educational programs in the area. This funding is

administered through Zanmi Lasante (the Haitian arm of Partners in Health). Assisting in this support and development of a literate population has of course been a second major accomplishment for our diocese. Graduates of EBS have gone to earn university degrees in nursing, medicine, diplomacy, engineering, and divinity. Education therefore will continue to be a second major focus.

- 3) Medicine: Again in the early 80s our diocese began to send small medical teams to Cange to provide very basic medical care to the rural villagers who at that time had no other access. In the early years, we mentored Dr. Paul Farmer before his graduation from medical school and the creation of Partners in Health. We partnered with him in the 90s to build a sustainable clinic and hospital in the village of Cange, which for years was arguably the best in the Central Plateau. Our focus now in medicine is directed toward the diagnosis and treatment of epidemic hypertension in the rural villages around Cange. Access to these villages is difficult to say the least and we have worked with the community health workers in each village to provide blood pressure monitoring and medication refills to hypertensive citizens. Our Clemson interns with the support of Boeing are now looking into drawn technology to deliver some of these medications. The long-term health benefits of treating hypertension are well documented, helping to prevent strokes, renal failure, and heart failure each of which is particularly deadly in remote rural villages. The difficulty patients have in adhering to these daily medical regimens is also well documented not only in rural Haiti, but in South Carolina, as well!
- 4) Two final areas of support continue to be the agriculture program and vocational school started by Gillaine and Charles Warne and now spun off into independent programs. And finally, the beloved Artisans Center founded and named in honor of our own Jackie Williams.

In summary, our diocesan mission work in Haiti over these past 40 years has provided substantial, tangible benefit both to our Haitian brothers and sisters and to our Diocese. Thanks be to God for the wonderful opportunities we've been given to serve in longitudinal partnership with our Haitian friends.

*Submitted by Harry Morse M.D., co-chair*

## COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Miss Molly Dougall, Chair

### **Canterbury Task Force Report to the 96<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocesan of Upper South Carolina**

**Canterbury Ministry** is a Christian community in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition that makes disciples, transforms lives, and supports young adults through fellowship, worship, and service.

The Canterbury Ministry Task Force established by the 94th Convention of EDUSC spent several months assessing current Canterbury Ministries around the diocese, as well as working with Peer Ministers and active members of the ministries to discern future needs. Our primary finding is unsurprising: the overarching needs for current and future Canterbury Ministry are continuity of sacramental and pastoral presence and a dedicated space. Each Canterbury Community needs a pastoral and sacramental minister dedicated for a specific amount of time sufficient to provide continuity of presence, as well as a dedicated space that is a sanctuary, a gathering place, and a home away from home for continuity of place.

The means for providing for those needs are most likely to involve commitments of time, money, space, and ordained personnel. In most cases, this allocation of resources will require a partnership between existing worship communities and the diocese, which is established by entering into a covenant relationship. The Task Force feels that covenant partnerships emulate the Baptismal pattern for community and provide for regular renewal of relationship through liturgical action.

Covenant relationships require careful discernment. In developing guidelines for such a covenant partnership, the Canterbury Task Force identified several key questions of discernment regarding the need, purpose, and resources for creating or sustaining a Canterbury Community. The Canterbury Task Force is developing best practices for discerning and establishing covenant partnerships to provide continuity of presence and place.

The Canterbury Task Force is also working toward making the transition from task force to committee in recognition that our work is moving into long-term visioning and oversight of Canterbury Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

### **Canterbury Communities**

#### ***Winthrop Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry (WELCM)***

Winthrop Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry (WELCM) hosts Tuesday night Gatherings for supper and Bible study, monthly worship and Eucharist services, and fellowship outings. WELCM students participate in at least one service project per semester and worship together weekly with our supporting Lutheran and Episcopal congregations.

Due to the recommitment of funding from the Diocese we were able to hire a dedicated staff member in 2018, as well as a Peer Minister. WELCM is pleased to have selected Olga-Maria Cruz (M.Div., PhD) as Campus Minister. Her position is currently  $\frac{3}{4}$  time (28 hours per week), and we hope next year to have sufficient budgetary support to make it a full-time position. Diocesan funding also supported Dr. Cruz's expenses for the interview process, relocation, and the set-up of an office space in the WELCM house (520 Aiken Avenue) where Dr. Cruz can organize her ministry and connect with students, building relationships that build their faith.

Taylor Gibby, a sociology senior who has been active in WELCM throughout her university career, is excited to serve WELCM as Peer Minister, starting Fall 2018. Our campus ministry was also able to participate in Vocare in the Spring of 2018, which was a very meaningful and enriching experience, and helped inspire Taylor to step into a more mature role of Christian service at WELCM.

*Submitted by Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz, Campus Minister*

### ***Canterbury of Furman***

Canterbury of Furman is more to our students than just another club. It's an intimate space to gather and discuss personal faith and relate to one another in a place where all are welcome. Each week, we meet on Wednesday nights to debrief from the chaos of the week, eat dinner, think about ways to cultivate our faiths, and often do compline or Eucharist as well. Later on in the week, on Friday afternoons, we have a Bible Study, in which we are currently reading through the basics of Jesus's story and conversations with the people. We also worship together on Sunday mornings at St. James. In addition to our basic programming, we are working towards offering various other opportunities for students to get involved with Canterbury, including collaborating with other campus religious groups for a rock climbing trip, potentially bringing a religious motivational speaker onto campus, and thinking about having a retreat. Our sweatshirts are coming in handy as the cold weather begins to come in, and the Student Involvement Fair at the beginning of the year allowed us to hand out some of our buttons and stickers to represent Canterbury on campus. Although our number of regular participants is small, the tight knit group provides for a much more intimate community who chooses to be very invested in Canterbury, which is very cool to see, and we're excited to see what the year has to hold.

*Submitted by Anne Kirby*

### ***Canterbury of Spartanburg***

"Canterbury of Spartanburg has just begun with a small gathering of students from Wofford and Converse, who are building relationships with one another as well as Christ. Many of our members have been involved with the Episcopal Church and Diocesan. We have had a great start to the year with our Barbeque Cookout on Wofford's Campus in which we discussed what our goal was and what we would be interested in doing on and off campus. We have begun to meet bi-weekly in Wofford's Mickel Chapel in Ole Main around lunchtime on Thursdays conducting noonday prayer and having lunch afterwards to get to know one another better. We also have

begun to go carpool to services at Church of the Advent on Sunday with informal brunch after! It has already been a bright beginning for this ministry and as the school year ramps up we hope to give back to our local community, bring up ourselves as leaders, and work in a way that Christ would!"

*Submitted by John Cantey*

### ***Presbyterian College Canterbury***

Presbyterian College Canterbury has used our budget to advertise our presence as a student organization as well as strengthen fellowship within our group and in the local community. We out on an Ash Wednesday service on campus to have a more traditional service for the students. We invited other Canterbury's to join our service as well. Another event that we do is with All Saints, Clinton. We have an Episcopal tailgate with them before every home football game. Through the funds we get, we use the money for t-shirts, koozies, posters, and food for weekly meetings. We have done some service throughout the school year. For example, we partnered with the students who are involved with the Laurens County Humane Society with a fundraiser for the Humane Society. We also periodically through the year, volunteer at the Humane Society in Laurens. Some students have come to church and invited their roommates and friends. The students have been looking forward to specific events that happen yearly at All Saints, Clinton and can not wait for them to happen again. Like PC Sunday at All Saints, Clinton.

*Submitted by Anna Shuford*

### ***Canterbury of Clemson***

Canterbury of Clemson is a welcoming fellowship of faith building, exploring, and celebrating with food and music. We meet every Wednesday at 6 pm for a meal prepared by generous parishioners and either a program or Eucharist. We continue to be involved with breakfast team at Holy Trinity, and we appreciate all of their support. We're off to a busy start – full of fellowship and lots of new faces! In September, several of our members participated in the first *CU Pilgrimage of Truth-Telling and Remembrance*, a historic walk around Clemson University focused on history and reconciliation. This October, we went on a retreat to North Carolina where we had time to rejuvenate our prayer lives and to rekindle our relationships with God amidst the stresses of college life and midterms. We look forward to more opportunities to grow as a community in the upcoming semester.

*Submitted by Alena Senf and Aynsley Hartney*

### ***Canterbury of Columbia***

Canterbury of Columbia is an intentional group of young adults, working together to deepen our walk with Christ in community. This year, we have had a fairly consistent turnout of around 8-10 young people, gathering at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. There, we alternate between nights of strict fellowship and casual conversation, usually finished off with An Order for Compline;

discussion led by Fr. Dorian Del Priore or a peer leader; and Eucharist. Many of our members are lifelong Episcopalians who met through events in South Carolina, but we also have several members who have come because of roommates and friends and who are finding that there is always a place for them at our table. Canterbury has gotten several of our members plugged in to the greater community at Trinity Cathedral, while others are members at different churches in the area. Looking ahead, we are working on opportunities for different trips we may take as a group: mission, pilgrimage, and retreat. Our budget will help lower the cost of those trips, making them more accessible to the group. We have also used our budget for t-shirts and stickers, which help strengthen our sense of community, as well as for Thursday night dinners, which allow for valuable time in fellowship with one another.

*Submitted by Maggie Mallett*

### **Education for Ministry – EfM**

Education for Ministry or EfM was developed in 1975 by the Sewanee School of Theology as a program for theological education at a distance, combining textual studies with theological reflection. EfM has grown over the last 40+ years and is now established as the premier program for developing an informed and knowledgeable laity used throughout the Anglican communion. Although planned as a four-year program, participants just commit to one year at a time. Each group has a mentor(s) and 6 – 12 members and meets weekly in a seminar setting for 36 weeks. The Diocese of Upper South Carolina has nineteen (19) active and trained mentors in eleven (11) groups located throughout the diocese and over 84 current participants. This is down slightly from the 2017 numbers due to the consolidation of two midlands groups and the loss of one upstate group.

Clergy support has been crucial to the growth of the EfM ministry and we really appreciate the clergy who have helped us “get out the word” about EfM. In spring 2018, Sewanee sponsored information sessions for EfM alumnae in both the upstate and the midlands to spread the word about new directions EfM is taking with the Beecken Center support.

Sewanee requires that mentors receive authorized training at least every 18 months and one of the major goals of the EDUSC program has been to implement a regular training program for our mentors. We had our fifth diocesan-wide training August 23 – 26 and offered courses in both Foundations and Formation (Non-Violent Communication). The program was held at Kanuga and, with 24 mentors registered for the training (including some from out of state), it broke all previous attendance records and Sewanee actually had to send in a third trainer to accommodate the crowd. This training allows mentors from across the diocese to get to know each other and share their real life challenges and spiritual journeys as they refine leadership skills. One insight from the sessions was “Listening is our modern-day foot washing,”

*Submitted by Terri Bailey*

## **The Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

The Episcopal Church Women held its 97th Annual Convention at Church of the Redeemer, Greenville, in September of 2018. This year's Convention was held jointly with the Annual Fall Assembly of the Daughters of the King. Both groups had separate business meetings, but programming and fellowship was shared. Mark Tidsworth of Pinnacle Leadership provided the programming, focusing on the SHIFT movement. Mark challenged attendees to think of how women's ministries can continue to be relevant for those seeking involvement in a post-modern world. The 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was held in February of 2018 but was not well attended. This precipitated the decision to host a joint day with Daughters of the King, in order to minimize obligations for members and to maximize attendance for both groups.

In 2018, the ECW supported the following annual mission projects:

- the World Mission Project, Kimia Center for Neglected Tropical Disease Outreach through American Leprosy Missions;
- the National Mission Project, The National Books Fund of the Church Periodical Club; and
- the Diocesan Mission Project, The Bena Dial Scholarship Fund.

The Diocese of Upper South Carolina collected \$16,754.18 for the United Thank Offering in spring of 2018; it has not yet had its fall ingathering. Vorhees College received \$7,700 from the national granting fund to support the Vorhees Scholars Program.

The ECW also continued its support for the seminarians of our diocese, sending each of them monies to help with the purchase of their books. The ECW awarded three scholarships of \$2,000 from the Bena Dial Scholarship Fund for higher education: to Jack Fleischer of St. John's, Columbia, to Jamie Holodak of St. Bartholomew's, North Augusta, and to Lamar Buchanan of St. Peter's, Greenville. Because of the untimely death of Jack Fleischer, these monies were redirected to the scholarship fund set up in his name at St. John's.

*Submitted by Whitney Evans*

## **The Order of the Daughters of the King**

Members of the Order of the Daughters of the King are women and girls who are at least seven years old who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

## **Daughters of the King in Upper South Carolina**

There are 39 chapters in the diocese; 38 are Episcopalian and one is Lutheran. Several Daughters-At-Large are Anglican or Roman Catholic. Total membership is 568 women. Most chapters meet once a month for communal prayers, study and service. The Diocesan Assembly meets twice a year, a retreat in the spring and a meeting in the fall. All interested women are welcome to attend assembly retreats and meetings to learn more about the order. Three or more women in a parish, mission or diocesan institution may form a chapter.

## **Vision Statement of the Order**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world.

## **Order vs. Organization**

A Christian order is a community of men or women living under a religious rule. Because Daughters of the King accept a Rule of Life, we define ourselves as an order, not an organization. Our community is found primarily in our local chapters, but it extends around the world. We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of the Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

## **Women of All Ages**

Membership in the Order is open to women at every stage of life. The diversity of different ages strengthens and enriches our adult, or senior, Daughters of the King chapters. Younger women benefit from the discipleship of experienced spiritual mentors, and older women are invigorated by the fresh faith and energy of youth. Many senior chapters help spread the Kingdom to the next generation by sponsoring and supporting a Junior Daughters of the King chapter at their churches.

## **Junior Daughters of the King**

Junior Daughters are young women and girls from 7 to 21 years of age, who make a promise to pray daily and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Membership is extended to all baptized girls, regardless of denomination. Junior Daughters meet in chapters of three or more girls, under the guidance of a senior Daughter who serves as Directress. Upon admission, Junior Daughters receive a silver Greek fleury cross with the initials FHS, For His Sake, as a symbol of their promise of daily prayer and service. One chapter in our diocese is a Junior Chapter.

## **For More Information**

The National Daughters of the King web site [doknational.org](http://doknational.org)

The Daughters of the King web site is [www.dokusc.net](http://www.dokusc.net)

*Submitted by Pat Batten*

## **Youth Ministry**

### ***Happening***

Happening is a national retreat that is interpreted in unique and new ways throughout many dioceses and even around the world. The mission of Happening is to help youth grow in their faith while meeting new people and creating a family. The candidates, or “Happeners”, enter into a community of love and support. Those on Happening staff are not just there to support the candidates during the weekend but to continue to support their faith. I have seen God present in every aspect of Happening. I see Him in the staff members and the excitement they have when giving the candidates a new surprise. I see Him in the candidates’ faces as they finally stop resisting swaying along to the songs and I see their smiles radiate in the sun. I’m never disappointed with my time at Happening. My expectations are always exceeded. I’ve been on staff for two Happenings and I have the honor of serving as the Lay Rector for Happening #80 this November. I am so excited to be able to lead the staff in creating a memorable and enlightening experience. I am ready to see the inspiring group of God’s children who will be attending and to see them recognize the overwhelming and indescribable amount of love and support that is with them. Happening has shaped my faith in a big way. Not just from the three days I’m worshiping under the pines at Camp Gravatt, but from the friendships and bonds I’ve created. Happening is an experience where we leave all of our stresses and troubles behind and let God take our hand and lead us on a renewing journey.

*Submitted by Alex Cheek*

### ***DYLC***

The Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee is a youth-led committee made of about 25 youth and adults from across the diocese. This committee’s main purpose is to design and lead retreats for middle and high school youth that intend to execute our mission: to make, equip, and send mature disciples of Christ. Youth members of DYLC act as retreat coordinators, select and organize retreat staff, give talks, facilitate small groups, and manage budgets, among other tasks. Through this, we develop leadership skills and grow in Christ and community, learning to speak our faith and become the hands and feet of Christ. Since last November, middle and high school youth have had six retreats: Happening #78 and #79, SMASH, New Beginnings, the 5th Grade Bridge Retreat, and our very first Converge for high school. High schoolers that attended SMASH explored how we are all “lost and found” in Christ, and the ways in which we can take up our crosses as Christians. At New Beginnings, middle schoolers experienced God’s love and grew in their love of themselves, others, and Christ. At the Bridge retreat, 5th graders were introduced to diocesan youth ministry, and discovered how to walk as “children of the light” through middle school. During Converge, our newest event, Christ Church hosted over 40 high schoolers for a low-barrier, 18-hour retreat that was full of fellowship and explored topics such as our identity in Christ. We are looking forward to Happening #80 and our middle school Converge later this

year, and SMASH, Happening #81, the 5th Grade Bridge Retreat, and Be Unconventional, our spring retreat for middle schoolers, coming up in early 2019. We are happy to welcome new members to DYLC each year, and invite the viewpoints and ideas each member brings to our community.

*Submitted by Mary Camilla Kennedy*

## **Commission on Ministry**

A. Gibert Kennedy, Chair

This year the Commission on Ministry accomplished the following:

- Worked with four inquirers seeking ordination.
- Supported three seminarians.
- Completed the ordination of one transitional deacon.
- Completed the ordination of one priest.
- Decided to partner with the Episcopal Church in South Carolina with their deaconate formation program.

The Commission on Ministry continued using portfolio process to evaluate seminarian progress to good effect.

Next year we will continue to support those discerning and working towards ordination. We will complete our recommendations for vocational deaconate formation.

*Submitted by A. Gibert Kennedy*

### **Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat**

#### ***Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John***

**January 29-31, 2018 at Gravatt Conference Center**

The clergy of the diocese were invited to live more fully into the focus of our diocesan strategic vision: *Making, Equipping, and Sending Mature Disciples of Christ* during the Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat, January 29- 31, 2018 at the Gravatt Conference Center. The focus of our gathering was *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*. The retreat followed materials produced by the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary. Clergy from around the diocese offered various reflections on different passages of scripture. The reflections were then followed by different offerings of guided spiritual practice. Throughout the retreat, clergy were

also offered the opportunity for prayer, worship and reflection as we continue to “journey into deeper intimacy with God by praying with the words of John the Evangelist.”

*Submitted by The Rev. Canon Jimmy Hartley*

**Fall Conference for Clergy & Spouses  
September 23-25, 2018  
Kanuga Conference Center, NC**

On 23-25 of September, the diocesan clergy and their spouses met at Kanuga Conference Center and participated in conversations led by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham. Fr. Sidebotham is one of the innovators behind *Renewal Works: A ministry of Forward Movement*. During our time at Kanuga, with Holy Scripture as a guide, Fr. Sidebotham shared with the clergy, as well as facilitated conversations around, what Renewal Works learned from research data they collected around forming a culture of discipleship. The goal of the conference was to inform and support the clergy of our diocese in living into our common vision of making, equipping and sending mature Disciples of Christ.

*Submitted by The Rev. Canon Jimmy Hartley*

**Spouses of Clergy: Growing in Support of One Another**

...The Annual September *Clergy and Spouses Conference at Kanuga* provided a much-appreciated opportunity for clergy spouses to enjoy social events, to meet new members, to participate in scheduled community worship services, and to be welcomed as audience members in lecture-presentations for the clergy.

...Diocesan Convention offered social events with refreshments for spouses of clergy, generously hosted in the Horvath home, on both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

...Other special events included the Advent luncheons at Still Hopes and the Poinsett Club for retired Clergy and Spouses, the Advent/ Christmas party at the Bishop’s residence, and a gathering after Easter, in the Greenville home of the Reverends Peggy Muncie and Stephen Bolle.

*Submitted by Mary Halverson Waldo*

**The Chaplaincy to the Retired**

The Chaplaincy to the Retired is a ministry to the retired clergy, their spouses, and their widows. This is a program of the Church Pension Fund, with the bishop in each diocese appointing a “Chaplain to the Retired” for that diocese. In our diocese, a committee works closely with the Chaplain. The Chaplain to the Retired also serves as a primary point of contact for the CPF.

Beginning this year, the chaplain receives a small stipend from the diocese/SoM. Some additional funds are provided by the SoM to assist with other expenses of the Chaplaincy.

The Church Pension Fund pays all expenses for members of our chaplaincy team when they attend the annual provincial or national conference. This year's conference was a Province IV Conference and was held at a conference center near Tampa, Florida. Attending were Wayne Kinyon and Lee Quinn.

The CPF also provides us with updated lists of all the retirees who are in the pension fund system and are connected to this diocese. This list consists of all those retired clergy, spouses, and widows who are canonical residents of our diocese (wherever they live) plus those canonically resident elsewhere but residing physically within our diocese. When we add a few others, such as retired deacons, to those identified by the CPF, the list for our diocese comes to about two hundred individuals.

Our retirees bring a wealth of experience, knowledge, and history to our congregations and institutions. In fact, in the United States, the great majority of Episcopal congregations are relatively small, with many unable to afford full-time pastoral leadership. Many of these congregations would have closed but are doing well under the seasoned leadership of our retired clergy. Also many of our retired clergy serve part-time in larger churches or do supply work. Also, our retirees (clergy, spouses, and widows) serve on many boards, committees, and programs. Of course, being retirees, we can also say, "No thank you." And we range in age, so some are younger spouses still employed and some are very limited by declining health.

We continue to have fun gatherings at Kanuga or the beach. Again we are providing some treats at the diocesan convention. In addition to our annual Advent luncheon at Still Hopes with Bishop and Mrs. Waldo as our hosts, we now have a luncheon in the Upstate. We sent out birthday cards, published our quarterly newsletter, and every three years produced the Enriching Your Retirement Conference, held at the Cathedral (next in 2020). A focus of 2018 has been to obtain correct information (such as addresses and telephone numbers) on our retirees. We are planning another education and fellowship day for March in Clinton.

Serving on the Committee are Betty Jean Ireland, Eleanor Whitehead, Lee Quinn, Robert Riegel, Phil Purser, Chris Chiles, and Donna Lockett. Also, serving are Convocational Chaplains to the Retired David Thompson (Gravatt), Lee Quinn (Upstate), and Bill Greeley (Catawba), with d'Rue Hazel assisting us from the Diocesan Office.

We may be called retirees, but many of our rocking chairs are very lonely.

Submitted by The Rev. B. Wayne Kinyon - Chaplain to the Retired - Diocese of Upper South Carolina

## COMMISSION ON THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Rev. Furman Buchanan, Chair

The Commission on The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion works to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the mission of the diocese is integrated into the life and work of Province IV, General Convention, and the larger Episcopal Church, as well as our life and work in The Anglican Communion.

It is also the task of this commission to see that the life and work of [Province IV](#) and [The Episcopal Church](#) is communicated to the members of our congregations. The Commission also addresses matters concerning our common life in The Anglican Communion through The Episcopal Church.

In 2018 the members of our Commission prepared for, and participated in, the Province IV meeting in June, which preceded the General Convention. Likewise, all deputies and alternates also participated in the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention in July.

Some of us had specific legislative committee assignments at the General Convention. This included: Bishop Waldo, Racial Justice & Reconciliation; Mike Flanagan, Governance & Structure; Angela Daniel and Scooty Burch, World Mission; and Mary Anne Park, Privilege & Courtesy. The rest of the deputies and alternates attended many of the remaining legislative committees in order to maximize our awareness of the legislative developments at the General Convention. We managed to keep one another informed at our deputation's nightly meetings in order to participate most meaningfully in the general and joint assemblies of the House of Deputies and House of Bishops.

One of the most significant developments at the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention was not a legislative matter. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry announced the *Way of Love* as a set of faith practices that every person, mission, parish, diocese or any other Episcopal institution can embrace in order to lead a more Jesus-centered life.

Rooted in the ancient spiritual practices of the early Church, these seven specific aspects of following in the way of Jesus offer a pathway of transformation—individually and corporately—for us as they have for Christians in every century since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is nothing new about the disciplines of this kind of Rule of Life, but the language expressing these spiritual practices has been updated in order to communicate more broadly and more clearly throughout the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.

Resources are available through the Episcopal Church to discover, share, and practice the *Way of Love*. On behalf of our bishop and deputation, I encourage you to take a closer look at incorporating these practices into your life of faith and into the life of faith of your community within our diocese.

A second non-legislative, but still important, aspect of the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention was the opportunity for bishops and deputies to come together in general assemblies to hear and then discuss presentations about three timely issues in the life of our Church and in our own individual lives. These three contemporary priorities have been given particular weight in the triennial budget of the Episcopal Church. They are: Racial Reconciliation, Creation Care, and Evangelism. Each pertains in various important ways to relationships that arise from faithful commitment to our baptismal covenants. They also reflect areas in which there is contemporary brokenness, distortion, and neglect that present faithful, healing opportunities for the Church to bear witness to the way of Jesus, the way of love.

The 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention website is still active: <https://www.generalconvention.org/> At this site you can view a comprehensive list of all the legislative actions of the General Convention. Bishop Waldo and our deputation provided a substantial report of the General Convention in the fall edition of our diocesan magazine, *Crosswalk*. Another helpful resource for reliable information about the details of resolutions which may be of particular interest is the searchable archive of *Episcopal News Service*.

In conclusion, I want to express our deputation's gratitude for the diocesan staff members who helped in our preparations before the General Convention, and also provided important support to us during our extended stay in Austin, Texas. The nature of serving in this role is a round-the-clock commitment that begins early each morning and concludes late each night. Members of our diocesan staff helped our deputation to remain focused on what you elected us to do, and we are thankful for their ministry in this.

Thank you also for your prayers for our bishop and deputation this summer during the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention. We appreciate your support and interest.

## **COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONS**

The Rev. Mark Abdelnour, Chair

### **Missions of the Diocese**

#### ***The Episcopal Church of the Cross, Columbia***

Our submission for the Diocesan Convention Journal captures the joy we have experienced in serving our community children for the past six years. Our Monday School/Tuesday Times after-school programs have lovingly nourished, an average of twenty vulnerable children, through trusting relationships, communal meals, academic assistance and worship. Several of these children (middle-school age) attend Sunday services each week, unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. Our fervent hope is to one day have their parents join them. A recent study in the

American Journal of Epidemiology, found that children attending religious services were better protected from depression, substance abuse and other risky behaviors. Our experience to date supports this research finding. Thanks be to God!

Our Mission for Children has transformed our Church gardens, as we introduced our youngsters to the gratification that comes with planting, nourishing and harvesting flowers and vegetables. Several children who attend both the after-school program and Sunday services, benefit from participation in the Youth and Junior Scholar programs. Through these programs, they are active in Church life, serving as acolytes, ushers, greeters, choir members, musicians, and healing ministry members. Through the Youth Scholar program they learn what it means to be servant leaders. Last year, the Youth Scholars initiated a Thanksgiving campaign to feed needy families in the community. Forty-four baskets of food were distributed to families through donations solicited from grocery stores and local merchants.

The Church of the Cross is prayerfully and actively honoring Christ's call to care for "the least of these". As individuals, and collectively, we grow exponentially richer in service to others. The precious Diocesan funds we receive for this vital mission for children, are helping to ensure that we are heeding Christ's call by creating a beacon of hope for the future.

*Submitted by Genevieve Alert*

### **St. Augustine of Canterbury, Aiken**

St. Augustine has had a great year! We have experienced growth numerically, financially, and spiritually. Fr. Dan Wagner has been instrumental in this growth. His attention to the pastoral care of this congregation has been a very welcome addition to our mission. We strive to be caring and loving members of this community. This furthers the mission of Making, Equipping, and Sending Mature Disciples of Christ.

Our ongoing commitment to Outreach continues to grow as well. Donations are distributed quarterly to local charities. We call these charities our outreach partners. Our support includes a monetary donation as well as needed items suggested by the individual charities. Our front pew is usually filled with donated goods to be blessed and distributed. Our outreach partners supported this year are: All Saints, Beech Island (food bank); St. Luke's, Columbia (homeless support); Nurture Home, Aiken (transitional housing for woman and families due to abuse); and Walking Tall Ministries, Aiken (feeding ministry to "The Valley" in Aiken Co). We have also given support to victims of Hurricane Florence and several donations to charities as needed. The congregation continues support at St. Thaddeus' soup kitchen.

We have a dedicated and growing Order of the Daughters of the King. They provide a constant source of prayer support for any occasion or need. Recently three new Daughters were admitted into the sisterhood with a beautiful service in their honor. Another organization at St. Augustine

is the Order of St. Luke. They have a monthly meeting for healing and prayer. This group is also continuously growing.

The music ministry at St. Augustine has been improving exponentially. The choir is growing as well as the level of music. We are regularly treated to anthems showcasing their talents. The former director began the formation and the new director is taking it to a higher level. Musical events are planned for the near future.

The Mission is still to become a Parish. We strive to achieve the goals necessary to obtain this status. Our current ASA is 76. This has increased substantially over the past year. We continue to receive financial support from the diocese but are working to lower our request each year. The Diocese has been instrumental in assisting the growth of this mission and for this we are extremely grateful.

*Submitted by: Chuck Weiss, Sr Warden*

### ***St. Christopher's, Spartanburg***

In January of this year the Mission Committee and Congregation received the news that our Vicar, Jim Trimble, would be leaving St. Christopher's to return to Kentucky to be closer to his family and at the end of July his transition was complete. St. Christopher's with the assistance of the Diocese is in the midst of a search process for an interim Vicar. However, with Jim's announcement and departure St. Christopher's has continued to move forward with our plans for continued growth. With the able assistance of dedicated supply priests and our deacon the attendance at our Sunday services has remained stable if not increased. We revamped our Wednesday Taize service into a Celtic Evening Prayer service followed by a meal and Christian Formation program and, with this change of pace, attendance at the Wednesday service and program has increased at least three fold.

Much work has been, or is being, done for the improvement and maintenance of the facilities including a new roof on the church, revamping the gymnasium ceiling and lighting (made possible by the generosity of some of our members) and the installation of a new swing set in our playground. Also, with a donation from our Daughters of the King Chapter, the courtyard area has been redesigned and upgraded.

Earlier this year our church agreed to be the sponsor of a "Family Model" cub scouting program. The program began with a mere handful of scouts and adult leader volunteers and has now quickly grown to enjoy the participation of over thirty boys and girls. Also as an Eagle Scout project by one of our members a class room and the church library were cleaned up, organized, repainted and redecorated.

Our church website has been redesigned and will be going live very soon. The redesign will make the website more appealing and easier to navigate, as well as allowing access by mobile devices.

Our financial situation has remained very stable. Pledges made for 2018 are on track to be nearly fully honored and significant non-pledge gifts have thus far been received.

Our partnership with Houston Elementary School has gone through a change with the school closing and its student population merging with another school and moving into the newly constructed Drayton Mills Elementary. With this change members of St. Christopher's are collecting food for a weekend backpack program, collecting clothing, and collecting school supplies as directed by guidance counselors. Members are also participating in a program where retired educators are devoting time to help the teachers in any way they need. The new scout troop at St. Christopher's has scouts now from the new school, further connecting the church to the school. All of these activities are a part of a multi-pronged partnership between St. Christopher's and Drayton Mills Elementary.

*Submitted by Lex Wray, Senior Warden*

***The Hispanic Congregation at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Simpsonville, SC***

Our goals and accomplishments are based on living our Rule of Life:

**2018 (This report covers August 27, 2017, to Sept. 30, 2018)**

**Pray Daily, Worship Weekly; Read the Bible, Serve others, Share your Story; Give Freely**

**2018**

**Accomplishment:**

**1) Five children received instruction for first communion.**

Two children received first communion on December, 2017 and three received First Communion on May 13, 2018.

**2) Three adult students were Confirmed and/or Received in the Episcopal Church on June 3, 2018.**

*(A First Communion Class and a Confirmation Class will convene again later this year in preparation for first communions and confirmations in 2019.)*

**3) Several Hispanic dinners were offered and enjoyed in order to benefit the Hispanic Ministry fund.**

- 4) A Spanish Language class taught by father Fred+ (**All about Spanish with Father Fred**) has attracted twenty students. The class meets every Thursday at 6pm. With a modest fee for enrollment this class is also an effort to collect funds to benefit the Hispanic Ministry.
- 5) One member of the Hispanic Ministry is now in her fourth year of EFM.  
 One member of the Hispanic Ministry is a member of the Vestry of Holy Cross.  
 One member of the Hispanic Ministry is part of the Parish Council.  
 One member of the Hispanic Ministry traveled again this year to Ecuador with the youth of Holy Cross as part of the “Journey of the Heart” mission trip.
- 6) Fifteen children have been baptized this year.
- 7) ASA this year was 34. Increase of 2+ compared to last year’s 32.
- 8) **A Gospel Experience Class** was launched for children during Sunday’s Eucharist.  
 Children are brought directly to the children’s chapel at 12:30pm and join the rest of the adult congregation at the peace.
- 9) **Seven bilingual services** were celebrated this year. All seven services were very well attended by both congregations and brought us closer. (Pentecost Day, as well as on Holy Week, Holy Cross Day, Christmas and New Year as well as other important occasions.)

### **Our goals for the year 2019**

(Based on living our Rule of Life)

**Continue using the SACENCO (SAnta Cruz EN COntacto) (Holy Cross In Contact) program** in order to keep track of the needs of the congregation.

**Continue to launch programs that will assist us to** improve the visibility of the Hispanic Ministry of Holy Cross in Simpsonville in order to increase our **ASA**.

**Continue Celebrating** an ecumenical Christmas service of “Las Posadas” during Advent with members of the St. Francis Hispanic Congregation and of the Our Savior Lutheran Hispanic Congregation, followed by a shared Christmas dinner. ***This event takes place at Holy Cross this year.***

**Continue offering** ASHES TO GO on Ash Wednesday at different localities in Simpsonville.

**Continue having** Members of the Hispanic Ministry involved in the church wide annual Pumpkin Patch event.

**Continue Celebrating Bilingual services.**

**The Stewardship Campaign** will continue to be extended to the Hispanic Ministry of Holy Cross hoping to increase the commitment of the Spanish congregation.

**Continue offering a class in preparation** for youth and adult confirmation/ reception into the Episcopal Church as well as a First Communion Class as well as other disciplines.

**Hispanic Ministry will continue** to be present at Program Council and Vestry.

**Healing Service and Eucharist** on the second Wednesday of every month will continue to be celebrated in Spanish.

Father Fred will continue to assist in the English services as needed

We will continue including the Hispanic Ministry in as many ministries of Holy Cross as they are able to collaborate.

May God continue to bless us!

Submitted by The Rev. Fr. Alfredo P. González Priest Associate - Santa Cruz

## **COMMISSION ON THE DIOCESE**

The Commission on the Diocese is responsible for stewardship of the financial and property resources of the Diocese. The COD coordinates activities related to investment, finance, health and property insurance, stewardship, loans, audits, architecture, personnel, and institutions of the diocese. The annual Statement of Mission is prepared by the Statement of Mission Committee, a primary committee of the Commission on the Diocese.

Real property matters formed a substantial part of the COD's agenda this year. The Commission continues to oversee the former York Place property pending a decision by the Diocese on its future use. We have a proposal from Still Hopes to use the property as a combined entity providing multiple levels of moderately-priced senior living facilities along with a child development center, providing opportunities for multigenerational interaction between senior residents and youth. There has been substantial support for the concept from the York area communities and interest in collaboration from Winthrop University. A feasibility study was conducted to assess need for the housing proposed and to identify price sensitivity; results showed strong interest in the concept. The COD oversees maintenance of the property, which currently is undertaken by Still Hopes. As the end of 2018 approaches, the COD and Still Hopes await results of the capital campaign feasibility study currently underway to determine whether the proposal is financially viable.

The Commission also continues to work with the congregation of Trinity Abbeville, where a very small congregation has been worshipping in a historic building in need of significant rehabilitation

to make it structurally sound. COD is exploring, together with the Trinity Mission Committee and Preservation South Carolina, whether a plan to share responsibility for the property can allow the congregation to continue to occupy its traditional home while seeking outside investment for rehabilitation and ongoing upkeep.

Other property-related matters this year have included the mission church of St. Paul's, Batesburg; the consolidation of Grace Church in Ridge Spring, Trinity in Edgefield, and Our Savior in Trenton into one congregation with three campuses, to be known as Church of the Ridge; the need for mold remediation at Diocesan House; and support for the Fresh Start ministry of St. Luke's, Columbia, a mission begun to provide laundry services to the homeless in Columbia but which has expanded to provide food, clothing, medical care, help with benefits, and other services to a community in need.

As always, COD reviewed financial reports of the Diocese, including preparation of the annual Statement of Mission, investment reports, and audit reports. COD, together with other Commissions, is working on ways to identify indicia of ongoing congregational health, some of which will include a parish's financial practices, compliance with Diocesan reporting requirements, and acceptance of the Episcopal pledge. Other financial matters undertaken this year have included continuing work on implementing best practices as recommended by our auditors. In all its work, COD has been the beneficiary of the professional expertise, diligence, and careful financial stewardship of our Diocesan controller, Anna MacDermut, and our Treasurer, Bill Sandberg. Their work has allowed us to be confident that funds entrusted to the Diocese are being used as intended and that financial records are accurate and complete, enabling financial support for our common mission of making, equipping, and sending disciples of Jesus Christ to do God's work in our world.

*Submitted by Susan Palmer, Vice-President of DEC*

## **Institutions of the Diocese**

### ***Heathwood Hall Episcopal School***

Established in 1951 by the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School is an independent, college-preparatory, co-educational day school in Columbia, SC, enrolling approximately 740 students age two through grade 12.

Heathwood's focus on developing the whole child, and its signature academic programs that offer exceptional opportunities for intellectual and personal growth cultivate tenacious, sophisticated thinkers who value service to others over self-interest. Heathwood graduates are engaged, empathetic learners, prepared not only to take on a dynamic world but to transform it.

In keeping with its Episcopal mission, in 2017-18 Heathwood

- Developed students in mind, body, and spirit through a rich academic and extracurricular program
- Held weekly chapel services for students in all divisions
- Offered coursework in Old Testament, New Testament, and comparative religions
- Hosted weekly Bible studies for students and for parents
- Launched a Middle School Mindfulness program designed to create more daily space for meditation and reflection and to help students cope with the anxieties and pressures of adolescence
- Celebrated diversity through coursework in multicultural studies and student organizations like the ACCEPT Club
- Maintained a robust community service program through which students contributed more than 8,000 hours of service
- Collected 1,500 pounds of food through its Harvest Hope Food Drive and raised more than \$17,000 for Harvest Hope through its Middle School Turkey Trot
- Packaged 15,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger
- Completed its annual Johns Island Service Project, through which all members of the senior class spend four days on Johns Island, providing home repairs for elderly or needy residents
- Raised \$3500 for the United Way of the Midlands through its annual Deck the Hall 5K holiday race
- Collected 20 pints of blood for the Red Cross
- Participated in the Salvation Army's Holiday Christmas Kickoff, where members of the Upper School chorus sang on the steps of the State House
- Stewarded the environment by launching a composting program that recycles food waste from the Heathwood Dining Commons into mulch
- Celebrated South Carolina's rich Civil Rights history with a Day of Reflection curriculum designed by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade faculty

For more information, please contact Communications Director Leslie Haynsworth at 803-231-7731 or [lhaynsworth@heathwood.org](mailto:lhaynsworth@heathwood.org).

### ***Finlay House***

Finlay House welcomed its first residents in 1973. Our mission has always been to provide safe, secure and affordable housing for individuals and couples sixty two years old and older. Section 8 Subsidy is available for those that need assistance with their rent.

A wide range of activities are available to keep tenants connected. They range from social activities to health education.

A few of the activities and events from the last twelve months include:

- In-house scheduled transportation to doctor visits and shopping
- Pre-Thanksgiving meal for all tenants
- Hamburger cook out
- Nutritionist educating tenants on well balanced meals
- Exercise Therapist conducting basic exercise classes

Finlay House will continue its mission to provide safe, secure and affordable housing for residents sixty-two and over right in the heart of Five Points in downtown Columbia.

For further information, please contact Russ Bell, Executive Director at 803 799-6524 or [rbell@finlayhouse.com](mailto:rbell@finlayhouse.com).

*Submitted by Russ Bell*

### ***Kanuga Conference, Retreat and Camp Center***

When people turn onto Kanuga Chapel Road, something magical happens. Whether it's their first visit or one of their innumerable pilgrimages to this sanctuary, the person and soul both know that indeed this is holy ground. Founded on Bishop Kirkman Finlay's dream in 1928 and situated on 1,400 peaceful acres, Kanuga is blessed to welcome 25,000 guests annually to our multiple camps and retreat facilities.

This year is shaping up to be a great one. Guided by the principles, established last year, within our core values of Service, Respect, Sustainability and Stewardship, we are better equipped to determine if we are on the right path and fulfilling our goals. This year, one of the major tasks we have undertaken is getting clarity as to what is Kanuga's Mission. With the help of a consultant, the board and leadership team, we are making progress in gaining this clarity and expect to be complete with our work before year's end. Clarity of mission, with accurate information and data, is essential to our strategic planning and decision-making, it gives motivation and focus to our staff, and informs others of what we do.

Here's a summary of steps we've already taken to strengthen our mission for the future.

- A reorganization of board and management to align with what we believe to be our Mission, which assists us in being more nimble and strategic as we approach our centennial in 2028.
- Expanding Kanuga's footprint in all areas of programming and seeking innovative partnerships.
- Focusing development and marketing efforts on creating new relationships and reaching new audiences.

- Around campus, the most notable difference is in the dining rooms where our new buffet lines have increased efficiency as well as quality. Guests are thrilled, and the new lines are beautiful and work extremely well.
- In 2018, we completed a total renovation of one of our Guest Houses and upgraded a 4 bedroom, 2 bath cottage into a 4 bedroom, 4 bath cottage. Plans for 2019 already include the renovation of two additional historic cottages.
- The Fitness Center has a second room now with aerobic equipment thanks to several donations.
- Grounds look exceptional with the removal of many dead or dying trees, a cleaned-up entrance, and brand-new gas lit lamps in two pivotal locations. Flowerbeds are weeded regularly and are spectacular.
- Initial stages of investigation and conceptual design on preserving the Chapel of the Transfiguration are complete. A timeline for capital improvements and fundraising is being planned.
- Finalizing budgets to become a living wage employer in 2019.

These steps are just the beginning. So much more is being done to make Kanuga stronger and bolder in its mission. We have a bright future if we work together, embracing the fullness of who we are and supporting our purpose like never before.

All of us at Kanuga continue to be grateful to friends, supporters and partners in ministry from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. We thank you for all you do to strengthen this special place for the future of a world of good.

*Submitted by Michael Sullivan and Jimmy Haden*

### ***Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community***

It has been said by Apple founder, Steve Jobs, that “Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat.” Though we come from different fields of endeavor, I like to think Steve Jobs’ words ring quite true for what has caused Still Hopes to stand the test of time. In our profession, things are constantly changing and evolving. What one group of residents wanted for their life ten years ago, has little significance to what residents want today. Being able to sense that change, even as it is beginning to unfold, and to adapt accordingly, is an area where Still Hopes excels. Our focus in 2018 has not been just making our 44 acres the very best it can be, but also looking outside our walls to see how we can affect change across South Carolina.

On the Still Hopes campus, we are so close to opening the doors to our HealthPointe Project, our new home for skilled nursing and assisted living residents. The skilled nursing area will follow the cutting edge “small neighborhood” care model, by having three “neighborhoods”, each with 16 private rooms. Each neighborhood will have its own kitchen and distinct hearth and home

features that will help our residents feel these comforts of home. Our goal is to provide not just the very best healthcare possible, but also tend to the emotional and spiritual well-being of our residents, while they are in our care.

Outside the Still Hopes campus, we are working earnestly with the Diocese of Upper South Carolina to see if we can bring an intergenerational community to life in York, South Carolina. This community would not only provide a middle-market option for those in their retirement years, but it would also offer early childhood development programs to a community in need of this service. Our hope is that this community will, over time, serve as a blessing to seniors, young children, and youth by meeting each group's needs, while also bringing them together in harmony so they learn the benefits of the interdependency all people have for one another.

In 2019, we are excited to see our HealthPointe Project come to fruition. We are also looking forward to seeing our WellPointe Project begin construction. WellPointe will have 80 new Independent Living apartments, along with new amenity features, and we have already pre-sold all 80 units. God has been extremely good to us here in West Columbia. Outside our walls, we are also hopeful that we will see great steps forward in the development of the York Place campus. Our goal is to continue fulfilling our mission, not just here in West Columbia, but to extend our reach across the state, perhaps even beyond. We are blessed by your continued support and prayers, and our fervent pledge is that we will continue to bless others with what God has given us. Blessings!

*Submitted by Danny Sanford, Executive Director*

### ***Gravatt Camp and Conference Center***

Established in 1949, Gravatt Camp and Conference Center is an Episcopal summer camp and retreat center located outside of Aiken, South Carolina. Since that time, Gravatt's purpose has expanded to serve both youth and adults all year long. On its 270+ acres, Gravatt offers an outdoor Christian youth camp and hosts conferences, meetings, training, and retreats for churches and other not-for-profit organizations and groups whose purposes include human-development, character-development, education, or training. Gravatt has a challenge course for use in summer camp and for groups year-round and an environmental education program for school-age children and a one acre garden which is used to feed guests, campers, and the community.

Some of the groups we served in 2018 include the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina and many of its churches, Cursillo, Happening, Kairos, a variety of churches and denominations located in South Carolina and Georgia, the Episcopal Church Periodical Club, United Way chapters, Leadership Aiken, Augusta, and North Augusta, Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, Fort Gordon, child advocacy groups, recovery groups, healthcare groups, scouts, other nonprofits,

chambers of commerce, K-12 public and private schools and districts, USC, USC-Aiken, Aiken Technical College, sports teams, and many more.

#### In 2018 Gravatt

- Fostered the spiritual and personal growth of a record breaking number – 1,042 – summer campers, including 59 at Reach Out Camp for children of incarcerated families.
- Awarded over \$45,000 in summer camp scholarships
- Renovated the conference cottages to provide year round respite for EDUSC clergy as well as conference center guests from around the state.
- In partnership with the SC Bishop’s Public Education Initiative, held year 4 of Camp Adventures in Reading in complete conjunction with the summer camp program, which provided reading enrichment in the setting of a traditional summer camp for 14 4th and 5th graders who were identified as reading below grade level.
- Hosted two successful Big Delicious Events, which promote local eating and sustainable living.
- Hosted a successful Fishing Tournament and several free family fishing clinics in conjunction with SC DNR.
- Hosted two sessions of the fifth annual Camp Joy South Carolina, serving special needs adults with a mission “to help persons - campers, counselors and staff - develop a Christian attitude in their lives, which will enable us to enjoy the fellowship of one another in Christ.”
- Made changes to two key titles among Gravatt staff including Thomas Coleman, Director of Facilities and Environmental Stewardship as well as Beth Jones, Director of Camp and Program Development
- Achieved 75% waste diversion through recycling and composting efforts.
- Continued our Community Supported Agriculture program and signed on 6 families who purchased shares in our garden and picked them up weekly at St. Thaddeus in Aiken and St. John’s in Columbia.
- Continued our internship program, developing leadership and trade skills in seven young adults.
- Will host the 8th Annual Christmas Retreat for Military Families with the purpose of bringing military families together away from the exorbitant stress of military life to create a safe, relaxing, family-centered environment.
- Will have hosted over 4,500 guests and served over 13,000 meals in our conference center

For more information, please contact Executive Director Scott McNeely at 803.648.1817 or [director@campgravatt.org](mailto:director@campgravatt.org).

*Submitted by Kara Dye and Scott McNeely*

