

# The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

March 2009

## Bishop's Address to the 117th Annual Council, February 14, 2009

*"Hopes and Dreams in a Time of New Leadership"*

The Rt. Rev. Holly Hollerith, our consecrated Bishop, has told us:

His Vision for the diocese will develop and evolve through relationship – time being together and listening to each other.

His Hopes, as we emerge from a long time of transition, are that we will:

- Work together to heal our wounds and brokenness
- Resist falling into old, defensive behaviors
- Couple the passion that sets the heart on fire with serious strategic thinking and both to the honor of the lordship of Christ Jesus, Head of the Church.
- Practice the art of talking to one another face to face, establishing relationship rather than just reacting.
- Trust and honor the processes of Diocesan committees

His Dreams, directions or pathways are to:

- Promote clergy wellness – spiritual, emotional, physical – and ensure this by Diocesan and congregational support. This will be one of the topics at the Bishop's Days in March.
- Recognize and support our smaller, struggling congregations
- Promote congregational development through: parish to parish partnering within the diocese, creating a task-force to identify growing congregations that could use diocesan help, and planning and planting new congregations.
- Commit to the comprehensive ministry of our young people and the hiring of a Diocesan youth missionary.
- Appoint a canon for national and international mission to identify our calling as a diocese in the larger world and the 21st century.

"Let me say again: the Office of Bishop is not an individual! Rather it is a collaborative team of trained people, some clergy, some lay, who work together to exercise the ministry of the Diocese in service to you.... Again, I am honored to be among you as your bishop. We have much to do together in the future. But of this I am certain: we have the people to do what we need to do, the resources to do what we need to do, the history, the faith, and with the Holy Spirit's blessing, the power.... We can, as St Paul wrote, 'do all things through Christ who strengthens...'.  
"So, Southern Virginia, today we begin our new journey together! For that *I give thanks and praise!*"

The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith IV

Note: This synopsis is provided by the Bishop's Address Committee for the purpose of communicating the Bishop's inaugural address throughout the diocese.

# Annual Council

The 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia was marked by several high points. Friday evening the Consecration of our new Bishop, Herman (Holly) Hollerith IV, was witnessed by about 2000 people. The Church was represented by bishops from as far away as Alaska, Florida and Scotland. On Saturday Bishop Hollerith addressed the Council with his hope and dreams for our life together. A summary of his address is in this *Archangel*. Other very positive notes were given in the reports to Council. Camp Chanco, which has been struggling for the last several years, reported the highest camper attendance ever, finished 2008 with a positive bank balance and is looking for an even better 2009. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori was the celebrant and preacher at the closing liturgy Sunday morning.

Overall I felt there was a very positive atmosphere and a common desire to grow together as a Diocese and do the work to which we are called to the Glory of Christ.

St. Michael's delegates were William Christmas, Jay Horne and Tige Newell; alternates were Patti Christmas and Lisa Horne.

Your Brother in Christ,



## Lenten Sermon Series

The season of Lent is an ancient gift of our Church traditions. It is a season of preparation for Easter and the celebration of Jesus' victory over death for all who believe in him. In preparation, we are invited "to the observation of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." (Prayer Book, p. 265) To assist us in this holy work, there will be a Lenten sermon series beginning Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for the purpose of self-examination of our attitudes. Each Sunday will note an attitude which is not pleasing to God nor beneficial to a life maturing in Christ. I pray for all, that we may be open and responsive to God's Holy Spirit as a guide and leader for a fruitful season of Lent.

- Lent 1      Replace a complaining attitude  
              . . . with a thankful attitude.
- Lent 2      Replace a covetous attitude  
              . . . with an attitude of commitment.
- Lent 3      Replace a critical attitude  
              . . . with an attitude of love.
- Lent 4      Replace a doubting attitude  
              . . . with an attitude of faith.
- Lent 5      Replace a rebellious attitude  
              . . . with an attitude of submission.



## Safeguarding God's People

**Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment of Church Workers** is an in-depth educational and training program for preventing sexual harassment of Church Workers in everyday life and ministry. St. Michael's will host the Diocesan sponsored session on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – noon. To register, contact the church office or the diocesan office. Registration fee is \$5.

# Lent

What meaning does it really have for us in the lives we are living right now? First, I have but to ask what sort of life do I want to live? What is it that I desire? As a Christian who attends church and is involved in the life of the organized institution of church, do I really have all that I want, all that was intended for me to have and to be? Looking at my “every Sunday life,” my “church meetings life” etc., I know that is not all there is; I know that is not even the heart of the Christian life.

Attending the Alpha course is refreshing and reminding me that being in relationship with Jesus my Lord is the heart of the true Christian life. What great timing to have the opportunity during Lent to look at my relationship.

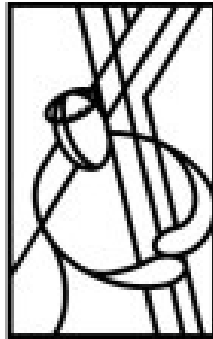
Lent means renewal. One very real example of renewal for me is the flower bulb. God has given so many examples, in nature, of life and how it is played out. Just think of that lovely lily of the field spoken of in Luke 12:27. There is no comparison of how beautifully God has clothed it to anything we might do for ourselves. That lily starts out in a small bulb planted in the dark ground where it rests in the quiet. It is fed and watered and at God's appointed time comes forth from the ground to display His glory for another season.

We too are given opportunity in Lent to step aside from our calendars and routines to rest in the quiet, to come apart to let God's spirit feed and renew our spirits. Our sanctuary will display visual aids, during the Lenten season. They will remind us of man's disobedience, God's law, God's way out for us through the gift of Jesus, the sacrifice of Jesus and the gift of a new life for us which comes forth from the dark tomb.

I invite you to take time this Lenten season through reading scripture, Sunday morning services, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, to renew your relationship with our Savior, Redeemer and our Lord. After the darkness of Good Friday our Sanctuary will again be ablaze with the Glory of God through the beautiful flowers of the field that truly remind us of new life in Him. We will ask for contributions, for those flowers, in the near future.

Thanks to all who share in any way to supporting our worship space. The simple act of enjoying it may be your part.

It is our pleasure to serve.  
Your Altar Guild



## Good Friday Offering

Every year on Good Friday, pilgrims from all over the world gather to walk along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Some carry a cross, to understand better the nature of the burden that Jesus bore. Others accompany them, as witnesses, as penitents, as believers. By dying on the cross at Calvary, Jesus delivered us from sin and despair.

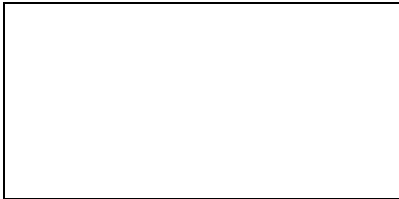
For 150 years the Anglican Church in Jerusalem has borne the responsibility of sharing the cross of Jesus in a special way. By helping to maintain the Christian witness in the Holy Land, by serving all of God's people there in a variety of ministries, by proclaiming the gospel and promoting justice, peace and love throughout the four dioceses in that region, the church serves us all.

Since 1922, Episcopalians here have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the **Good Friday Offering**. It is vital that we continue to share in this burden, and not let our brothers and sisters in Jerusalem carry the cross alone.

## Reminder

**1st Sunday Pot Luck  
March 1 after 10:30 worship**

**Y'all Come!**



## Happy Birthday

Birthday party will be on  
March 15th  
after the 10:30am worship service .

### MARCH

- 1 Ferguson Gemeny
- 2 Brandon Cole
- 4 Megan Bottoms
- 6 Mollie Ogilvie
- 9 Vera McDonald
- 11 Olivia Wilmarth
- 13 Melinda Sue Strach
- 15 Les Wright, Jr.
- 20 Jane Flexon
- 21 Colette Robertson  
Dale Wolfe
- 22 Anne Marie Bowden
- 23 Cindy Warriner
- 25 Tanya Callender  
Roy Crawford
- 28 Montovani Gay
- 29 Charlotte Price
- 31 Curtis Konkel

## Anniversaries

### MARCH

- 15 Tige and Courtney Newell
- 16 Larry and Colette Robertson
- 18 Woody and Ruth Woodfin

## Important Dates

### March

- 1 First Sunday of Lent
- 4 Alpha, 7:00pm
- 7 Alpha Day at Chanco, 8:30am
- 11 Alpha, 7:00pm
- 18 Alpha, 7:00pm
- 25 Alpha, 7:00pm

### April

- 1 Alpha, 7:00pm
- 4 Palm Sunday
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Holy Saturday, Quiet Day
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 16-17 Communion Partners, Houston, TX, Clergy

## Steve Hood Update

Last fall a hearing in Steve's case was scheduled for this March; however, Steve has recently been appointed new counsel and a new date set, May 20. His new lawyer, Dean Marcus, seems promising. Hank Graeser, Lynnice Randolph and Pete Devereaux have all met with him at length and are encouraged.

Please keep Steve and Dean in your prayers. More information on the hearing will be announced as the time draws closer and is confirmed.



Please shop during this time frame to allow the

## Episcopal Church Women

to receive their percentage of the \$200,000 that Ukrop's will contribute to non-profit and charitable organizations.

(You will receive your Golden Gifts Certificate in the mail in May. Please submit yours to the church for the ECW.)

# Thanks for Your Prayers

On behalf of the Shinaberry Family, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to each of you who have prayed diligently for Maddie Shinaberry's recovery from her double lung transplant.

Truly, her progress is nothing short of a miracle. Maddie will turn 14 on February 28<sup>th</sup> and hopes to be back in Harrisonburg by that time. She will be unable to return to school until sometimes in April when the flu/cold season is over. She has amazed doctors and nurses and continues to amaze her family.

If you would like to get updates on her condition, you can go to [www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org) and type in "MaddieShinaberry" to get news about her progress. Maddie has also set up her own website, which she says is a project in progress. It is mainly an informational site to inform others about pulmonary hypertension and to help those with the condition. Maddie's words are always so positive and encouraging and I am sure those who read it will find great solace.

Again, to my St. Michael's family, I thank you for your prayers. God is indeed good!

Phyllis Cheely

## With Gratitude

To the fine folks of St. Michael's:

*Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.  
Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*  
Colossians 3:12, 14 (NASB)

The time you've given, the hearts you've touched, the lives you've blessed – these are true gifts from God. Thank you for sharing His love.

Your wonderful hospitality and coffee were greatly appreciated. Thanks so much!

Dwight, Richard, Doris, Joan and Lorene  
Tri-Cities HFH, Petersburg



## Parish Directory

A new parish directory has been published and is available for you to pick up from the table in the hallway outside the kitchen.

## Youth Ministry News

Aquire The Fire was amazing, inspirational, invigorating! The music was amazing! We were able to grow in our love for Jesus Christ. Like Ron Luce said "Do not let the feelings fade from this weekend, keep them going. Spend time with Jesus, and he will fill your life." Thank you Beverly for helping me this weekend, and hosting lunch where you work.

Our annual Yard Sale is just a few short months away. So if you have anything you would like to donate, or would like to reserve a table, please contact Kelly or me at 804-768-8664 or at [mvasiloff@comcast.net](mailto:mvasiloff@comcast.net). I have a storage shed to store the items in.

Brandon Peet did a great job in leading our first meeting this past February were we discussed Anger, Forgiveness, and being Proud of who you are.

This year's Diocesan retreat Blackstone will be held the weekend of April 3-5. Youth in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcomed to attend. Please let me know if you would like to go to this event.

Thanks be to God,  
Michael

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