## DIOCESAN CALENDAR

**DIOCESE OF FLORIDA CALENDAR ONLINE AT: [www.diocesefl.org](http://www.diocesefl.org)**

**NATIONAL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE AT: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)**

- Events subject to change or cancellation — confirm date, time, location before traveling.
- *When attending an event at Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center, you must confirm your lodging or meals in advance, either by event registration or by phone: 386/364-5250.*

### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Noon, World Day of Prayer</td>
<td>St. Philip’s, Jacksonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Fri, 7 p.m. to Sat, 3 p.m. Clergy &amp; Spouse Lenten Retreat with the Griswolds</td>
<td>CW/CCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BreakOut</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>DCCL: Lenten Retreat</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>Men’s Cursillo #121</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. River Region Utenja, covered dish</td>
<td>St. Cyprian’s, St. Augustine</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Solo Flight singles retreat</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting</td>
<td>Diocesan House</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Quiet Garden Day – The Cathedral Center for Spirituality</td>
<td>St. John’s Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Bishop Frank Cerveny preaches at Epiphany, Jacksonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Youth Ministers Meeting</td>
<td>Diocesan House</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Woman’s Cursillo #121</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. DOR Quiet Day &amp; Meditations, the Rev. Mark Atkinson</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s, Jacksonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>1-2 p.m. Fourth Friday - Spiritual Companioning</td>
<td>St. John’s Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>2nd Annual Brotherhood of St. Andrew Retreat</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>New Beginnings</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Diocesan Council</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>DCCL: Proving Mark’s Gospel</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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### APRIL

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DCCL: Eucharistic Visitor “Continuing Education”</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Youth Ministers Meeting</td>
<td>Diocesan House</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>Happening #114</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Quiet Garden Day – the Cathedral Center for Spirituality</td>
<td>St. John’s Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1-2 p.m. Fourth Friday - Spiritual Companioning</td>
<td>St. John’s Cathedral</td>
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### MAY

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6-7 9 p.m. Safeguarding God’s Children</td>
<td>Christ Church, Ponte Vedra</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>Camp Weed Summer Staff Retreat</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4th Annual Seafood Bulletin, Cuba Companionship benefit</td>
<td>Christ Church, Cedar Key</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>12-15 Adult Sexual Misconduct Training</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>Easter clergy retreat led by R.P. Howard</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Youth Ministers’ Meeting</td>
<td>Diocesan House</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>1-2 p.m. Fourth Friday - Spiritual Companioning</td>
<td>St. John’s Cathedral</td>
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### JUNE

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-20</td>
<td>Camp St. Francis, rising 3rd &amp; 4th grades</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-27</td>
<td>Camp St. Matthew, rising 10th - 12th grades</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>1-2 p.m. Fourth Friday - Spiritual Companioning</td>
<td>St. John’s Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-7/2</td>
<td>Camp St. Michael, Inner City Camp</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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### JULY

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Camp St. Patrick, rising 6th - 10th grades</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>Camp St. Luke, rising 7th - 9th grades</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>Diocesan-wide Youth Mission Trip</td>
<td>Mission on the Bay, Christ Episcopal Church, St. Louis</td>
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<td>20-23</td>
<td>Camp St. Elizabeth, Prison Ministries Camp</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-8/1</td>
<td>Camp St. John, rising 5th and 6th grades</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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### AUGUST

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>Camp Camp St. Teresa, rising 7th - 9th grades</td>
<td>Camp Weed</td>
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### SEPTEMBER

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Diocesan Council</td>
<td>Camp Weed &amp; Cerveny Conference Center</td>
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**Second Annual House Blessings’ bring rite to 13 Epiphany homes**

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**Province IV Bishops and Spouses offered true ‘Camp Weed experience’**

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**‘Parish Hall of the Diocese’ hosts 166th Diocesan Convention**

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**St. Paul’s By-the-Sea sews 100th Anniversary gifts for St. Paul’s, Cuba**
**THE DIOCESEAN**

**NEWS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA**

Volume XXVI, No. 2  Circulation 12,297  WWW.DIOCESEFL.ORG  FEBRUARY A.D. 2009

166th Annual Diocesan Convention

‘Happy and productive,’ diocese: focus on mission, ministry, worship and outreach

The 166th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Florida, hosted by First Coast East Region and River Region, was held at the “Parish Hall of the Diocese” - Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center – on Jan. 30 and 31.

Open hearings on the resolutions and on the Common Ministry Budget were held Friday afternoon. The opening Festal Holy Eucharist was celebrated Friday evening, amid the colorful banners of the congregations of the Diocese, in the Snell-McCarty Youth Pavilion. The entrance hymn, “Tell Out My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord,” was the source of the 2009 Convention’s theme. The Right Rev. John Soul, the Greatness of the Lord,” was the source of the 2009 Convention’s theme. The Right Rev. John Howard, bishop of Florida, was celebrant.

The sermon was given by the Right Rev. Michael Curry, bishop of North Carolina, who was Convention chaplain. “God has a dream!” said Bishop Curry, urging each person to seek to know the will of God for his or her life. “God has a dream! God has something in mind – for this diocese - for each of us.” Speaking of Mary, mother of Jesus, as an example of one who allowed God’s will in her life. Bishop Curry continued, “Mary let herself be swept up into the dream God had for her, the dream of God, instead of being pulled down into the nightmare of earth.”

United Thank Offering representatives from the congregations presented their 2008 UTO Ingathering offerings at the altar.

After the service, delegates enjoyed a candlelit offering at the altar.

Annual “Wardens & Vestry Conference” expanded in 2009

Over 250 clergy, wardens, vestry and parish treasurers participate in diocesan conference; professionals present workshops on finances

Over 250 clergy and lay leaders participated in the 2009 Wardens, Vestry & Treasurers Conference convened by Bishop John Howard at Camp Weed, Jan. 16-17. The clergy do not customarily attend this annual diocesan conference for wardens and vestry members, but due to the nature of the 2009 subject matter – finances - the clergy were urged to participate, and were presented with the identical subject matter – finances - the clergy were urged to participate, and were presented with the identical workshop program presented to the laity on Saturday.

Specialists led the conference workshops, which covered such things as “Roles and Responsibilities,” “Financial Management and Budgets,” and “Discretionary Funds, Taxes and Dedicated Funds,” as well as “Audits and Internal Controls.”

Presenters of the workshops included four professionals in the field of finance, all communicants of Diocese of Florida parishes: Cobb Harbeson, Jack Hardman, Brooks Pennington, and John Strom. Presenters from the diocesan staff were the Rev. Bob Griffiths, Deputy to the Bishop, and Melinda Showalter, Comptroller.

Cobb Harbeson is a founding partner, responsible for the audit and accounting practice, of the Jacksonville CPA firm of Harbeson Beckerleg & Fletcher, auditors for the Diocese of Florida. HBF audits Christ Church, Ponte Vedra, and has audited other churches in the Diocese. Within the Diocese, Cobb Harbeson has served on the vestry and has been treasurer of St. Mark’s, Jacksonville for most of the last ten years. He also served as a trustee and treasurer of St. Mark’s and as a trustee of St. Mark’s

Bishops’ wives embark on “true Camp Weed experience”

Fourth Province Bishops and their wives hosted at Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center

Members of the House of Bishops whose dioceses are within Province IV hold two meetings annually, one of which includes their spouses. Bishop John Howard and Marie Howard hosted the most recent of these bishop-and-spouse gatherings at Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center. The December event marked the first visit of the bishops to the Diocese of Florida’s serene and comfortable retreat campus amid the lakes and live oaks.

“Marie and I were delighted to host the Fourth Province bishops,” Bishop Howard said. “Province IV is the largest and most active province in The Episcopal Church. This meeting is the most fun and the most refreshing meeting that I have with members of the House of Bishops each year.”

From all reports, the bishops’ deliberations were genial and productive, and the “refreshing” experience referred to by Bishop Howard was indeed experienced by all. Worship in Mandi’s Chapel, with its outlook across the lake and into the live oaks, offered the quiet opportunity for reflection in that unique sacred space between water and sky. The usual excellent fare in Varn Dining Hall was further enhanced by fresh produce from the new organic garden on the property. What became utterly out of the ordinary were the outdoor adventures of the wives, embraced in true Camp Weed spirit.
Good morning and welcome to this, the 166th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

As always, it is wonderful to be with you as we kick off this diocesan year. And, as always, it is especially wonderful to be at Camp Weed! Here, the sun shines a little brighter, the air is a little bit cleaner, and here the innocence of our prayers is always enhanced with the intoxicating scent of promise and of possibility. We are among dear friends and it is not a day of work. It is a day of celebration.

Last night and today, the magic of this place has been enhanced by my friend, Bishop Michael Curry. Bishop Curry is one of the great preachers alive today, not just in the Episcopal Church, but in the world. We are blessed — and I am joyful — to have Michael with us. Michael is, as many of you know, the bishop of my home diocese in North Carolina. And that makes his presence with us a special treat for Marie and for me. Michael, we love having you here and we will miss you when you leave.

Camp Weed's special aura doesn't come from its beautiful location, nor does it come from bricks or mortar, or pressure-treated wood. The spirit of this place was created — and is maintained — by love and prayer, by hard work done joyfully, and by generosity of heart. We are grateful to Joe Chamberlin and to all the staff of Camp Weed for that, but we remember, those gifts came from you, and from others in our Diocese, through the grace of our Lord.

I want to thank you for that — and for all the work of God we've done since we last gathered as a diocesan family. Over the past year, everyone in this room has done much for our family — in worship, prayer and fellowship, in study and contemplation, in outreach, and through all of the ministries we support. And everyone in this room has reached out in love, not just to our family, but to neighbors and friends and strangers.

This morning, and in today's sessions, we're going to talk about all of those things — what we've done, and what we need to do. We're going to make some practical decisions about the business of our diocese. And we're going to prayerfully consider God's will for us in the year to come.

Before we do those things, though, let's take a moment to reap a little bit of what we have sown. Breathe deeply, then close your eyes and soak it up.

If you're just getting here, you probably needed that! If you were here last night, you're already in the right frame of mind after a beautiful service and a powerful sermon, not to mention the fun and the fellowship that came later in the evening!

Beginnings

For me each year, this convention has been synonymous with new beginnings — and it comes at exactly the right time every year! The kids are back in school. The outgoing years gone by, and we're looking at the needs in our world. And that means looking at the needs around us and asking ourselves what we always ask in times of trial: What comes to the work of God to be done in my community? What am I prepared to do? What am I prepared to give? And do I have enough faith to act, and to give, freely and joyfully?

How well we meet the challenges and opportunities this year will largely be determined by our answers to those questions. As we begin this year, more than ever, I want you to ask those questions — of yourselves and of others — with regard to stewardship with regard to Christian giving. In this hour of need and uncertainty, are we prepared to give God his rightful portion? And if not, why not?

I'm reminded of a parable I heard years ago that moved me deeply. Once upon a time, there was a man who had nothing, and God gave him ten apples. He gave him the first three apples to eat. He gave him the second three apples to trade for shelter from the sun and rain. He gave him the third three apples to barter for clothing to wear. And he gave him the last apple so that he might have something to give back to God to show his gratitude for the other nine.

The man ate the first three apples. He traded the second three for shelter. He bartered the third three for clothing. Then, he looked at the tenth apple, and it seemed juicier and bigger and redder and sweeter than all the rest.

He knew God had given him the tenth apple so he might return it. But he reasoned that God had all the other apples in the world. So he ate the tenth apple and gave God the core.

None of us wants to be an apple-core Christian! But it's possible for all of us, and even more of a possibility when the common wisdom in the world is shouting “Crisis!” “Recession!” and “Scarcity!” We all know we ought to give. But how do we convince ourselves, and others, to give back that juicy apple — and give it back joyfully?

Need

There are a number of ways we could talk about stewardship. We could talk about need, for instance. In our diocese, our communities, our world, we've accomplished great things on the Lord's behalf, and we have plans to do even more. Yet all of our ministries require financial support; ambitious goals require financial support; ambitious goals require financial support. And so we're dusting ourselves off, climbing out of the storm, trying to figure out how to navigate in an economic landscape that has been scoured clean of comfort and familiarity.

Apples Core Christians

It is a time of change and challenge — for our congregations and communities, and for us as individuals. But it's particularly challenging for us, as Christians. Because as Christians, we can't just hunker down and review our investment portfolios or retirement plans. As Christians, we are charged to be God's hands in the world. And that means looking at the needs around us and asking ourselves what we always ask in times of trial: Where does the magic of this place lie? Where does it come from bricks or mortar, or pressure-treated wood? Where does it come from the aura? Where does it come from the incense of our prayers is always enhanced with the intoxicating scent of promise and of possibility. Where does it come from the sun and rain? Where does it come from the tenth apple? Where does it come from the tenth apple? Where does it come from the tenth apple? Where does it come from the tenth apple?

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The work of God to be done in our communities is enormous. A few weeks ago, I was driving downtown Adamo Street in Jacksonville around lunchtime, when I saw a long line of folks literally going down the block and around the corner and I had never seen that before. After doing a double-take, I realized that all of those people— young, old, families with children— were waiting for a meal, the most basic kind of sustenance. It was a scene out of film clips from the Depression era. In times like these, minutes that feed and clothe, that support job seekers and shelter the young and the very old, are more important than ever.

Then there are the ongoing needs of our parishes and our diocese. We have to keep the lights on and the furnaces humming in these systems in order. We have to repair roofs and re-pave parking lots. We must pay the wages of our office workers, and those who clean and custodier our sanctuaries and buildings. And we also need to compensate and care for those who care for the souls in our congregations, those who inspire and guide our young people, who run our charities and handle our business assets, and those who share their God-given gifts through such diverse activities as preaching in prison and lifting the song of praise on Sunday morning.

Clearly, there is plenty of need to go around, and there’s no doubt we ought to give to meet it.

Doing Right by the Church

Another encouragement to generosity might be simply “doing right by the church.” The idea here is that we should support the church because it brings us the blessings of worship and fellowship, and the sacraments. Because the church gives us the Good News and meets our spiritual needs, we ought to support it!

Commanded to Give

We could also talk about the fact that giving is commanded by Scripture. The title is a principle of stewardship going back to the time of Abraham. And the Old Testament prophets make it clear that we ought to give a certain portion to God – to do any less is to take from him that is rightfully his.

The Old Testament also taught that the more we give, the more we will receive. Proverbs says “honor the Lord from all your income and from the first of all your produce so your barns will be filled with plenty and your yats will be filled with new wine.”

The New Testament agrees. Jesus said that God provides for us in direct proportion to our generosity. “Give, and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, pouring into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you in return.”

If giving is commanded, and if what we give will come back to us, then, again, we ought to give, right?

Schools of Giving

There are a couple of schools of thought that go along with the “ought to” concept of giving. One of them could be termed the Godfather School of Giving. Those who belong to the Godfather School of Giving view pledging and tithing as akin to paying protection money in the mob. ...In certain situations, you’ve simply got to do it, but you don’t have to LIKE it. And under no circumstances are you going to pay more than you absolutely HAVE to!

I’ve run into even more who subscribe to what I call the Gogolakian School of Giving. I’ll bet you don’t know about that one!

The Gogolakian School is named for Charlie Gogolak. If you don’t remember Charlie Gogolak, he was a kicker for the Washington Redskins way back in the ’60s, and then for the New England Patriots in the ’70s. He was a talented player, a great kicker, but he weighed only about 130 pounds soaking wet and in every game he ever played, he was always the smallest man on the field.

You know that once the kick is made, kickers always hang back and let the opposing linemen engage in general mayhem, which the kicker tries to watch from as far away as possible.

One Sunday afternoon when Charlie Gogolak was playing for the Redskins, he kicked off against the New York Giants. And somehow, the player who had received the ball managed to break past all of the big, no-neck Redskin players who were twice Charlie’s size.

There was Charlie Gogolak, all 130 pounds of him, standing in a direct line between the ball-carrier—who weighed about 250 pounds — and the goal. One spectator later said that in that moment, Charlie Gogolak looked like a bug, hanging in mid-air with a windshield racing towards him.

After the game was over, a reporter asked Gogolak what he was thinking in that moment. And Gogolak said: “I was thinking... Isn’t somebody ELSE supposed to be doing this?”

That, my friends, is the way many of us approach Christian giving. It’s all well and good, but “somebody else” should be doing it. Just like Charlie Gogolak, it is you and I who are standing on the field, suited up, and in just the right place to make a difference!

Money

For your bishop to talk about stewardship at a time when fear is the major emotion attached to bank accounts and wallets all around the world may seem counterintuitive. It might even seem a little nuts! But a crisis is precisely the right time to think about where “doing God’s will” stands in our hierarchy of needs. It’s also a great opportunity to confront our deepest fears — many of which center around money — and transcend them.

Even in good times, the dollar bill packs a big emotional punch. We equate money with security, so the thought of “giving it up” sets alarm bells ringing and tightens our grip on the checkbook.

Financial issues are a key factor in many — if not most — divorces. Financial problems have driven untold thousands to depression, despair and even suicide. And most people don’t want to talk about their finances — they get positively surly if the subject comes up. I know men and women who can freely talk about finances – they get positively surly if the subject comes up.

Jesus, on the other hand, talked about money all the time! In fact, he talked more about money and possessions than any other topic. Over and over again, he brought it up — money, possessions, property, inheritance. The parable of the lost coin, the wicked tenants, the treasure hidden in the field, the laborers in the vineyard, the prodigal son, the talents, the two debtors, the good Samaritan, the rich fool, the rich young man and the widow in the temple are just a few examples.

Jesus knew the hold that money and possessions can have on us, and was just as aware that generosity was a far better prescription for happiness and fulfillment.

Money is important in this world. It is the energy that fuels our activities. It feeds our families, keeps the lights on and the furnace running, repairs the roof, and sends our kids to college. We need a certain amount of it to live — and most of us would like to have more. Yet money in and of itself is intrinsically worthless. Even a hundred-dollar bill is nothing more than paper and ink. If you and I, and millions of other people around the world, didn’t give it power to make things happen.

From top: Bishop Michael Curry, Diocese of North Carolina, preaches his riveting sermon at the Festal Holy Eucharist, celebrated Friday evening in the Snell-McCarty Youth Pavilion; “It is well with my soul” — clergy raise voices in one of the hymns selected from Lift Every Voice & Sing II; Ben Hill and Jack Tall serve as lectors during Eucharist; musicians help to fill the Youth Pavilion with song and praise; Communion stations around the great hall had the colorful parish banners as backdrop.
From top: Red was the color of rejoicing as the Pavilion with bright balloons and red attire, including red caps with lots of military gold braid. "...to talk about stewardship at a time when fear is the major emotion attached to bank accounts and wallets all around the world may seem counterintuitive... But a crisis is precisely the right time to think about where 'doing God’s will' stands in our hierarchy of needs. It's also a great opportunity to confront our deepest fears — many of which center around money — and transcend them."

"Joyful Giving" is contagious! It spreads, it grows, and it touches lives and needs far beyond the understanding of the giver! As for Miss McCarty, she told a reporter from The New York Times, "I didn’t buy things I didn’t need, The Lord helped me, and he'll help you, too. It’s an honor to be blessed like that.”

The university — which matched the gift immediately — got a terrific amount of publicity and a bumper crop of contributions in the months that followed. Other donors added over $3 million to the scholarship fund, much of it in small increments. And after hearing of Miss McCarty's gift, Ted Turner said “If that little woman can give away everything she has, than I can give, too.”

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Our three questions…

What are we prepared to do? What are we prepared to give? And... do we have enough faith to give freely and joyfully?

We have done much, but there are still those in our communities who need clothing, food, counseling and other assistance. There are thousands more who need to hear the Good News; who need the saving news of Jesus Christ, who need worship and fellowship and sacraments. It’s up to us to provide them. Like Charlie Gogolak, we are in the right place to make a difference, no matter how scary the field looks at this moment!

In this Diocese years ago, we set the standard of the tithe. We accepted the standard of the tithe as our standard for Christian giving. That individuals in the pew would give ten percent to the congregation and the congregation in turn would pass ten percent that along to the diocese and the diocese in turn would pass ten percent of that along to ministries outside our diocese. That is the diocesan border we are on that be with the Episcopal Church or with other ministries in the world.

There is not a congregation in this Diocese that couldn’t do mind-boggling amounts of good if people were tithing. The Diocese could do mind-boggling amounts of good if congregations were tithing. The world could do marvelous things if the dioceses were to tithe on a tithe on a tithe.

In fact, you know it doesn’t even have to be three or four percent of their net income, our ministries would be well-funded. A few years ago, someone calculated that if all the Episcopalians in America were on welfare and tithed, the church’s giving would go up seven-fold!

Think about it! Think about it! Talk to your congregations. Ask them to pick a percentage and write it on a pledge card, then fulfill it and watch it grow. Watch their congregation grow. Watch their church grow. Watch their Diocese grow. Watch the impact that we have for the sake of the gospel on our communities grow. And see their joy and satisfaction grow as well.

I’ll say it again: joyful giving is contagious. And it has effects far beyond our ability to comprehend. I’m reminded of the story I shared with you last year about Bishop Juhan and Jessie Ball duPont traveling around the diocese. Bishop Juhan encouraging likely young men (back then it was all men) to be priests, and Mrs. duPont writing checks so quickly that with the Episcopal Church as a new parish of the diocese. Church as a new parish of the diocese. Church as a new parish of the diocese.

Our energy is renewed, our losses are repaired, and we are not just “being” Christians. We are “doing” Christianity with joy and enthusiasm…

“Today, we are a happy and a productive diocese, focused on mission, ministry, worship and outreach. Our energy is renewed, our losses are repaired, and we are not just “being” Christians. We are “doing” Christianity with joy and enthusiasm...”

But in this Diocese are no strangers to challenge. We have struggled through difficult times together... But we persevered, and our struggles give us unprecedented incentive to discern God’s will and to practice unconditional love. Today, the ministry of reconciliation and service resulting from those efforts has borne extraordinary fruit. Congregations are, by the grace of God, being rebuilt, new members are joining us every week, and there is widespread excitement about the direction of life, mission, and ministry in our diocese.

Over the past few years, our family has expanded once again. We’ve grown new churches and ordained priests to serve them. We have our first permanent Hispanic ministry at St Luke’s / San Lucas in Arlington, Jacksonville, following a service at the Cathedral last spring that was a blessing to all in attendance. Over 100 new Episcopalians were received and confirmed that night! A priest was received into the Episcopal Church that night! And as I mentioned a few moments ago, today we are going to ordain two new priests to serve the diocese.

Our energy is renewed, our losses are repaired, and we are not just “being” Christians. We are “doing” Christianity with joy and enthusiasm, and it has been a direct expression of our commitment to the Good News with the work of sharing the Good News with the field looks at this moment!

From top: Bishop Santosh Marray shares his experiences in the Seychelles and thanks supporters; Resolutions Hearing on Friday afternoon explains intricacies of the audit rules adjustments designed to better fit budgets in parishes and missions; the Rev. Mal Jopling reports for Nominations Committee; the Rev. Sandy Myleake speaks; the Rev. Mark Atkinson presents courtesy resolutions; Debby Melnych calls for suggestions for historical celebration ahead; Credentials chair Robert Yerkes, Esq., and Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Vickie Haskew, ready for action.
We have done much, but there are still those in our communities who need clothing, food, counseling and other assistance. There are thousands more who need to hear the Good News; who need the saving news of a relationship with Jesus Christ, who need worship and fellowship and sacraments. It’s up to us to provide them.”

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Business session convened Saturday

Following breakfasts served at the Youth Pavilion and in Varn Dining Hall, the business session was convened by Bishop Howard in the Youth Pavilion. Bishop Michael Curry, Convention chaplain, led the morning devotional. Faces familiar in long service to the Diocese and its Conventions followed the Rules of Order efficiently to set up the day’s agenda. Robert Verdi, Esq., chair of the Credentials Committee, declared a quorum of clergy, lay and youth delegates; diocesan chancellor Fred Isaac, Esq., was introduced, as parliamentarian, the Very Rev. Gus Weltsek, Jr., called for adoption of the Rules of Order; the Rev. Lance Horne was introduced as Convention secretary, with assisting Convention secretary Darby Edwards. Bishop Howard gave his Address to the 166th Convention early in the agenda, the full text of the Address begins on page 2. His Address received a standing ovation.

As the business agenda began, Bishop Howard introduced clergy new to the Diocese since the 2008 Convention, and named those ordained during that time.

The Rev. Mal Jopling, chair of the Nominations Committee, introduced the slates of nominees for election to the Standing Committee of the Diocese and to the Diocesan Council. Election results are reported on this page.

The Honorable Gerald B. Tjoflat, chair, of the Resolutions Committee, brought two resolutions before the delegates, both received approval.

Resolution 2009-2, which was adopted, provides changes in parish and mission audit requirements within the Diocese of Florida. The revised requirements are designed to relieve smaller congregations of the high expense of full audit, by approving a range of procedures corresponding to the size of congregations, thereby enabling more affordable cost for the smaller congregations.

The introduction of Resolution 2009-1, seeking approval to admit Resurrection, Jacksonville, as a parish, was met with an instantaneous standing ovation. The ovation morphed into a general joyous uproar as the Resurrection congregation and clergy — many sporting red attire — paraded into the Pavilion behind their parish banner. One child crept delighted to be carried high on shoulders, amid the clouds of red balloons floating above the celebration. See photos in the centerfold!

“Come share the joy!” The Rev. Gerry Walston, vicar-now-rector of Resurrection, was allegedly “retired” after many years at Christ Church, Ponte Vedra Beach, when he came to the former St. David’s campus in the East Arlington section of Jacksonville to lead the rebuilding Resurrection congregation. Deacon Carrie English, who serves there, says the Sunday worship is “a joyful service.” The congregation now has a youth group, 13 members in the choir, three Sunday School classes and two adult classes. Resurrection is living its motto: “Come share the joy!” and brought that joy into the midst of the 2009 Diocesan Convention.

Bishop Curry blessed the midday meal, and a bountiful buffet lunch was served in the adjoining tent, with colorful fresh fruits and vegetables as centerpieces.

When the Convention reconvened, the Right Rev. Charles Keyser, bishop of the Armed Forces (retired), and assisting bishop of Florida, spoke to the delegates. A series of messages from Bishop Keyser begins in the March issue of The Diocesan.

Discon Bridges, who led gatherings across the Diocese which collected input for the Long-Range Planning Committee, returned to report on the committee’s findings and to encourage continued involvement as the project turns to planning active responses based on the information gathered.

A film from the University of the South/Sewanee was introduced by Pam Anderson and the Rev. Nancee Martin-Coffey. The Global Reconciliation Committee reported on Diocese of Florida, congregational, and individual response to the Millennium Development Goals and the MDGs. The Rev. George Young III, chair, gave a report from the Camp and Conference Center Committee.

Bishop Howard had paid tribute to the campus often called “Parish Hall of the Diocese” in his address, saying “Camp Weed’s special aura doesn’t come from its beautiful location, nor does it come from bricks or mortar, or pressure-treated wood. “The spirit of this place was created — and is maintained — by love and prayer, by hard work done joyfully, and by generosity of heart. We are grateful to Joe Chamberlain and to all the staff of Camp Weed for that, but we remember, those gifts came from you, and from others in our diocese, through the grace of our Lord,” Bishop Howard said.

$2.1 million Common Ministry Budget

Delegates received a report from the Rev. Tony Ferguson, chair of the Program and Budget Committee, which announced a variety of national and international financial affairs, while restating a $2.1 million balanced Common Ministry Budget on parish pledges as submitted. Fr. Ferguson indicated that the budget committee would meet as often as monthly in 2009 to monitor financial developments.

Courtesy resolutions were presented by the Rev. Mark Asdon as Convention drew to a close. The 167th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida will be held on Jan. 29-30, 2010, at Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center.

2009 Diocesan Convention Elections

Standing Committee

Clergy — The Rev. Mal Jopling — Lay — Sue Carmichael

Diocesan Council

Clergy — The Rev. Louise Loch — Lay — Jan Walker — Irene Crocker

From top: In a spacious bright-white tent adjoining the Snell-McCurty Youth Pavilion, delegates browsed the colorful displays that ministries had set up along the walls. Light breakfast, break-time snacks, and lunch were served from buffet tables in the center space. From top: Edye McCown greets visitors to FreshMinistries/Be The Change International display; Jacksonville Campus Ministries reaches out to the city’s college students; Kairos Prison Ministry serves inmates and the families of inmates; fresh vegetables form an artful and appetizing centerpiece for Saturday’s lunch.

Photos: VBB and Joe Chamberlain

opportunity that we have right now to do God’s work in a world that needs it more than ever. Talk to them about the chance we have, the rare opportunity to fulfill God’s promise. Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over!

With loving hearts and generous hands, let us continue now to love and to serve the Lord — and to witness the miracles He will perform in our midst. Thanks be to God!

“’There is not a congregation in this Diocese that could do mind-boggling amounts of good if congregations were tithe- ing. The world could do marvelous things if the dioceses were to tithe on a tithe on a tithe.’

Diocese: mission, ministry, worship, outreach — Continued from page 1
Florida sunshine shines on adventure

Marie Howard had planned a lively “real camp life” experience for the spouses. Joe Chamberlain, executive director of the Camp and Conference Center, and Marie made the most of gloriously warm mid-winter sunshine to introduce the spouses to Florida’s history and ecology.

The introduction began with “Water’s Journey,” a remarkable research video which follows water from a single raindrop hitting earth and filtering through sand and lime rock to become part of the Floridan Aquifer. In the video, cave divers deep underground were wriggling along crevices to follow the Floridan Aquifer. Meanwhile, moving directly above the swimmers, researchers on dry land were walking with electronic tracking equipment, precisely following and mapping the divers’ progress below their feet. As the divers followed the aquifer, the video also showed their trackers cutting across highways, around and through homes, entering and leaving Sonny’s Barbecue at the Interstate 10/Alachua exit — (one viewer was heard to say, “I think they’re heading to the salad bar”) — wherever the unseen path of the aquifer far below was taking the divers.

Viewing the video was a remarkable experience in itself, but more was to come. One of the divers, Tommy Morris, termed a “world class adventurer” by his friend Joe Chamberlain, appeared in person to talk with the wives about local botany and zoology: continuing as he joined them on a boat trip down the nearby Santa Fe River, a wild and scenic introduction to Florida’s waters, with glimpses of its marine life, birds, and wild animals. Joe drove the boat, and Tommy lectured, all the way down the river. The December weather remained sunny and 75 degrees, and the trip had been a complete success — until it got even better.

The point at which the Ichetucknee flows into the Santa Fe River is a perfect demonstration of the way the Floridan Aquifer forces water up through springs in our part of Florida. Joe says there is no other aquifer in the world from which so many springs flow in such abundance. As the group watched “in that crystal clear-as-air water” Joe said, what should appear as if on cue but a pod of manatees circling the boat! Mama manatee, her baby, and another youngster just volunteered a visit — pure serendipity. Most of the ladies had never before met a manatee.

Back on the Camp and Conference Center property, the next day Joe told the story of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto’s march north across Florida, de Soto’s encounters with the Native Americans, and his stopping over at campsites that archaeologists have located on our diocesan land. Journals indicate that deSoto actually walked along a lake there, Sept. 12-15, 1539. Amateur archaeologist Jerry Scott, who has this region’s most extensive collection of arrowheads — some dating 12,000 years back — brought samples of different styles, shapes and colors, and tools he has found, many discovered on Camp Weed property and nearby.

On adjoining land, archaeologists have found evidence of an early Christian mission to Native Americans.

The wives walked to one of the camp sites within the Camp and Conference Center boundaries, and found fragments of Indian pottery from the deSoto era. Camp Weed has a project underway to honor and pass down to campers some Native American skills, by planting and managing a demonstration vegetable plot using methods early settlers learned from the first Americans.

By then the bishops’ lively wives had become so caught up in the Camp Weed spirit of adventure that they toppled off their visit with competitive shootouts on the riflery and archery ranges. It’s said that rounds of spousal rifle fire echoing through the rural tranquility gave startled pause to the bishops’ meeting, inspiring more than one comment that went unreported in the minutes.

Bishop John Howard and Bishop Clifton Daniel III, bishop of East Carolina, president of Province IV bishops, and brother of the Rev. Patricia Daniel Turk of this diocese.

Emmy Cerveny and naturalist Tom Morris on a field trip down the Santa Fe River for wives of the Province IV bishops; three manatees greeted the group.

The spirit of outdoor adventure found these Annie Oakleys at the Camp Weed shooting range. From left: Jeannie Johnson, Jan Louttit, Diana Frade, Marie Howard, Mary Ellen Smith, and Chris Keyser.

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Above left: Mandi’s Chapel offered the serene setting for the visiting bishops’ worship between earth, water, and sky.

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Marie Howard points to Native American artifacts discovered at ancient village on camp property.

Visiting the organic garden are bishops’ wives (from left) Chris Keyser; Florida; Mary Ellen Smith, wife of Bishop Dubney T. Smith of Southwest Florida; next to her in the back row is Marie Howard, wife of Bishop Charles vonRosenberg of East Tennessee; Diana Frade (with parasol), wife of Bishop Leopold Frade of Southeast Florida; Jan Louttit (front row in blue jacket), wife of Bishop Henry Louttit of Georgia; Ginger Sauls (in red shirt), wife of Bishop Stacy Sauls of Lexington, KY; Jeannie Johnson (with hood), wife of Bishop Don Johnson of West Tennessee; and Marie Howard, Florida.
John and Patty Donahoo

Life-long members of St. John’s Cathedral and selfless and seemingly tireless workers in affairs of the Cathedral and the Diocese, John and Patty Donahoo continue to significantly serve and lead in the life of our Diocese. A number of years ago when a vision was cast to build a quiet retreat for your bishop and special guests, John and Patty and other leaders were instrumental in making that dream a reality. Marie and I and many others are especially grateful for “our place apart” – the Bishop’s Retreat Cabin – at Camp Weed. It is truly a place where we can retreat, relax, and recharge.

In instrumental in the success of the Capital Campaign for Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center, John’s extroverted nature together with Patty’s warm and welcoming way have created an irresistible combination which have summoned hundreds of others to give to and serve their Lord in the vineyards of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

We are this day honored to present to John and Patty Donahoo the Bishop’s Cross Award of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

The Rev. Barnum McCarty

Called to ordained ministry by God and by the Right Reverend Frank Alexander Janub – two territories which often seem indistinguishable when he discusses them – the Reverend Barnum McCarty has served the Episcopal Diocese of Florida for over fifty years in positions and ways too numerous to list here. Graduate of the University of the South and of its School of Theology, rector of congregations in Apalachicola, Panama City and for over twenty years of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, there is not a commission or committee of the Diocese of the Episcopal Church which has not benefited from this priest’s wisdom, guidance, and insight, including our Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Search Committee for Bishop, and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

We meet for convention this weekend in the Snell-McCarty Youth Pavilion, named for Barnum and for his best friend, the late Father Bob Snell, both of whom worked together in this diocesan camp and especially with the young people of our diocese. It is that ministry, the Camp and the Youth, which remains even today the guiding star and passion of Barnum’s ministry. Taking a lead in developing resources for youth ministry in the Diocese, it is Barnum who has been instrumental in raising funds and gaining the commitments of individuals across our diocese for ministry to and with our young people and especially for our newly proposed position of Canon for Youth Ministries.

It is our great honor to present to Barnum McCarty the Bishop’s Cross Award of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

Charlie Norton

Charlie Norton has been an Episcopalian his entire adult life, and all of that time in the Diocese of Florida. Charlie served on the Bishop’s Advisory Council for Bishop Frank Cerveny. He was the chairman of the search committee for Camp Weed, and a leader active in the securing of the current properties held by the Diocese. Charlie served the Diocese as chairman of the Diocesan Finance Committee. At St. Mark’s Jacksonville, where he first became an Episcopalian, he was often elected to the Vestry. He served respectively as acolyte and Vestry leader.

A pillar of Trinity Church, Melrose, he has served as a lector and Eucharistic Minister, has been elected to the Mission Board many times and served as treasurer for over 20 years. He established the Norton Outreach Fund which funds and is vital to many of the outreach ministries of Trinity Church today.

Most recently at Trinity, he served on the search committee and even now, at the age of 96, teaches Trinity’s most popular Sunday morning Christian Formation Class for adults.

Those who know him well at Trinity Church say of him that “Charlie Norton is an example of God’s grace and light. He is, in all things a faithful servant of Christ and simply the person he is, is the most compelling form of evangelism we could imagine.”

It is our great honor this day to present to Charlie Norton the Bishop’s Cross Award of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

Mary Call Proctor

Once a student at Trinity Church of Tallahassee, Bill has served on several boards and committees, giving generously in many ways with his time, talents and treasures.

One of the greatest leaders in the history of the Diocese of Florida, Bill has served the old, the young, the sick, the imprisoned and everyone in between, including several bishops.

Bill was one of the first appointed Lay Eucharistic Ministers and assisted in developing the Diocesan training program. Bill served on the board of Episcopal Children’s Services, was co-chair in establishing the Diocesan Prison Ministry Commission, involved in Kairos ministry and so much more. In nominating Bill, the Rev. Rick Westbury said, “Bill’s participation in God’s ministry exceeds one’s expectations. He has been a valuable ministry leader at Christ Church and in the Diocese of Florida. A true statesman.”

As Bishop of the Diocese of Florida, it gives me great pleasure to present the Bishop’s Cross to Bill Ross.

James D. Salter

Few people have served the Diocese of Florida or their own parish more diligently or with more vigor than has James D. Salter. Jim has chaired the budget and audit committee of the Diocese, and was appointed Vice Chancellor of the Diocese by Bishop Cerveny. An avid supporter of Camp Weed, he served on the Camp Weed Capital Campaign Committee and on the Camp and Conference committee.

Jim founded the Holy Trinity Foundation and has served as its chairman for 40 years. The assets of the Foundation have grown to estimated $20 million and acts as a contributor to the work of the parish and, thus, the Church. He chaired the Capital Campaign to rebuild Holy Trinity after it was destroyed by fire in 1991 and has, over the years, represented Holy Trinity at many Diocesan Conventions, served on numerous Vestries and Standing Committees.

A former Sunday School teacher and superintendent of the Standley School, he is currently serving as Head Verger at Holy Trinity Church. The Bishop can personally attest to his excellence in that role on the basis of experience as recent as one week ago.

Jim has served on two rector search committees, chairing one of them. His leadership in his parish is legendary, his work for the Diocese of Trinity tireless, and his love for the Episcopal Church endless. Jim Salter has given most generously of his God-given time, talent and treasure toward the support, upbuilding and strengthening of the life of the Diocese and his parish. Accordingly, it is our honor today to award to him the Bishop’s Cross Award of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.
The Katrina Relief Task Force

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005 the Diocese of Florida set up the Katrina Relief Task Force to begin the process of aid to the victims of this destructive storm. The outstanding work of the Katrina Relief Task Force has been recognized in the Mississippi Gulf communities as well as throughout the Episcopal Church. To date our Diocese has made 46 mission trips to the Long Beach and Pass Christian Mississippi area working through Camp Coast Care to clean up and rebuild the area. I would like to thank Lamar Kaleel, George Hinchliff, Amy Slater and Ben Hill as members of this task force and all of you who have your donated time, talent and treasure to make our work in Mississippi so constructive. I especially salute those of you who have made a mission trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to help.

Today we honor three individuals who had so much to do with the effectiveness and persistence of the pledge of our diocese to help those devastated by this storm. They have exhibited leadership skills and Christian compassion which has resulted in one of the most outstanding outreach ministries in the history of our diocese.

Ron Birchall

January 31, 2009

Ron has been the Co-Chair of the Katrina Relief Task Force since its formation in the Fall of 2005. Ron and the late Lani Wingate worked to build the membership of the task force and then put together a plan of action that has resulted in 46 mission trips to date to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Ron uses his extensive experience in military logistics to plan the trips and the work to be done, and then his wonderful spiritual gifts to comfort the victims of this devastating storm.

Involving the youth of our diocese in these mission trips has been a priority of Ron’s and, thanks to him, many of our youngsters have traveled to the Gulf Coast to participate in their own ministry of care and rebuilding. Ron’s relationship and work with the staff of Camp Coast Care, a joint Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Facility in Long Beach, MS, has been essential in coordinating the work efforts of our missionary teams.

The Diocese of Florida is grateful for Ron Birchall’s dedication and guidance as Co-Chair of the Katrina Relief Task Force from the beginning, and for his continued commitment to this important ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

We are honored this day to present to him the Bishop’s Cross Award.

Cheryl Hardin

January 31, 2009

Cheryl Hardin has provided long and faithful service to this Diocese and to the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast area in her leadership of rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. As a member of the Katrina Relief Task Force she has led many, many mission teams. Her passion and dedication to help these victims have been and continues to be an encouragement to those in our diocese supporting and making these mission trips.

Cheryl has the wisdom to assess her teams and effectively utilize all the gifts her team members have to offer. When new skills are required, Cheryl has the ability to “All hands on deck” muster of team members and helps them learn these new skills and then leads them as they seek to put them into practice.

Cheryl’s spiritual leadership serves to bring all team members into a sense of community that is beyond our affiliation with our individual parishes or even our Diocese and more into the greater Body of Christ. Her hands and her heart join those who journey with her with the “Hope of Christ” that transforms devastation into new beginnings. Cheryl has led our Diocese in Christian service to the weakest, the most vulnerable, the homeless, and the unemployed and, by her hard work, has given us the opportunity to join with her in this service to others. We are grateful to Cheryl Hardin for her witness and for her spirit of Christian service, and it is our honor today to present to her the Bishop’s Cross Award of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

Lani Wingate

January 31, 2009

Lani Wingate served as Co-Chair of the Katrina Task Force from its formation until his untimely death in 2006. Years of residence with Habitat for Humanity and with Hibiscus in Jacksonville gave Lani a heart for the homeless and were a natural entree for his work with the Katrina Task Force. Lani wore many hats as a member of the task force. He kept all the financial records and arranged for the distribution of money as needed for mission trips, tools and materials, and was the key to obtaining materials and supplies for this important Diocesan outreach from local suppliers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Lani participated in many of the early Gulf Coast mission trips, establishing connections with Camp Coast Care and then working alongside fellow mission team members to clean up and rebuild Katrina-devastated communities. A true servant in all aspects of his ministry to others, Lani took seriously the words of Matthew 25 when Jesus said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

It is an honor today to present to him the Bishop’s Cross Award of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida posthumously to Lani Wingate, good and faithful servant.

May he, with all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

The Rev. John Palarine, rector, Church of Our Saviour, received the Bishop’s Cross Award on behalf of the Wingate family.

James R. Wilkerson

January 31, 2009

A native of Mississippi, Dick Wilkerson has for over two decades been a leader in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida and in his own Redeemer Episcopal Church, Jacksonville. Dick delights in the challenges of church and volunteer work, and has never feared a challenge. Active Curvularista, Lion of Camp Weed, and former head of our Camp and Conference Center Board, Dick has been the Diocese of Florida’s own Johnny Appleseed, personally planted hundreds of pounds of wild flower seeds at Camp Weed, devoting hours to maintaining shrubbery around the Diocesan offices. This devoted Episcopalian says he needs a place to sit and pray, and preferably beside the water, so it is not surprising that, most recently, he has taken on a leadership role in addressing the low water levels in Camp Weed’s White Lake.

Long-time treasurer at Redeemer Episcopal Church, Dick remained an Episcopalian—one of a handful at Redeemer—when the rector and most of the congregation left the Episcopal Church in recent years. Without his leadership and faithfulness, the rebuilding and encouraging recent growth of the Redeemer congregation would have been impossible.

Now, Dick Wilkerson takes on even greater challenges in service to this Diocese as its Treasurer. A fiscal conservative with a heart for mission and ministry, his faithfulness and love of his church will be tested as we seek to navigate unknown waters of economic downtown even as our diocese seeks to move in new directions and increase ministry, mission and outreach.

Once upon a time, Dick was heard to comment that he “never met anyone who couldn’t benefit from his opinion.” We agree with him and we give thanks to God for obtaining the good sense and hard work which he has devoted to all of the aspects of the life of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

We are honored today to present to him the Bishop’s Cross of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

Cheryl Hardin

January 31, 2009

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Global Reconciliation Commission

Diocese of Florida

The Global Reconciliation Commission is pleased to introduce a new logo that is full of meaning. It began with the commissioning of Ann Brodt with an Icon in graphite and to pay tribute to Teresa Harrison for her fine inaugural leadership of the first Global Reconciliation Commission of our diocese. This Commission is the group charged by Bishop Howse to provide educational materials through publications and meetings and help realize the Millennium Development Goals.

The beautiful Icon (in the center of the logo) that Brodt, a student of Teresa Harrison, chose was the Theotokos. Brodt explains, “Mary is traditionally the caregiver, nurturer for us. Teresa has also been a caregiver, nurturer for the Global Reconciliation Commission. Her passion for icons and the Millennium Development Goals seemed a natural match for this gift.” A graphic artist student in Gainesville, Sam Heath, took the icon and drew out further the symbols around Mary’s halo which represent the eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world’s main development challenges. Specifically the symbols and what they represent are: bowl of soup—eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; pencil—achieve universal primary education; female sign—promote gender equality and empower women; teddy bear—reduce child mortality; pregnant woman—improve maternal health; tree—combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; tree—ensure environmental sustainability; and, human figures locked together—global partnership for development.

The Icon and logo have been so warmly received that the GRC planned to have cards and postcards available for sale at Diocesan Convention in January, with the proceeds going towards MDG #2: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. The hope was that folks stopping by the GRC table at Convention would learn more about the pick-up educational materials, and perhaps even purchase cards and postcards.
ECCC hosts 19th Annual Conference with Presiding Bishop as keynoter

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori heard first hand both the good news and challenges about the current health of the over 100 camps and conference centers in the Episcopal Church. Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori served as keynote speaker at the Episcopal Camp and Conference Centers (ECCC) at Duncan M. Gray Center in the Diocese of Mississippi.

Directors and Board members of ECCC centers cited the half billion dollar resource for the church that the centers represented. Although six new centers have been created since 2000, including Barbara Harris Center in the Diocese of Massachusetts, twelve other Church simply “could not lose these valuable resources,” said the Rev. Jack Andersen, longtime advocate for this ministry.

The goals of the ECCC are articulated as:

- Nurturing professional growth and development of current and future leaders
- Forming excellence in the operation and services of member centers
- Strengthening the network of communication, collegiality, and support among leaders of centers
- Acquiring and investing financial resources to sustain and expand the ministry of ECCC
- Advocating for camp and conference ministry within the wider Church

ECCC is working toward a resolution to the upcoming General Convention that funds be restored to the Episcopal Church budget for Camping Ministry. Part of this effort is to strengthen the link between Youth Ministry and Camp Ministry because Episcopal summer camps in the United States provide nurture to over 300,000 young people each year.

The Rev. Brian Prior, vice-president of the House of Deputies and a former camper and camp counselor, said “It is so critical to have a Presiding Bishop as keynoter...” He added that “Right in camp ministry, we’ve seen how it can catch a young person out of school, out of their normal life...”

A recent Gallup survey found that over eighty-five percent of church-goers established the foundation of their faith before the age of 18. Thus, the work of the ECCC can help the wider church understand that over half of the clergy and lay leadership of the church got their start in camp ministry.”

By providing experienced consulting services to centers, ECCC brings quality across the spectrum of camps and conference centers. Rufus Miller, Board President of ECCC said the organization and affiliated bishops will present ceremonial walking sticks to each bishop at General Convention who has walked the extra mile to further the work of camp and conference ministry in his or her Diocese.

The mission of Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, Inc. is to sustain and enhance the ministry of all camps and conference centers of the Episcopal Church.

“...Over half of the clergy and lay leadership of the church got their start in camp ministry.”
— The Rev. Brian Prior, vice-president, House of Deputies

Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori and Joe Chamberlin, executive director of Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center, at the 19th Annual Conference of the Episcopal Camp and Conference Centers (ECCC) at Duncan M. Gray Center in the Diocese of Mississippi. Joe Chamberlin is Director of Member Services for the ECCC.

Q: What is the largest lay organization in the Episcopal Church? A: The National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors!

NAECED “A dynamic community celebrating and upholding the diverse ministries of Christian Formation”

Malinda Harris, Director of Christian Education at Christ Church at Ponte Vedra Beach, says she is “shamelessly promoting my involvement in NAECED the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors” one of the ‘founding mothers’ 12 years ago – along with Christine Kerrey Ball.”

Malinda, who serves on the Board of Directors, was one of three from this diocese who attended NAECED’s 2009 Annual Conference – the others are Kristina Smith, Director of Christian Formation at St. Peter’s, Fernandina Beach, and Sonya Sewards, Director of Christian Formation at St. John’s, Tassassee.

Members of NAECED in the Diocese of Florida who were not at the conference include Marth Baugh, Minister of Christian Education, St. Andrew’s, Jacksonville, Ann Brodt, Director of Christian Formation, St. John’s Cathedral, Jacksonville, Pam Gillis, Children’s Coordinator, Church of Our Saviour, Jacksonville, Hope McCannan, Ministry Coordinator, St. George’s, Jacksonville, Tiffany LaMotte, J2A Coordinator, St. George’s, Jacksonville, and Mary Pickett, Assistant to Christian Formation, Christ Church, Ponte Vedra.

“Our liturgy is a wealth of resources for our membership, over 300,000 from across the United States,” Malinda says. “There are probably many small parishes whose Christian Formation person could really use these resources. We have provided through the liturges,” Malinda says.

“Please check out our website at www.naeced.org.

Next year’s NAECED Conference will be held Jan. 21-24 in San Francisco. NAECED will have a booth at the 76th General Convention in Anaheim, CA, July 8-17. MORE @ www.naeced.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS GATHER FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO

Feb. 6, Nearly 100 Christian Education Directors from across the country gathered at the 2009 National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED) annual Tapestry Conference to worship, share resources, and discuss upcoming General Convention resolutions.

This year’s theme, “Marked as Christ’s Own,” highlights the group’s commitment to lifting up the Baptismal Covenant as the central mission and ministry of the church. NAECED is the largest professional organization in the Episcopal Church, with over 300 members.

The conference, a year in the making, opened with a baptism-themed liturgy Wednesday evening. Participants enjoyed soul-nourishing workshops much-needed at this time in our budget-challenged ministry. Workshops addressed a variety of issues including how to address the needs of youth, worship for autistic children, how to choose curriculum, pastoral care, financial management, and so on.

During the Annual Meeting members heard from Linda Puckett of Church Pension, Inc. about forthcoming resolutions to General Convention 2009 regarding health care and pension. Pensions from NAECED will present a denominational health plan of the Episcopal Church and require equity in health care and pension coverage between clergy and lay ministers working at least 1,500 hours a year. NAECED actively supports parity in the workplace.

KANUGA CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

[ENNS] Feb. 11 - Kanuga Conferences Inc., an Episcopal Church camp and conference facility for 80 years, is installing energy-saving solar panels to heat water at its 1,400-acre campus in the mountains near Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Stan Hubbard, president of Kanuga, noted that the installation of 131 solar panels on the roofs of 11 buildings represents “another step for Kanuga and a very visible sign of its commitment to help preserve the environment.”

“I’ve already seen reactions from the people who’ve come to Kanuga since the panels went up,” said Hubbard. “People ask questions. It is making a real difference in awareness and giving people a resource for sustainability projects in which they might be involved.” Hubbard said he had inquiries from congregations, Episcopal schools, and retirement homes interested in receiving more information.

MORE @
www.episcopalchurch.com/81799_105_004_ENG_HTM.htm

PRESIDING BISHOP JEFFERTS SCHORI PODCAST ON ‘DAY 1’... Former Protestant Hour

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, was the featured preacher Feb. 8 on the Day 1 radio program. Bishop Jefferts Schori also received the yearning masses, healing and a very visible sign of its commitment to help preserve the environment.

Her sermon for the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany, “Join Hands, Reach Out, and Lift Up,” focuses on an account of Jesus’ healing touch in Mark 1. “Jesus’ healing touch was grounded in open vulnerability,” she says. “He received the yearning masses, healing and a very visible sign of its commitment to help preserve the environment.”

As former known as ‘The Protestant Hour,’ Day 1 has been broadcast every week for nearly 80 years. Day 1 is one of the largest professional organizations in the Episcopal Church and requires equity in health care and pension coverage between clergy and lay ministers working at least 1,500 hours a year. NAECED actively supports parity in the workplace.

For more information about Day 1, call toll free 888-411-Day or check the program’s Web site, www.Day1.org.

Visit Sewanee EDU
Web Site Debuts To Ease Planning

Prospective students are more likely to accept an admission offer if they have visited Sewanee. That’s an attitude that most alumni, who know the allure of The Mountain, but they might like some resources to help plan a visit. The University’s new web site offers a host of information about visiting. From accommodations to maps, from videos to the latest on campus events, the site provides alumni, prospects, and casual tourists with everything needed about visiting Sewanee.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP: GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Epiphany 2009

For the Congregations of the Episcopal Church

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

For almost a century, the Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This year’s 87th Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to be a bridge between the churches in the region that is so central to our faith. In my time as Presiding Bishop, I have been deeply moved by stories of the pain that division brings to the lives of all in this Province of the Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East was formed in 1841 with the purpose of forging friendships with the ancient churches and serving the expatriate communities in the region. The friendships made then have strengthened the work and witness of the entire Episcopal Church ever since. Since 1922, members of the Episcopal Church have given thanks for this extraordinary relationship through their generous giving to the Good Friday Offering. This offering expresses our own commitment to walk with the church of Jerusalem & the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God’s vision of shalom.

More information on this offering is available online at www.episcopalchurch.org/goodfriday.

There you can access the Good Friday Offering Bulletin Sheet and Poster. If you do not have access to the Internet, the enclosed order form and return envelope will help you obtain the materials needed.

Again, please join me in celebrating the work of the Good Friday Offering by generously sharing the gifts we have been given with our sisters and brothers in the Middle East.

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori

Presiding Bishop’s statement on Inauguration Day

[Jan. 20] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori offered the following statement on the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

As Episcopalian, we pray for the President of the United States each time we gather for worship. In the years ahead, we will continue to pray for President Barack Obama, for his Successors in Leadership and for all who may know himself as a beloved child of God. May he both guide this nation and be a partner in leading the world to a greater justice for all.

I urge all Episcopalians to come together in prayer for his historic election, and pray that his ministry may encourage others in the prophetic search for a just and peaceful world.

Primates seek deeper communion, gracious restraint

At the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primates and Moderators of the Churches of the Anglican Communion gathered for prayer and consultation in the ancient city of Alexandria, with the Most Rev. Mouneer Anis, Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, as host.

In their communiqué, “A letter from Alexandria to the Churches of the Anglican Communion,” the Primates said, “We pray for the ongoing dialogues on the life, mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion. The Angaelic Communion is one in which humanity has a crucial responsibility, and with the Scriptures together, seeking to be faithful to the call of God in Christ, and to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit. There was a common desire to speak honestly about our situation.”

“Conscious of the historical, cultural, ecumenical and inter-faith contexts of our meeting,” the Primates visited the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and participated in the dedication of St. Mark’s Pro-Cathedral in Alexandria, and the installation of the new dean.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said at the Feb. 5 press briefing that the spirit of the meeting had been very constructive, and while people might not have changed their minds on key issues, there had been a willingness to listen and to try to find accommodations for each other.

The Archbishop of Canterbury went on to outline the main items from the meeting, including the report of the Windsor Continuation Group which contained three main elements as outlined in the communiqué:

1) The need for a shift of focus in the life of the communion from autonomy of provinces with communion added on, to communion as the primary reality with autonomy and accountability understood within that framework.

2) A set of recommendations about the instruments of communion and how they should work. All four; the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primates Meeting, the Anglican Consultative Council and the Lambeth Conference need some looking at as to whether their present structures of working are adequate to the situation.

3) The current situation in North America and the coalition of the Anglican Church of North America out of the common cause partnership. The continuation group report notes the enormous difficulties of parallel jurisdiction but also recognizes the desire of these groups to be Anglicans and be in relationship with the Anglican Communion. The recommendation was that the Archbishop of Canterbury convenes a professionally resourced mediation process. In addition there was support for the appointment of a pastoral forum and pastoral visitors who can act as consultants in situations of stress and conflict.

The Archbishop of Canterbury also spoke about the Primates statement on Zimbabwe and of hearing harrowing first hand reports from the region and from Zimbabwe itself.

He also talked about the statement on the situation in Sudan and about the brief statement on Gaza, calling for greater support for humanitarian effort and support for ceasefires.

One section of the Primates’ communiqué commented on a presentation on global warming and climate change, followed by a discussion. “There is a significant and growing body of statistics which demonstrates that this is a real problem, and one in which humanity has a crucial responsibility, the communiqué said. “The scriptures call humanity to a careful stewardship of creation, we undertake to ensure that issues of climate change and the responsible management of our natural resources are items which are given urgent priority for reflection, study and action in our own Provinces.

The Primates received a presentation and analysis of the current global financial situation and explored Christian responses to it. The primates affirmed that the Church’s concerns must be broader and deeper than economics and politics, saying “This is a moment to proclaim the big vision [of love for my neighbour], living it out in practice, and witnessing, where necessary, against injustices which desecrate that vision. This vision of universal neighbourliness must not be lost at our geographical borders. The Church of Christ is universal and recognizes that love for my neighbour is not limited to the person next door.”

“In particular, we call on our Churches to do all that they can to ensure commitments by governments to the Millennium Development Goals are not abandoned in the face of the current crisis.”

Full reports and texts are posted by the Anglican Communion News Service at www.aco.org/news. As always, if you do not have online access and want more information in hard copy on news subjects, contact editor Virginia Barrett Barker at 904-268-5138.

FEBRUARY AD. 2009 THE DIACONIAN 13
Members of St. Paul’s, Cienfuegos, Cuba, help put the final touches on the pew kneeler cushions made by members of St. Paul’s By-the-Sea, Jacksonville Beach.

Bagpiper accompanies ancient Celtic service

Thirteen homes visited during Church of the Epiphany’s second annual House Blessings

By Jack Tull

The Church of the Epiphany, Jacksonville, offered its second annual Epiphany House Blessings on January 4, 2009. This year for the blessings of the homes, an ancient Celtic rite was used. Thirteen families signed up for the annual blessing. The Rev. Sandy Tull, accompanied by Jack Tull, Amy Slater, Sue Monson, Jackie Jones, and bagpiper Keith Aclin went from house to house to perform the blessing. At each house the entire family came outside to be part of the service and then to hear Amazing Grace played by Keith on the bagpipes.

Each blessing began with this prayer:

*Leader: May God give His blessing to this house here.*

God bless this house from roof to floor, from wall to wall, from end to end, from its foundation and in its covering.

In the strong name of the Triune God all evil be banished, all disturbance cease, captive spirits freed

God’s Spirit alone dwell within these walls.

100th Anniversary gift for St. Paul’s, Cienfuegos, Cuba

St. Paul’s By-the-Sea group raises funds to sew kneelers and cushions for sister parish

From reports by Anne Wiggins

A group at St. Paul’s By-the-Sea, Jacksonville Beach, has made and delivered a complete set of pew kneelers, choir chair cushions, and altar chair cushions for their sister church, St. Paul’s in Cienfuegos, Cuba.

Members of St. Paul’s By-the-Sea flew from Miami into Cienfuegos in mid-November to help their companion parish celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Paul’s, Cienfuegos.

The bright Liturgical Red cushions were the gift of St. Paul’s By-the-Sea. While Anne Wiggins and Karan Gilbert were visiting in Cuba in June 2008, they took measurements of all the pew kneelers and the chairs at the Cienfuegos church. With that list in hand, the Florida group raised money to buy materials, and made the carefully fitted cushions themselves.

The Floridians took the gifts down to their sister church in November 2008.

The Rev. Héctor Conde tries out the new cushions at St. Paul’s, Cienfuegos, Cuba.

Members of St. Paul’s By-the-Sea, Jacksonville Beach, made kneeler and chair cushions for their sister church, St. Paul’s in Cienfuegos, Cuba.
Episcopalians share expertise – Continued from page 1

Themes for their meditations centered on the creation promised in the birth being celebrated and the death foretold, along with our own deaths and resurrections, seeking finding the newborn babe and adoring him in our hearts with a deeply personal recognition and reverence, and all the locunovable and unlocunovable manifestations of His ongoing birth and death, even in times when He seems most absent. A gentle rhythm of quiet and silence wound through the gracious spaces before the meditations and worship.

Our well regarded and loved harpist Sue Carmichael undergirded the silences with sacred melodies, including some of her own compositions. She also provided Morning Prayer while Louise Hardman led the Patrick Compline, a Celtic service.

Participants came from Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Melrose, Tallahassee and as far away as Atlanta, for the Dec. 13-15 event. All appreciated the opportunity for a time away of quieting and enjoying simple meals and an unhurried schedule.

At DCCL Advent Retreat: The Rev. Mary Busse, the Rev. Bernie Dooly, and Barri Jones enjoy an unhurried schedule; musician Sue Carmichael offers sacred melodies and her own compositions; an icon and votive candles light the dusk.

Episcopalians share expertise

By Louise Hardman

The Diocesan Center for Christian Living offered its second annual Advent Retreat at Camp Weed, led by the Revs. Mary Busse, Bernie Dooly and Aaron Uitti.

The Cathedral stewardship team will be available at the retreat in a booth to answer questions regarding the 2009 stewardship campaign. Much of the Diocesan Center’s work is not just about the projects and programs we offer, but about the stewardship of our resources to fulfill God’s will. Just as we have been called to care for our own bodies in the care of our physical health, we are called to care for our souls in the care of our spiritual health.

The Diocesan Center has been able to offer programs provided by some of the best in the region, thanks to the generosity of you, the diocesan family. The staff of the DCCL is committed to serving the needs of the diocesan family, so please know that your gifts are greatly appreciated.

For more details about the Diocesan Center’s Advent Retreat, including how to register and information about the speakers, please visit the DCCL website at www.diocesefl.org under DCCL, or mail in the completed form.

To register for a DCCL event you may go to the Diocesan website at www.diocesefl.org under DCCL, or mail in the completed form. If you have a desire to see a specific area or need addressed, please contact us. Please contact the Rev. Teresa Eberhardt at St. Francis of Assisi, Tallahassee, at (850) 562-1595 or stfrancisrector@netdaily.com.

A wide variety of classes will be offered to meet the diverse needs of individuals and groups in our diocese. Some people may nurture their bodies, minds, and spirits at a Flying Retreat. Others in our diocese may nurture their Christian life while learning about the altars lines or vestments. Vestries and Wardens will gather to explore their leadership roles in the parish. Interested learners will gather for a course exploring the Gospels. Brothers and sisters in Christ will join together for an Advent retreat. Evangelism programs such as the Lost Sheep or the Shepherd program may be explored. Participants will learn about the stewardship taking place at our beloved Camp Weed including the pine tree forest, organic gardening, and recycling - and how they may take stewardship back to their homes and parishes. This is just a small sampling of possibilities being offered by DCCL in the future. Stay tuned to see what opportunities you will have to nurture your body, mind, and spirit.

You are invited to propose a class, retreat, presenter, or area of study as the DCCL committee begins the planning and scheduling for the fall and beyond, we would love to have your thoughts and ideas. If you have a course idea - if you would like to propose a class, retreat, or presenter - or if you have a desire to see a specific area or need addressed, please contact us. Please contact the Rev. Teresa Eberhardt at St. Francis of Assisi, Tallahassee, at (850) 562-1595 or stfrancisrector@netdaily.com.

Seeking Christian wholeness and balance, each DCCL program will embrace care for the body, mind and spirit.

Diocesan Center for Christian Living: It’s all about ‘Body, Mind, and Spirit’

The body, mind, and spirit are all inseparably linked together in the Christian life. All three need to be nurtured as we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. That is what the Diocesan Center for Christian Living is all about. Just a few short years ago, the Diocesan Center for Christian Living (DCCL) was formed. The DCCL is now moving into the next phase of its existence. Beginning in Fall 2009, DCCL will offer programs, workshops, and retreats in such areas as:

- Religion and the Arts
- Biblical and Theological Study
- Spirituality
- Worship and Liturgy
- Evangelism and Newcomer Ministry
- Stewardship
- Camp Weed – A Place Set Apart
- Communication

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The first annual Lenten Retreat will be offered at Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center on Mon., March 9 and Tues., March 10. The Diocesan Center for Christian Living will be led by the Revs. Mary Busse and Bernie Dooly, assisted by Sue Carmichael, lay vicar of St. Mary’s, Jacksonville, and Louise Hardman, director of the Center for Prayer & Spirituality at St. John’s Cathedral.

A gentle rhythm of quiet and silence weaves through the gracious spaces before the meditations and worship, undergirded by hallowed melodies played by our harpist Sue Carmichael. The meditations led by the Revs. Busse and Dooly are sacred reflections for enhancing both the observance of Lent and celebration of Easter and our own inner journeys. On Tuesday morning, participants will have the opportunity to walk the rustic Stations of the Cross on the Conference Center property.

The Lenten Retreat is the gift of time away to quietly rest in the Lord, reflect, listen and enjoy an unhurried schedule.

Lenten Retreat

Meditations on the Sacred Journey of Lent into the Holy Mystery of Easter

March 9 - 10, 2009

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Probing Mark’s Gospel

March 28-29, 2009


The Gospel of Mark is the lead Gospel in Year B for our Sunday readings. During our times together we will examine the skillful weaving together of the stories of Jesus as they are masterfully narrated in St. Mark. There are puzzles to be solved. It is fascinating to observe how one of the Synoptic Gospels is refracted through the lens of St. Mark.

Just bring a Bible and the Gospel of Mark as often as you can, and bring a file to house handouts. It will be a joyous journey. Hope we can gather around the Word. Beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, through noon Sunday, March 29. There will be Holy Communion on Sunday!

From top: Brooks Pennington, Malinda Showalter, and Fr. Bob Griffiths present workshops to expanded Wardens & Vestry group.

serves on the Finance Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida and chairs the Audit Committee and the Diocese’s Foundation.
College Corner

Chapel House Episcogators reaching out to Gainesville community and to Cuba

By Janelle

My name is Janelle, and I grew up in Central Florida, in Apopka. I am a sophomore and am currently studying French and history at the University of Florida. On campus I am involved with Florida Alternative Breaks, an organization which sends students to various places in the U.S. and around the world to do service work during academic breaks. Last spring break I went to Washington, D.C., to work with immigration issues; this spring break I am going to South Carolina to work on a Native American Reservation. I just recently became involved with UF Campus Kitchens as well, a group which takes leftover food from dining halls and other local restaurants and gives it to low-income families.

The first semester of my freshman year I started going to Chapel House. Since then I have become more involved, becoming outreach minister of the campus ministry. Going to service at Chapel House every Sunday (and sometimes Wednesday as well) is such a great change of pace from the rush and stress of school and college life, and really provides some much-needed time of fellowship with other students and above all, communication with Christ.

As outreach minister this year, I hope that we at Chapel House can become more mindful of the needs of the community and those in need. After reading the book The Irresistible Revolution by Shane Claiborne, I have really been inspired to make service an integral part of my life, and I feel called to try to make service a part of what we, as members of the body of Christ, do together at Chapel House as well.

This semester we have helped clean up Payne’s Prairie along with parishioners from nearby Holy Trinity, and have written Christmas cards to a parish in Cuba. For spring semester we intend to clean up Payne’s Prairie again, help out with a Gainesville organization called Christians Concerned for the Community, and serve a meal at the St. Francis Homeless Shelter in town.

Diocesan Youth Ministry - www.campweed.net

Coming soon for the youth of our diocese
Registration forms and scholarship forms available.

New Beginnings returns to the Diocese of Florida in March!

New Beginnings #1 will be a three-day retreat from Friday until Sunday for 6th to 9th graders at Camp Weed. The weekend is March 27 - 29, 2009 and begins at 7 p.m. The cost is $100. The deadline for team applications was February 27, 2009 and for participants is March 6, 2009.

For more information, visit www.campweed.net.

The next Happening weekend is April 17-19!

The next Happening, for 9th to 12th graders, is April 17-19 at Camp Weed. The weekend begins at 7 p.m. The cost is $100. The deadline for team applications was Feb. 20, 2009 and for candidates is March 20, 2009. The rector of the next weekend is Casssy Chapman from St. Philip’s, Jacksonville.

For more information, visit the Happening page in the Youth Ministry section of the website at www.campweed.net.

Camp Weed ’09 – Summer registration, scholarship forms now!

Registration forms and scholarship forms for the upcoming summer program at Camp Weed are available on the Camper Information page of the Summer Camp section of the website.

The Diocesan Center for Christian Living presents:
Eucharistic Visitor ‘Continuing Education’

Currently licensed Eucharistic Visitors will gather on April 4, 2009 at Camp Weed for a session of Continuing Education. This is a must for renewal of an EV license that expires this year. A Eucharistic Visitor licenses must be renewed every three years.

The very important topic of “abuse” in nursing homes and in other areas where Eucharistic Visitors work will be discussed. The Rev. Deacon Jim Parks will lead the sessions.

We have two great speakers. Mr. Steve Lampros, chief investigator for Families and Children Services for the Tri-County area of Levy, Gilchrist, and Dixie counties, is well qualified to help us recognize conditions of abuse and what to do, and to whom to report it. Also, the Rev. Deacon Jimmie Ruth Hunsinger will speak to us from the nursing side of this topic. She has extensive experience as Head of Nursing in case studies.

Registration is online at www.diocesefl.org under the DCCCL section. For more information, contact Pat Burns at pburns@diocesefl.org. Registration fee is $25 per person, which includes lunch.

Holy Comforter, Tallahassee, welcomes new rector, the Rev. Ted Monica

By Judy Mathews

Tallahassee’s Holy Comforter parishioners welcomed their new rector on his first Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009. A festive reception followed the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The Rev. Ted Monica came to Tallahassee from St. John’s Episcopal Church in Johnstown, New York, in the Diocese of Albany. He had arrived in Tallahassee with his wife, the Rev. Teri Monica - also an Episcopal priest - on Feb. 17.

Fr. Monica had said before leaving Johnstown for Tallahassee, “I believe this has something to do with the Holy Spirit, and also the fact that I hate winter and am looking forward to leaving the snow behind.” As I write this, there are 10-foot high snow banks across the street from me, and it is one degree Fahrenheit.”

Bishop Howard visits Holy Comforter Episcopal School

On Friday, Feb. 20, Bishop John Howard visited with Holy Comforter Episcopal School 2nd through 8th grade students during their chapel time. He was introduced to the students by Dr. Caroline Chapin, assistant head of school, who explained his role in the Episcopal Church to the students. Mrs. Amy Hart’s 5th grade class presented a skit during chapel featuring a modern look on the parable of the Good Samaritan. After the skit, Bishop Howard spoke to the students further on that topic.
The Clergy & Spouse Lenten Retreat, March 6-7, brings former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and Phoebe Griswold to lead the program at Camp Weed & The Cerveny Conference Center.

Bishop Philip Elder was bishop suffragan in the Diocese of Guyana and later assisted with confirmations in the Diocese of Florida for a number of years. Sheils Elder, his wife, said in mid-February, that he was in a rehab center, after mini strokes and falls. The Elders' home address is 100 St. Hill Way, Apt 201, Frederick, Maryland. 21702.

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Elder's big birthday cake sported a sparkler
On Sunday, March 1, the congregation of
Jacksonville.  Currently, he is clerical trustee for the
the-Field, Ponte Vedra; and vicar of St. Gabriel's,
duty chaplain during Desert Storm; rector of Christ
Army Reserves and the Florida National Guard; active
Fr. Jones has served in the Diocese of Florida
interim ministries, and then at Ascension, Carabelle.
as rector of St. James', Perry, served five different
important missionaries, and then at Ascension, Carabelle.
The Rev. Edgar Jones died as of Dec. 31,
2008. Fr. Jones has served in the Diocese of Florida
for the past 20 years — as the chancel chaplain of the
Federal Prison in Tallahassee; Army Chaplain for the
Army Reserves and the Florida National Guard; active
duty chaplain during Desert Storm, rector of Christ
Church, Monticello; interim rector of St. Francis-in-the-Field, Ponte Vedra, and vicar of St. Gabriel's,
Jacksonville. Currently, he is a clerical trustee for the
Jessie Ball du Pont Fund.

What’s Going On ...

Spelling Bee champion repeats for second year! St.
Mark’s Episcopal Day School held its annual
Spelling Bee in January and proudly announced that
sixth grader Denny Dore is the 2009 Champion.
After many intense rounds with runner-up fifth
grader Kaley Libera, Denny won after correctly spelling the word HOKUM, defined as elements of low
to comedy introduced into a play, novel, etc. Denny,
who also won the Bee last year as a fifth grader, once
again continued on to the Duval County level.

Camp Weed hosted Camp No Limits, a camp experience for children with
ehistories. Tallahassee television reported on the campers’ remarkable experience, and
this heartfelt letter was written by camper parents:

I wanted to to say quickly before you signed off
and went to bed tonight that Alex and Nick have
not stopped talking about Camp No Limits. They both
cried when they left and were fighting the tears
again tonight before they went to bed, saying how
much they missed everyone and what a great time
they had.

I think that holds true for all the campers and
their families that attended this weekend.

On Sunday, March 1, the congregation of
Holy Comforter, Crescent City, will celebrate the
50th Wedding anniversary of their vicar, the
Rev. Don Dinwiddie, and Mary Ann Dinwiddie,
with a reception hosted by the ECW in Dearing Hall
following the morning service.

Bishop Charles Keyser, left, and Bishop Howard.
Bishop Keyser’s big birthday cake sported a sparkler
while the Bishop’s house staff celebrated; rumor has
it that considerable ice cream, hot fudge sauce, and
cherry drizzle was also consumed by his well-wishers.

The Communications Commission has said
goodbye, with many thanks, to resigning missionary
Jenifer Busse, and welcome to Paula Suhey, who joins the commission as the
First Coast East region representative.
Paula was the planning coordinator for the recent Diocesan
Convention. Jerry Smith is serving the commission as a consultant.

Tickets are available now for the Fourth
Annual Seafood Buffet at Christ Church,
Cedar Key, to be held Saturday, May 9. Mark
your calendar! The famous Annual Seafood Buffet
is our one big Diocese of Florida fundraiser for our Companion
Diocese partners, the Diocese of Cuba. The Rev. Jack
Watson and Tari Watson spent a week in Cuba in
early February to participate in the Synod held in
Havana. Cindy Grubbs was to travel there
early February to participate in the Synod held in
Watson and Tari Watson spent a week in Cuba in
partners, the Diocese of Cuba.

The 2nd Annual Diocese of Florida
Brotherhood of St. Andrew Retreat at Camp
Weed will be held March 27-28, with the theme
“Prayer, Study & Service.” Contact Leo Dugger at
WL2002@bellsouth.net right away for information and
registration forms.

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First Annual Thanksgiving in Havana.
The Rev. Ted Voorhees installed as vicar of St. Cyprian’s, St. Augustine

By Jack Tull

The membership of St. Cyprian’s, St. Augustine, and many fellow Christians from around the Diocese of Florida gathered to witness and participate in a glorious Celebration of New Ministry on Jan. 21, 2009, when the Rev. Ted Voorhees was installed by Bishop John Howard as vicar of St. Cyprian’s.

Father Ted received the traditional gifts of a Bible, water, a stole, a Book of Common Prayer, oil, keys, the Censers, and bread and wine as signs of his new ministry. The Rev. Deena Galantowicz delivered a powerful sermon centered around Love. The historic church was sparkling and comfortable, reflecting recent renovations and care given by the members of St. Cyprian’s.

Music led by organist Kathy Vandenberg and the choir filled the church and surrounding neighborhood. Following the service an “all out” reception was held at St. Cyprian’s Mission House by the congregation in honor of their new vicar and his wife.

Services were first held at St. Cyprian’s in 1893, and the church building was consecrated in 1900. St. Cyprian’s is one of the oldest churches.

The Lydia Chapter of the Daughters of the King, Christ Church, Monticello, welcomed five new members on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009. The Rev. Mal Jopling, rector, conducted the Service of Installation. New members (front row, from left) are Mary Ann Clarke, Jan Rickey, Sandy Weilbacher, Elizabeth Robinson, and Marsha Jopling. They join members (back row) Jeanie Metzler, Polly Brown, Denise Vogelgesang, Merry Ann Frisby, Linda Williams, and Linda Leinback. Fr. Jopling stands behind the group.

The Rev. Grover Alison, Jr.

The Rev. Grover Alison, Jr., 88, passed away on Jan. 30, 2009 at Stephens Memorial Home following an extended illness. Born July 27, 1920 in Gainesville, Fla., the youngest son of Grover and Edelweiss Price Alison, he spent most of his youth in Gainesville, then graduated from Leesburg High School. He attended Hobart College and graduated from the University of Florida. He received a divinity degree from the University of the South, Sewanee, in 1944 and was ordained an Episcopal priest.

He served as rector of St. Mark’s, Starke, as well as chaplain at Camp Blanding. From 1946-57, Fr. Alison was priest in charge of Grace Chapel, now San Jose, Jacksonville. Serving a growing congregation, he oversaw the creation of the affiliate church day school in 1955. He also served at the Church of Our Saviour, Mandarin, and as chaplain for Bolles Military Academy.

After leaving the ministry in 1957, Fr. Alison did relief work in Asia and the Caribbean area for Church World Service. Subsequently, he founded Bell, Book and Candle, the first American-style bookstores in Puerto Rico. He lived in Costa Rica and Brazil while representing American publishers throughout Latin America. He retired to Barrataria Island at Matanzas Inlet, St. Augustine.

Fr. Alison is survived by his children, Margaret Wiles and John Alison of St. Augustine and Tom Alison (Elizabeth) of St. Petersburg, his brother John Alison, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded by his parents, his brother Landon Alison, and his former wife, Virginia Thomas Alison.

A memorial service was held Feb. 14 at Trinity Parish, St. Augustine. The Right Rev. Charles L. Keypser, Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Florida, officiated. Memorials were suggested to Camp Weed.

Resources & Opportunities

Bishop Cerveny guest preacher and celebrant, Church of Epiphany

The Right Rev. Frank Cerveny, retired Bishop of Florida, will be the guest preacher and celebrant on March 15 at the 9:30 a.m. service at Church of the Epiphany, 5230 Harlow Blvd., Jacksonville. All are welcome.

World Day of Prayer March 6 at St. Philip’s, Jacksonville

You are invited to a World Day of Prayer at St. Philip’s, Jacksonville on March 6 at 12 p.m., sponsored by the Church Women United. The Church Women United is an ecumenical movement that brings together Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other women of faith in the United States and Puerto Rico to deepen our understanding of what it means to be Women of Faith in today’s world. Please bring new underwear, for a boy or girl, of any size.

Episcopal Relief and Development’s 2009 Lenten Devotional . . . is available from Episcopal Books and Resources. “Peace and Compassion to Heal a Hurting World” focuses on ERD’s efforts to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The daily meditations feature reflections adapted from the writings of the Rev. Barbara C. Crafton and explore the spiritual path that can lead to improving the lives of people living in poverty worldwide. The devotionals are free (small shipping fee), order by calling Episcopal Books and Resources at 1 800 903 5444 or order online at www.er-d.org/LentenResources/. The devotional is also available online in Spanish. Lenten Bulletin Inserts are available for download at the same web address. The bulletins provide a prayerful way to consider the needs of vulnerable people and give an opportunity to reach out to those who are suffering. Please contact Lenora Gregory, ERD Diocesan Coordinator with any questions at 904-707-3407 or lsgregory@comcast.net.

Apalachee Region representative for Communications Commission

Help Wanted - The Communications Commission is looking for an additional member to represent the Apalachee Region on the Diocesan Communications Commission. This position would act as a liaison between the Communications Commission and the Apalachee Region for communications purposes. This position may offer some journalism opportunities. If you have an interest, please email (jack.tull@bellsouth.net) or call (904-377-3281) Jack Tull, Communications Commission chair.

Employment opportunities in the Diocese of Florida

* Director of Finance for San Jose Episcopal School
* Part-time Parish Secretary
* Assistant Organist/Choir Director, St. Michaels and All Angels, TLH
* Canon for Youth Ministries, Diocese of Florida
* Assistant Rector, Holy Trinity, Gainesville

Contact information for the jobs listed here can be found on the diocesan website - www.diosfl.org/EmploymentOpportunities.

This group of ladies from the Diocese of Florida, who with the national president of Daughters of the King participated in the recent DOK gathering at Kanuga Conferences in Hendersonville, N.C., includes Diocese of Florida member Metro Griffith, who was elected president of the Province IV DOK at this meeting.

Photo: Courtesy of Mimi Crosby

Daughters of the King
"Our ministry is to strengthen your ministry"

In their registration packets, Diocesan Convention delegates are given The Diocesan, the most cost-effective way to provide those voting with updated information on resolutions and nominees. VBA photo