

SUMMER 2007

## SUPPORT FROM THROUGHOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASSISTS ST. LUKE'S RENEWAL PROJECT

Contributions and pledges of monetary support continue to be made to the St. Luke's Renewal Project, a collaborative effort of Bishop Charles Jenkins of the Diocese of Louisiana and the Episcopal Church's Office of Black Ministries to assist St. Luke's Church in New Orleans in calling a rector by the end of 2007.

St. Luke's is the only predominantly black parish in the city of New Orleans, and is strategically located to serve four black low to moderate income communities. Led by Senior Warden Elvia James, the congregation continues to grow as residents return to the area. Members have begun an outreach mission with McDonough High school students who, returned without their parents to complete their high school education, and also maintain a computer lab that allows residents to access city records to determine the status of their properties. The Rev. Angela Ifill, missionary for Black Ministries of the Episcopal Church, led a vestry retreat and installed vestry members at a recent celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

To date, donations totaling \$18,050 have been received from: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Jamaica, New York; St. George's Church in Hempstead, New York; the Diocese of Los Angeles; the Rev. Thomas S. Logan of Yeadon, Pennsylvania; Terry Parsons, Stewardship officer for the Episcopal Church; and the Office of Black Ministries. Contributions were received in lieu of wedding gifts for Bishop Chestor Talton and Mrs. April Grayson Talton.

Pledges of support totaling \$85,000 have been made by Bishop Michael Curry of the Diocese of North Carolina; Bishop Orris Walker of the Diocese of Long Island; Bishop Jenkins and the Caribbean Anglican Consultation in New York.

The St. Luke's Renewal Project includes:

- Developing a foundation of funding beginning with Black Bishops, to raise \$500,000 over a five-year period.
- Extending the appeal throughout the Episcopal Church.
- Establishing a monthly consultation and pastoral relationship with the congregation to begin immediately and continue for one year.
- Assisting in the immediate calling of a secretary.



*The Rev. Angela Ifill and Bishop Charles Jenkins of the Diocese of Louisiana in front of St. Luke's Episcopal Church during the 2007 Organization of Black Episcopal Seminarian (OBES) Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana in March. (Photo courtesy of the Rev. Deon Johnson.)*



## MISSIONER'S MESSAGE ...

My dear Colleagues:

At the Caribbean Anglican Consultation held May 29-31, one of the major topics of conversation focused on Bonds of Affection and Mutual Solidarity. That conference brought 10 bishops from the Province of the West Indies for conversation with the Presiding Bishop.

The recently concluded Annual Conference and Meeting of the Union of Black Episcopalians focused on reconciliation and convened a Presiding Bishop's Forum for such discussion. The six member panel shared stories, engaged one another in conversation and invited the conferees into a time of listening to one another's stories. Hopefully, these conversations will continue to occupy our hearts and minds far beyond these conferences and move us to a place of increased understanding and appreciation for one another's cultures and traditions.

The Black Diaspora in the Episcopal Church is comprised of people from North America, the Caribbean, South, Central and Latin America and Africa. Differences abound and are evident in accents and language, country of origin, and a vast array of skin color and hair type, yet for all intents and purposes we are all considered Black or African American and as such, are subject to the same effects of racism. Our stories and lives may have taken different routes to get where we are today, but we share the same roots – that of slavery. That is our bond and we are in this place together.

Our forebears were flogged and dragged from the place of their birth and loved ones, scattered throughout the world in foreign lands to be used in ways that God did not intend. Now, in her infinite mercy and wisdom, God has gathered together many of us—a great cloud of witnesses—from different parts of the world and we fail to grasp God's precious gift. Just suppose that we have been brought together again for a higher purpose; to listen to one another's story; to form bonds of affection and mutual solidarity in order to accomplish much more together than if we are divided.

The Black population in America is faced with pressing issues that require our combined abilities, gifts, talents and other resources. We can work together as the Black Church to develop and implement action plans that will raise the level of sustained living for many of our brothers and sisters. We have the example of those who so gallantly went before us to sound the clarion for change.

The education system is failing to prepare our young people to lead productive lives. Approximately 50% of our youth are not graduating from high school. African Americans account for 12% of the U.S. population and more than 50% of the prison system. That is not about restorative justice. In a 2006 article entitled "The Sentencing Project, Research and Advocacy for Reform" Julian Bond, chair of the NAACP Board of Directors said that the "race to incarcerate explains why prisoners have become commodities and why present policies are draining black communities of their young men."

On another front, at a time when they need our guidance, too many of our youth claim that they do not feel welcome in their local congregations. If we fail to join them where they are, we will fail in helping them. There is much work ahead of us. Needed are an increased number of after school programs; initiatives that will embrace our young people; greater involvement in church and society from a wider group of individuals; combined efforts to move many faltering black congregations from maintenance to mission- focused; and collaborative efforts to help revitalize spiritual health in many of our faltering congregations to inspire an increasing number of members in becoming instruments of God's Will, fulfilling God's mission in the world.

The Black Church is poised, if we so choose to bring about a change in the wider Church and Society. The late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that an individual has not started living until he or she can rise above the narrow confines of his or her individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Are we up to the challenge?

Faithfully,

  
Angela



- Providing Black Clergy assistance for periods of two weeks for ongoing pastoral care and worship. (To date, 12 clergy persons have signed on to be included in a Service Rota.)
- Assisting with the development/maintenance of a Parish Profile.
- Providing St. Luke's with a list of clergy interested in entering into the discernment process for their rector.
- Convening a prayer support group for the Project.
- Continuing discernment of the project.

To join others in support of St. Luke's, please visit: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/black.htm>

## PARISH SPOTLIGHT: ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH


### Annapolis, Maryland

St. Philip's Episcopal Church began in 1870 as a Sunday school for children of African descent. It was sponsored by St. Anne's, Annapolis and during the early years, there was a school for girls that taught basket weaving and other domestic skills.



*St. Philip's Episcopal Church*

In 1887, St. Philip's was accepted as a mission in the Diocese of Maryland. Until the latter part of the 1960s, members worshipped near downtown Annapolis. Influenced by urban renewal, the congregation relocated to its present site, four acres of a grassy meadowland serviced by a two-lane dirt road, far away from the city and most of its members. The results of a 1955 survey suggested a desire to have a racially integrated parish in Annapolis

Continue on next page 

## CLERGY NOTES CORNER

### CREATIVITY IN THE BCP?

*By Rev. Deon K. Johnson*

On any given Sunday in Episcopal Churches throughout the world, communities gather for the familiar Eucharistic Celebration usually taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Most services begin with the familiar opening acclamation, "Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit..." particularly during the summer months of the green season. But what if on a Sunday during those, usually non-airconditioned services, that the service began with: "*Priest: Come, let us sing to the Lord. People: Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Priest: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving. People: And raise a loud shout to God with psalms.*"

To many of us, these words are familiar; they are the opening lines of the Venite, one of the canticles for Morning Prayer which is really psalm 95. Using multiple lines at the opening of the liturgy incorporates "call and response," a long tradition in Afro-Anglican worship. To incorporate something as simple as familiar lines from Morning Prayer as part of our Sunday Eucharistic worship is perfectly acceptable in the Prayer Book, (of course you may want to talk with your bishop to let him or her know about your creative use of the BCP).

The 1979 BCP offers a wide variety of options as part of our worship. Take for instance the beautiful canticles of the Morning Prayer liturgy, which helped shaped generations in our congregations. A wonderful and creative way of incorporating some of those familiar tunes would be as a substitute for the Gloria or even in some cases as an option for the psalm. The *Te Deum Laudamus* (p. 52) or the *Benedicite* (p. 47) both make wonderful songs of praise that could be used in place of the normal Gloria. The BCP allows for "some other song of praise" at the point where the Gloria is traditionally said or sung. There are many other options in the BCP that allows us to exercise a breath of creativity.

*—The Rev. Deon K. Johnson is rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, Michigan.*



and the Rt. Rev. Harry Doll supported this idea. Hence, the relocation has made racial and cultural integration a reality. In 1977 under the leadership of the Rev. Robert M. Powell, St. Philip's became a parish and the surrounding area has since grown into a burgeoning suburban corridor. St. Philip's immediate neighbors include an Evangelical Presbyterian school, a retirement/nursing facility, condominiums, townhouses, and new homes selling for \$700,000. The residential neighborhood is predominately White.

The people of St. Philip's take their faith seriously and value a strong sense of community. Over the past five years, Christian Formation for all ages has taken a stance of great importance.

Recent endeavors at St. Philip's have included a \$1.2 million expansion of the original edifice which includes a banquet hall, warming kitchen, three classrooms, courtyard, offices and an elevator which makes the entire building accessible to all people. This space is made available to outside groups for life celebrations and meetings, which creates another revenue stream for ministry. Other highlights include International AIDS Candlelight Memorial weekend which recognized Pearl of Africa Children's choir of Uganda; an altar, stone benches, and rain garden, which helps to channel run off water back to the earth, and the adult choir's recording of two CDs. Parishioners and community members do their part to save the earth by mailing in ink jet cartridges and cell phones and using an outdoor bin for paper-recycling.

In 2001, St. Philip's Family Life Center, Inc. (FLC) was established to seek funding for outreach ministry. The FLC board received a UTO grant

that supported Helping Outstanding People Evolve, (HOPE) a ministry for troubled youth ages 16-21. In that same year, St. Philip's received the Bishops' Award for Outstanding Congregation. Also, for the first time, Strengthening Families, a ministry focusing on building household and life skills for families with children, was offered.

For nearly 20 years, five AA groups have met in the undercroft and the parish and many in the community enjoy an annual Crab Feast that is sponsored by the Vestry.

St. Philip's is blessed with a diverse membership that strives to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. The ordained ministry team includes the Rev. Angela F. Shepherd, rector, the Rev. John A. Nagele, III, a retired priest who assists with Christian Formation and Children's Chapel and the Rev. Patrick Arey, a practicing attorney who was recently ordained vocational deacon. The parish motto is - *We are a diverse Christian community that is spiritual, friendly, and welcoming of all!*

• For more on St. Philip's visit: [http:// www.stphilip.ang-md.org](http://www.stphilip.ang-md.org)

### S.O.U.L. CONFERENCE SET FOR FLORIDA

Diocesan and Province leaders are in the process of selecting their candidates for the August 30 - September 3, S.O.U.L. Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The S.O.U.L. - Spiritual Opportunity to Unite and Learn - conference is an annual event designed to develop young leaders from the Episcopal black community for ministry in the wider church. It alternates yearly with the focus on high school

students aged 15-18 and young adults aged 19-35.

The conference provides a safe place for students from across the church to meet and grow together in relationship with one another in Christ.

Participants will attend workshops and learn:

- Engaging methods of bible study and spiritual formation
- Key leadership skills through group discussion and fun activities
- How to design and organize future churchwide conferences and events
- How to claim greater visibility and voice within the church

Involvement in the conference is contingent upon a selection process in which certain criteria must be met. All applications and essays will be reviewed by the design team who will determine participation based on the applicant's essay presentation, level of interest and purpose.

### YOUTH CORNER

#### Dolores Macauley reflects upon participation in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



*Dolores Macauley shares a reading with the other female delegates of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. (Photo by Janine Tinsley-Roe)*

When Kaileen Alston, youth minister



for the Diocese of Newark, asked me to be a girl delegate for Anglican Women's Empowerment, I knew it was an offer I couldn't refuse. This was a chance to meet women and girls from all around the world. However, by the time this event was over, I gained more than that.

During the first meeting the entire group of girl delegates talked about a regular day living in their countries and communities. There were three of us from the United States, and the others were from Kenya, Hong Kong, Australia, and North India. Most of the girls from other countries lived in communities where education for girls is not important to their government or their society. These girls represented the few fortunate people from their country. They described how many girls in their countries never go to school but instead stay at home to help their mothers. These girls who stayed at home were more likely to be sexually abused during the day while working. The delegate from Kenya described how she would wake up at 4 a.m. to clean the house, and then walk two hours to and from school. When she returned home from school, there was no time to rest because she had to do her homework, more chores and cook food for the family. The tons of homework I have each day, and always complain about doing seemed like nothing compared to her situation.

Another time when the reality of life hit me was when we were at Trinity Church Wall Street and I was asked to read a poem titled, "My Hero" by a 15-year-old girl from California. While I was reading the poem, I began to think, "What if this was me?" The poem was about a girl who was crossing the USA border from Mexico illegally. She explained

how she just followed everyone rushing into the fence. However when it was her and her father's turn, the USA Border Patrol caught her father. Her father told her to go on, and she would always be in his heart. Her dad was her hero, and now she was going into another country without him. I thought to myself, "This couldn't have been me." As much as I disagree with my mother, I could never picture myself moving to another country without her. It was a reminder of how blessed I am.

After the weekend, we had the choice to go to parallel events at the United Nations. They were separated by topic, and we could choose which one we wanted to focus on for the week. I didn't get a chance to do all this because I had to go to school. However, I was able to attend the Commission on the Status of Girls. What stuck with me was a woman who explained how a woman plays a major role in human trafficking. She explained how because the relationships between women are close, certain women who are desperate for money will betray this trust by lying to girls and women. She said a woman will tell a poor mother and daughter that she knows of a man who can get them connections to go to the United States but instead they would be taken to a place where tourist would sexually abuse them. This gave me insight as to how desperate people in other countries are for money.

During the afternoon when we were able to hang out together and just have fun, there were different trips planned for us. The most exciting outing was when we saw the "Lion King," toured New York City, and began to develop friendships. There became an indescribable connection

among us. The memories will definitely be held in my heart throughout my life. This experience has changed my outlook on life and has made me more grateful for the things I have. It has also made me look at our own society and realize how unnecessarily materialistic we are. Last but certainly not least the experience has strengthened my faith in God.

### **RANDY CALLENDAR REFLECTS ON PATH TO SEMINARY**



The journey to entering seminary was a long and tough road. However with the support of my family, church, mentors and God I was able to make it to this point successfully.

As I walked that same path that many deacons and priests have walked during their process, I was told that entering seminary would be a tough task. I believe that during this process, that God will not give me more than I can bear and will show me how to endure different test that will challenge me daily.

Every priest has his or her own special way of reaching out to others and uniting God with their inner soul. One of my special ways is attracting young people to the church. As I was going through the



process, I learned how to minister to young people and adults at the same time and I hope to learn more at seminary. I am looking forward to understanding the bible on a higher level. This next step is going to teach me a new way of living my life through the gospel. By expanding my knowledge of the gospel, I will be able to take lessons I will learn at seminary and apply them to my future life and church to help others build their understanding of the gospel. I am prepared mentally, spiritually and physically to enter the next stage of my journey and I am not afraid because God is walking with me and he has never failed me yet.

## **THE CONLEYS: FAITHFUL PERSEVERANCE**

*By Daphne Mack*



Judith Conley was at church the Sunday after Thanksgiving when her husband Walter called to describe the damage that had been done to their newly built home in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

“When I arrived at the house, I faced the entry door which had been sliced, chopped, and scratched,” she described. “Upon walking in further, I found holes in every wall in the house that had apparently been made with the handle of a broom that was still there and another instrument that may have been used to chop up the edges of the wall.”

The final horror was discovering that scrolled on the walls of two rooms were profanities and racial epithets.

In November of 2006, the Conleys were in the midst of having a new home built in Litchfield Farms, a gated community in Arizona’s Southwest Valley desert, when vandals who have yet to be apprehended wreaked havoc.

“People in the trade told us that whoever did this knew exactly what they were doing because it was the most difficult damage to repair,” Conley said.

Conley, a deputy from the Diocese of Arizona and member of both the Standing Committee for the Structure of the Church and the Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, said after the local media reports on the incident the Arizona police department posted a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals.

She confessed that although she feels comfortable with her neighborhood and her neighbors have been very compassionate, responsive, and attentive, some even doing some of the repair work on her house, there is concern about their safety being that the perpetrators are still at large.

“We have alarm systems, and our neighbors are watching the house but whoever did this damage came in broad daylight under the guise of being contractors, and used a key,” she said.

The support of family, neighbors, fellow parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and people from all over the national church, Conley said, has sustained them.

She mentioned receiving e-mails

from John Paterson, chair of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), and his wife and from Bishop C. Christopher Epting, the Presiding Bishop’s Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Episcopal Church. Also the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross of which she is a part continues to have intercessory prayer for her.

When Conley told the Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, dean of Trinity, about the incident she immediately received a telephone call of support from Bishop Kirk Stevan Smith of the Diocese of Arizona.

In January 2007 Knisely, in collaboration with the Office of Black Ministries, organized a vigil that followed Trinity’s Dr. Martin Luther King Day service at which the Rev. Angela Ili, missionary for Black Ministries for the Episcopal Church lent her support, preached and read a letter of support for the Conleys from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. Conley said the Presiding Bishop’s letter was further confirmation for her that the General Convention “had done the right thing” in electing Jefferts Schori because it was obvious from her letter that “her heart, mind and wisdom are in the right place.”

“We have felt very supported and uplifted when times could have been a whole lot worse,” she said. “And all the support we received has been reassuring to both my husband and me because although I do anti-racism training, I have never been violated overtly in a racist way.”

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Ninety-five percent of the damage has been corrected and the Conleys began moving into their home on April 26, 2007.

She said for the most part it is what



they wanted so “we are happy.”

“Looking at our furniture is almost like going shopping because we haven’t seen it in so long,” she explained. “The process of unpacking is time and energy consuming but good energy.”

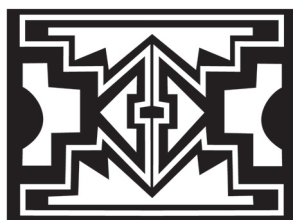
The police department continues to work on the case she said, and have a sense of who may have committed the crime “but they don’t have the evidence to prove it.”

“I’m not feeling as uneasy as I did when I first encountered the incident but my concern is that if they get away with this, it is going to give them license to go ahead and do it to someone else and I’d rather see them stopped and receive their just punishment for what they’ve done,” she said.

Turning a negative into a positive, Conley said the incident now gives her a frame of reference for her anti-racism work.

“I now know what it’s like to have been violated by way of a racial hate crime so I share that experience and how we were supported by a number of people who didn’t even know us,” she said. “I have had enough experience dealing with racism to know that we cannot stereotype an entire group because of the bad acts of a few.”

**—Daphne Mack is a communication specialist for the Episcopal Church Center and editor of <http://www.globalgood.org>.**



## **ORGANIZATION OF BLACK EPISCOPAL SEMINARIANS EXPERIENCE MISSION IN NEW ORLEANS**

*By Daphne Mack*

When the annual conference of the Organization of Black Episcopal Seminarians (OBES,) concluded its five-day gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana, the 26 seminarians realized they had done more than networked and learned; they had experienced “holy hospitality.”

The Rev. Angela Ifill, missionary of Black Ministries for the Episcopal Church explained that OBES is a support group for black postulants and candidates canonically resident in one of the dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The organization exists to encourage and support seminarians in the ordination process; to affirm the black religious expression and its witness to the larger church; to

foster collegiality; and to strengthen the Christian faith of participants through prayer, study, worship and mission immersion experiences.

“It was empowering and humbling but even more so [it is] why we serve God,” said April Alford, a first year M Div student at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “Sometimes you don’t know what to do, but you can show up and listen.”

The March 18-22 gathering had the seminarians touring Lakeview, the Lower Ninth ward, and St. Paul’s and St. Luke’s Home Coming Centers. In both neighborhoods, they witnessed evidence of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina and the slow recovery nearly two years after the disaster.

Since 2005, the annual conference has included a mission component

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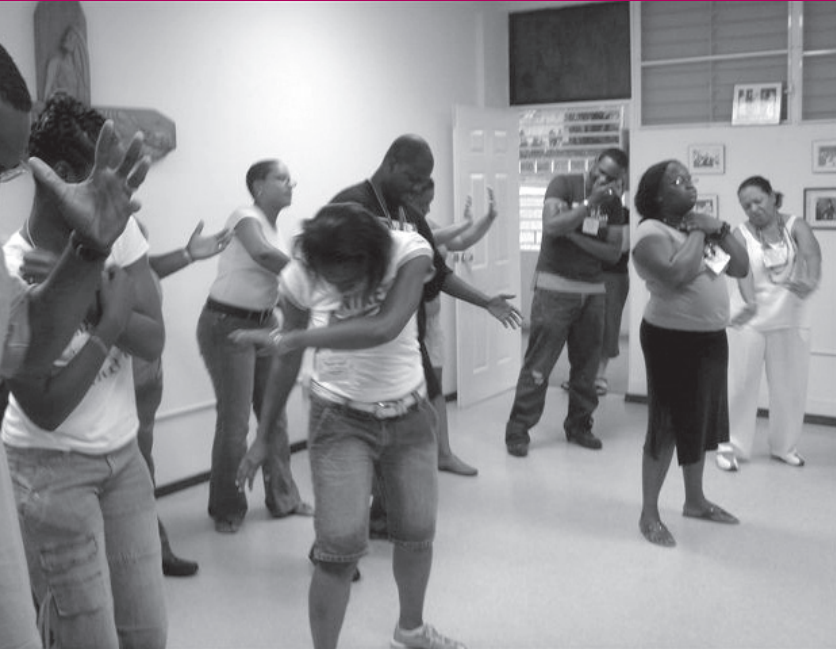
*Seminarians and organizers of the 2007 OBES conference gather for group photo in New Orleans, Louisiana. (Photo courtesy of the Rev. Deon Johnson)*



*The Rev. Angela S. Ifill speaks with participants of the campus ministry student symposium at Voorhees College.*



*Seminarians visit Saint Paul's Home Coming Center during the 2007 Organization of Black Episcopal Seminarian (OBES) Conference. (Photo courtesy of the Rev. Deon Johnson.)*



*Planning team members and participants of the 2006 S.O.U.L. Conference in Puerto Rico express liturgy through dance.*



*The Office of Black Ministries delegates to South Africa's "Towards Effective Anglican Mission" (TEAM) conference pose for a group photo.*



*Shakoore Aljuwani, acting site coordinator of the St. Luke's Home Coming Center and community organizer, speaks to the seminarians participating in the 2007 Organization of Black Episcopal Seminarian (OBES) Conference. (Photo courtesy of the Rev. Deon Johnson.)*



*Gathered after the 119th Commencement Ceremony at Saint Paul's College (l-r) The Rev. Harry Newell Satcher, Sr., president of Saint Paul's College; The Rev. Angela Ifill; the Hon. Dr. David Satcher, former Terrence Walker, of Saint Paul's College; and Dr. Keathen Wilson, provost of Saint Paul's College.*

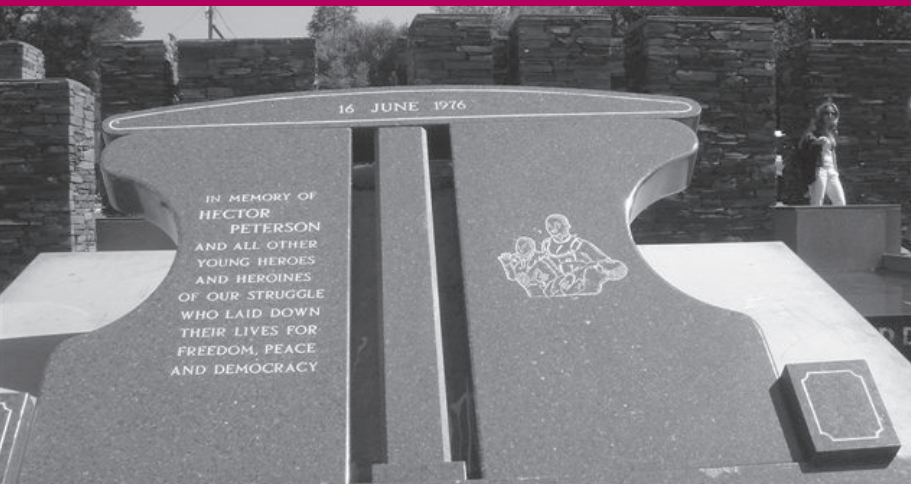




*The Rev. Angela Ifill speaks at a Youth Awards Luncheon in the Diocese of Newark.*



*Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and the Rev. Angela S. Ifill share a moment after the Absalom Jones service in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*



*The plaque explains the Hector Peterson Memorial in South Africa.*



*Side view of the Hector Peterson Memorial in which a photo of the peaceful youth march in Soweto in 1976 turned uprising took the life of Peterson. In the picture Mbuyisa Makhubo, and Hector's sister, Antoinette run towards a press car, where he is taken to a nearby clinic and pronounced dead.*



*els, chaplain/vicar of Saint Paul's; Dr. Robert er United States Surgeon General; the Rev. Dr.*



*Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori poses with youth delegates of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW.)*



with a view to heighten the seminarians focus on domestic and foreign mission.

According to Ifill, whose office organizes the yearly event, holding this year's conference in New Orleans was a "no brainer."

"We wanted them to re-define mission but also to witness the disaster that was wrought in New Orleans and to get a perspective that even in the midst of all this devastation that the church continues; the mission does not end," said the Rev. Deon Johnson, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, Michigan.

Johnson, who was part of the conference design team and planned the liturgy, was himself an OBES seminarian.

### **SEEING FOR THEMSELVES**

Part of the experience was meeting Shakoor Aljuwani, acting site coordinator of the St. Luke's Home Coming Center and community organizer.

"In both of these innovative compassion centers [St. Paul's and St. Luke's Home Coming Centers] the seminarians saw a determination by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and two churches in two distinct neighborhoods to galvanize a creative resident driven process to recover, rebuild and renew community out of the debris of Katrina," Aljuwani said.

One of several activities experienced by the seminarians was meeting and talking with residents about their experience.

"It was a very revealing experience and I'm committed to telling their story," said Ernestine Flemister, a senior at Bexley Hall. "I have a renewed sense of doing something

about the situation in New Orleans and will continue to work for people who do not have a voice."

Elvia James, senior warden at St. Luke's Church, told the group that after the hurricane, the sanctuary was flooded. Nonetheless, the congregation stood in the water and shared communion.

Bishop Charles Jenkins of the Diocese of Louisiana was attending the House of Bishops in Camp Allen, Texas and temporarily dismissed himself to return to New Orleans to spend a day with the seminarians.

"It was important to speak to these seminarians about the work of the church in terms of adaptive remedies to centuries old issues of racism, economic injustice, intentional inadequate education, and improper medical care, which has been hoisted upon the poor people of New Orleans most of whom happen to be African American," he said.

Episcopalians from as far away as Atlanta, Georgia had driven to New Orleans to worship with the group. Alford said it was the first time she experienced "radical hospitality."

"We kept asking what can we do, feeling so small in the scheme of things and they said just tell our story when you return home." she said.

Aljuwani expressed similar sentiment saying there is "little information in the national media that truly shows what is really happening on the ground in NOLA."

"We need all sectors of our national community, and especially our ministry, to understand what has happened here not only as a question of morality and justice for the victimized, but also in order to establish a new standard for disaster

relief and for national urban policy," he said.

### **RELEVANT TO BLACK SEMINARIANS**

Michael Reid, a May 2007 graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California has attended OBES conferences every year while in seminary.

"Like family reunions, they provide unique opportunities to share stories, love, encouragement and support with people, who although live in different parts of the country, remain closely connected to your heart," he said.

These gatherings Reid said also provide opportunities for networking and an impressive range of important theological and practical information all relevant to Black seminarians at every stage of their vocational process.

"I was drawn to attend by the opportunity to network," said Jennifer Brown, a middler at General Theological Seminary in New York City. "The focus on mission was important for me because I want to help those who are marginalized."

Several of the seminarians echoed this sentiment and said that the exposure had given them a different perspective on mission work.

"There's such life in these people despite the loss," said Johnson. "We truly experienced holy hospitality being there."

Hoping that the message of struggle, hope and rebirth was heard, Aljuwani said "we are not just victims suffering."

"We are a community that is being reborn with a new sense of purpose and compassion that many of us pray will not only make a difference



in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast but every where there are issues of poverty and race that limits the possibilities of the human spirit," he summarized.

—*Daphne Mack is a communication specialist for the Episcopal Church Center and editor of <http://www.globalgood.org>.*



### COMMENCEMENT AT SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE; BROWN SCHOLARS

The first recipients of the State of Virginia Brown vs. Board of Education scholarships were among the 162 graduates on May 13 at the 119th Commencement of Saint Paul's College.

Led by Senator Benjamin J. Lambert III, the scholarships were established by the Virginia's General Assembly in 2004 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision against segregated public education.

The scholarships were supplemented by donations from the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. The students - Carl Eggleston, Henry Cabarrus, Yvonne Evans, Nancy Reid-Brown, Barbara Spring and Pauline Stokes - had their public education halted in the name of "Massive Resistance" to integration. Stokes was 8-years-old when the schools reopened and she started first grade. While some families

sent their children to live with relatives or friends, Stokes, one of eight children, attended church-run school programs while her family waited for the system to reopen.

Dr. Robert L. Satcher, Sr., president of Saint Paul's College and Kerby Parker chairman of the College Board of Trustees offered a special "salute to the distinguished graduates."

The Rev. Angela Ifill was the

Baccalaureate speaker and said in part to the graduates that "God loved you into being and blessed you with gifts, reason and skills." She urged them to "make your life count for something" and "be that salt of the earth kind of man and woman."

Satcher's younger brother, Dr. David Satcher, former United States Surgeon General, delivered the commencement address.

## RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (RT&D)

The Recruitment, Training and Development (RT&D) Committee is a sub-group of the Office of Black Ministries' Advisory Council. The group which consists of 12 members supports, through scholarship awards, the education and training of seminarians, ordained and lay leaders and college students who are interested in ordained or professional lay leadership. The group meets June and November of each year to review scholarship applications, and to plan recruitment, training and development initiatives. Scholarship awards for 2007-2008 totaled upwards of \$50,000.

Recipients are as follows:

### Continuing Education

NAME	DIOCESE
Rev. Roland Clemons	New Jersey

### Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders

NAME	SEMINARY	DIOCESE
Yejide Peters	Berkeley	New York
Phoebe Roaf	VTS	Louisiana
Debra Bennett	Bexley Hall	Long Island
Christopher Richardson	VTS	Southern Ohio
Charles Fischer III	VTS	Atlanta
Thelma Panton	School of Theology	Atlanta
Karen Davis	GTS	Long Island
Joanna Hollis	CDSP	El Camino Real
Peter Kanyi	VTS	East Tennessee
Jennifer Brown-Lanier	GTS	New York



## REPORT ON VOORHEES COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

By Father Isaac Bonney



*Campus Ministry planning team participating at Founder's Day at Voorhees College.*

The Rev. Angela Ifill, Ms. Beblon Parks, the Rev. Terrence Lee and the Rev. Isaac Bonney spent time with students and members of the administration at Voorhees College April 10-12. The purpose of the trip was for the Church particularly, the Office of Black Ministries to begin a process of formulating closer bonds to those Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) connected to the Episcopal Church. Upon arrival at Voorhees, we met with students, faculty and Voorhees College President, Dr. Lee E. Monroe, Jr. where we learned about the state of the College including challenges and areas of success. On April 10, our day begun with a service at St. Philip's Chapel. It was interesting to note later on that all students are required, according to campus decree, to attend. Lee preached a thought provoking homily on the purpose that we all have given a context and the ability to discern how God in that time and moment calls everyone to action.

The panel session was comprised of first and second year students. At first shy and not willing to talk, the conversation became enlivened

when the discussion turned towards personal faith beliefs and or lack of beliefs and how that affects their daily life on campus.

Many of the students expressed the need of more conversations initiated by the panel. We spent the rest day trying to visit classes. On April 11, we met with juniors and seniors. Parks lead

a panel discussion on organizing and priorities as they looked towards the future. As opposed to the first day where students were more guarded, they opened up and in the process discussed issues such as the Don Imus controversy. After spending time with the students, it was agreed that the Church needed to do more with the students, as they were willing to work with us. The two-day experience in my opinion created a rich opportunity to interact with the future black leaders of America. Furthermore, it highlighted the responsibility that we as a Church, especially all black congregations in the Episcopal Church, have in establishing strong relationships with our HBCUs. Our young adults need us.

— **Father Isaac Bonney is assistant rector of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia.**

## CARIBBEAN ANGLICAN CONSULTATION REINFORCES VOCATION OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

By Daphne Mack

It is in conversation as Benedict says "listening with the ear of the heart, that we come to know God and God's will and desire for each one of us," Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori told participants of the Caribbean Anglican Consultation (CAC) on May 30.

"If we're able to lower the anxiety levels enough to where we would have conversation, there's the possibility that all of us can be converted into something that looks more Godly," she said.

Episcopal clergy and laity from the United States and the Church in the Province of the West Indies attended the consultation, themed "Hol' Strain: Redeeming the Time," May 28-31 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Queens, New York.

The four-day conference included daily worship and workshops led by lay and clergy on leadership development for congregational development, and clergy wellness with a concentration on compensation and benefits for licensed clergy.

"This is our eighth and largest attended consultation," said the Rev. Canon Dr. Kortright Davis of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and chair of the CAC. "The purpose of the consultation is to re-establish fellowship amongst clergy and laity who are African American, nurture them in terms of ministry on how to reinforce the vocation of mission and ministry and to make a more significant and meaningful contribution to the growth and development of the



*Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori joins Caribbean bishops during the May 28-31 Caribbean Anglican Consultation (CAC) in Queens, New York. (Photo courtesy of Daphne Mack.)*

culture of the Episcopal Church.”

Davis said that Jefferts Schori’s presence was important because “it opens the lines of communication” for the church in the West Indies “and ensures that they understand what her vision is for the Episcopal Church.”

Jefferts Schori held a question and answer period with the plenary of nearly 150 following a private meeting with 11 bishops of the Caribbean and six from the Episcopal Church. The questions ranged from her reflections on the Primates’ Meeting, and the proposed policies on immigration, to what was disclosed during her closed session with the bishops.

“I think that’s what we are struggling with in the Episcopal Church; that’s what each part of the Anglican Church is struggling with: how to live out the Gospel faithfully in this place we call home,” she said.

#### **‘THEOLOGY IS MESSY’**

The Rev. Michael Battle, associate

dean for Academic Affairs and vice president and associate professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, led a session on “The Spirituality of Incarnation.”

“I think that one of the reasons that we [the church] are in the mess we are in is because our theology is messy,” said Battle. “The incarnation is one of the messiest concepts there is. How can God be God and also be fully human in Jesus? I think if we can have better theologies of the incarnation it would help us not to be so judgmental of others and not to be so provincial in our way of thinking or limiting God, because God can do anything if God can become incarnate.”

#### **‘GOD CONTINUES TO INSPIRE EACH OF US’**

The Rev. Canon Nelson W. Pinder, president of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) cited several Caribbean and African American clergy who started churches in New York City that “worked for the glory

of God and served people who were committed to their care.”

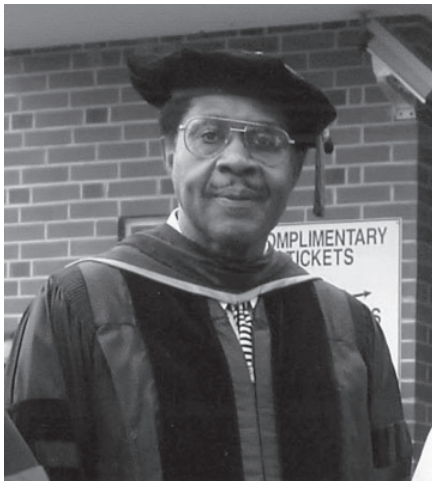
“They knew that they were neither independent nor dependent,” he said. “They knew that they were interdependent upon each other so they could spread the word of God and bring people to know that the Episcopal Church was their church for mission and ministry.”

“As we go through this period of turmoil and controversy we always have to remember that while tradition and scripture are important parts of who we are, God continues to inspire each of us both as individuals and as a community to seek truth and to know and love to serve the Lord,” he said. “The Caribbean community is the bridge between the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.”

*—Daphne Mack is a communication specialist for the Episcopal Church Center, editor of [www.globalgood.org](http://www.globalgood.org).*



**ROBERT SATCHER, SR.  
NAMED PRESIDENT OF  
SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE**



Dr. Robert L. Satcher, Sr. was recently named president of Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia, one of three historically black colleges of the Episcopal Church.

Satcher, whose brother is Dr. David Satcher, former United States Surgeon General, has held various positions at Saint Paul's including interim president, professor of chemistry, physics and physical science, vice president of academic affairs and provost.

He received his undergraduate degree from Alabama State University; Masters Degree from Arizona State University, and Ph.D. from Oregon State University. The results of his dissertation research on the Radiation and Photochemistry of Thymine (a DNA molecule) was presented at the International Conference on Photobiology, in Bochum, Germany.

Satcher and his wife, Marian, have four children.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

The Office of Black Ministries has developed several initiatives for 2007-2008 and invites your support and participation.

**Peer Ministry Training  
Sept. 7-9, 2007**

**Location: Tampa, Fl**

**Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2007**

**Location: San Francisco, CA**

Today's youth are profoundly affected by the relationships that they are involved in. Peer Ministry trains youth and adults to become servant ministers by developing skills of active listening, hospitality, and pastoral mentoring. For more information visit: [http://episcopalchurch.org/50071\\_54079\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://episcopalchurch.org/50071_54079_ENG_HTML.htm)

**Black Clergy Leadership  
Institute**

**Sept. 16-19, 2007**

**Location: Cathedral College,  
Washington DC**

This initiative is being developed in collaboration with Howard Anderson of the Cathedral College and will convene approximately 25 Black Clergy for conversation, worship, bible study, fellowship, networking and a clergy meeting. The curriculum will include best practices for ministry, and leadership skills training in the areas of Managing Conflict, Facilitating Change and Group Dynamics all with a focus

on congregational vitality.

Participants will be invited to provide feedback that will be considered in the design of an annual Leadership Institute for Black Clergy.

**Note: This is a pilot project to help develop further such conferences. For this purpose, attendance is limited.**

**Women's Gathering  
Oct. 8-11, 2007**

**Location: Duncan Center,**

**Del Ray Beach, FL**

This gathering is being offered as a pilot from which the format and content of future conferences will be determined. Participants will be invited to provide feedback for this purpose. The plan is to bring together black female clergy and lay professionals in the church under the theme "Spiritual Renewal, Leadership Gems: Continuing the Journey," for conversation around topics that include: Reflections on Ministry in the wider church; Leadership in the Black Community; providing Christian Formation materials for African Americans (especially for youth and young adults); Addressing Women's Issues in Church and Society; and Wholeness for the Individual relating to Health and Well Being and the Spiritual Life.

Approximately 50 women are being invited to participate in this venture. They will be selected from a broad range of ministries and cultures in order to create a



diversity that will greatly enhance discussions and conversations, enrich network opportunities and cultivate relationships for ongoing support of one another.

**Note:** This is a pilot project to help develop further such conferences. For this purpose, attendance is limited.

**Transformation and Renewal V Conference**  
**“People, Get Ready: A Fresh Start in Proclaiming Christ”**

**Nov. 11-16, 2007**

**Location: Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, N.C.**

Transformation and Renewal V is the continuation of previous conferences hosted by the Kanuga Conference Center, the Office of Black Ministries and the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Transformation and Renewal is an opportunity for churches of African-American, African-Caribbean, and African populations to reassess, reinvigorate and reengage themselves in finding the tools needed to support their congregational life in a way that is non-threatening and culturally sensitive.

Keynote speaker is: the Rev. Dr. Susan Newman, author of “With Heart and Hand: the Black Church Working to Save Black Children.” Newman is hailed by Ebony Magazine as one of the Top Black Women Preachers in America.

Conference musicians are Horace Boyer and Carl Maulsby.

To register visit:  
<http://www.kanuga.org>.

**Recognition Event**  
**Feb. 16, 2008**

The Recognition Event is designed to bring together the Presidents, students and faculty of the Historically Black Episcopal Colleges to recognize them for the role they play in their communities and in society. The presence of the broader community at this event serves not only to show support, but is a means of continuing to raise up the importance of the Historically Black College.

Many of us understand the importance of, and necessity for Historically Black Colleges to continue to serve its constituencies. We also recognize that substantial funding will strengthen the colleges’ ability to increase their academic offerings to students.

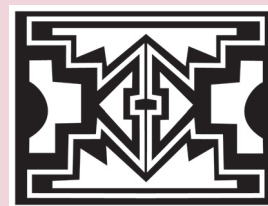
Presently, the Office of Black Ministries works to strengthen ties between the Colleges and the Episcopal Church and has plans for two-day Student Symposia for each campus. Through this medium, a team of six clergy and lay representatives visit the campus for panel and classroom discussions on various topics and one on one chats with students. This activity can be offered to students several times a year with leadership from clergy and lay groups.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Black Clergy 8th Triennial Conference**  
**“Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage: For the Living of these Days”**

**Oct. 18-23, 2008**

**Location: Intercontinental Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana**



# Bridges

## BRIDGES NEWSLETTER

The quarterly newsletter shares the work of the Office, and ministries of both clergy and lay who are invited to submit articles about their various ministries and accomplishments on the parish, diocesan, national and international levels.

## PERIODIC JOURNAL

A periodic journal will chronicle theological reflections, position papers, history in review, sermons, speeches and other items of notes.

## WEBSITE

Through our website, we plan to keep you up to date on programs, opportunities, publications and people. Please visit us at: [www.episcopalchurch.org/black.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/black.htm).

## LISTSERV

The list serv has been developed to provide a place for news, invitations and available opportunities and more. It offers clergy the opportunity to communicate with one another. To ensure that this valuable tool does not become a nuisance, please adhere to the protocol and respond to the sender only, not the entire list serv.



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