

**Region X  
Diocese of Virginia  
Church of the Holy Comforter  
2 March 2017**

Attending: Mickie Jones (St. Mark's), president; Terry Long (Holy Comforter), register; the Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose, (St. Andrews) treasurer; the Rev. David Niemeyer, (St. Mark's) Dean; Dawn McNamara (Grace & Holy Trinity), Sara Jo Williams (Grace & Holy Trinity), the Rev. Abbot Bailey (St. Andrew's), the Rev. Buck Aiken, Maria Maguire (Holy Comforter) and the Rev. Kim Reinholtz (Grace & Holy Trinity)

Mickie called meeting to order and opened with prayer

Minutes from January meeting approved

**Treasurers Report** – the Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose

- Beginning balance was \$ 1069.81, ending check register balance is \$548.81 (checks 113 and 114 have not cleared so February 2017 statement ending balance is \$1033.81)
- All Convention related expenses have been submitted and we have a surplus of \$49 which we can add to our Ministry TBD Surplus budget line
- Payments to ACTS will now be remitted
- Treasurer will submit recommended guidelines for requesting reimbursement at May meeting.
- Church pays for the youth delegate and makes the arrangements and the region will reimburse

Treasurer's report was approved

**Dean's Report** – the Rev. David Niemeyer

No report as no meeting has been held since our last regional meeting

**Executive Board** – Dawn McNamara

- Dawn was unable to attend the last meeting. Buck was there as he is a member of the task force on the realignment of the regions.
- Buck said feedback was good about this year's convention.
  - The various vignettes may need to be retired and a new format adopted for informing delegates what's going on in the diocese.
- Positive things are happening with Truro.
- The next meeting is April 6<sup>th</sup> with regional presidents

## **Parish reports (additions to reports below)**

### **Grace & Holy Trinity**

- Dawn gave detailed explanation on their program, Circles. It has been incorporated and will associate with Circles USA. Need more volunteers and more money.

### **St. Mark's**

- Chili supper with Dr. David Coogan author of *Writing Our Way Out* was well attended.
- New website coming
- Reconstituting the faith and justice group

### **Holy Comforter**

- We are planning Vacation Bible School, *Passport to Peru* . It will be held the second week in July in the evening. The Region is invited to participate.

### **Regional Re-visioning**

- A Powerpoint presentation was made by Diane Miller, co-chair of the taskforce.
- There was much discussion  
Our concerns were:
  - We will lose our collegiality
  - That Varina will not identify with our urban focus
  - Concerned about transition
  - Diocese needs to give guidance for organization and purpose

David closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Long, Register

## **Parish reports**

### **St. Andrew's**

- Using *Five Marks of Love* for Lenten study
- On Tuesday they are going to gather by video conference and see how that goes
- Abbot is conducting a retreat that will be open to anyone. She will send info to the region
- They will have an intergenerational event in April - coloring Stations of the Cross.
- Collecting quarters for the laundry ministry they do every week; 833 loads of laundry last year.
- Will have a lending library of books for Lent to replace their fence that in the winter contained hats, gloves and scarves.

## St. James's Region X Report 3/2/17

Highlights from the last few months:

- **The Rev. Carmen Germino and Facilities Manager Matt Presson** welcomed Christopher Silas Presson on February 20, 2017! Welcome, Chris! The Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper will be assisting with pastoral care and worship while Carmen is away on maternity leave.
- **The Rector Search Committee** began receiving names on January 1, 2017. It has extended its deadline from February 15 to March 10, 2017.
- St. James's vestry voted in November 2016 to update its **parental leave policy** to explicitly include all employees (lay and clergy), providing 12 weeks maternity leave and 4 weeks paternity leave. Paternity leave may be taken in a flexible manner.
- **Financial Peace University**, the nine-week faith-based course in financial wellness and stewardship, and its four-week parallel for youth, **Generation Change**, are offered for the first time this semester at St. James's. This popular and highly-effective course teaches basic personal finance skills through a Christian lens, including topics like getting out of debt, making a budget, saving, and giving. About 4 youth and their families graduated from Generation Change in February; currently about 30 adults ranging in age from 25 to 75 are enrolled in FPU, only about half of whom are St. Jamesers – evangelism.
- **Mardi Gras for Missions** – Feb. 28, 2017 -- this annual fundraiser raises all the money used to finance St. James's domestic and international missions for youth and adults, including international missions to Cuba, Haiti, Honduras, and local missions in Richmond and to the Northern Neck.
- **Field Trips** are a new and innovative formational offering this semester at St. James's. Initial field trips have included a nature hike at the Pony Pastures park led by parishioner and botanist Johnny Townsend and the Rev. Hilary Streever, and an upcoming guided tour of the VMFA's religious artwork and artifacts. These field trips are limited to 15-20 participants to encourage relationship-building.
- **SnowFest** – The weekend of Feb. 23, 2017, 37 youth and 11 chaperones traveled to Shrine Mont for a weekend of fellowship, fun, and worship. The weekend was organized by Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Mary Beth Abplanalp, and though no snow meant no skiing, the youth visited the Shenandoah Caverns, the Route 11 potato chip factory, and went duck pin bowling. Coached by the Rev. Hilary Streever, the youth led all the worship that weekend: Compline, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Eucharist.
- **Upcoming pilgrimages:**
  - Cycling el Camino de Santiago, May 14-20, 2017; about 30 participants, half of whom are St. Jamesers, will ride from Leon to Santiago with the Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper and the Rev. Hilary Streever.

- The Way of St. Cuthbert, planned for mid- to late-June 2018; walking from Melrose, Scotland, to the Holy Island (Lindisfarne), England, with the Rev. Hilary Streever

## **Grace and Holy Trinity**

**March 2, 2017**

### **Lent at GHTC:**

**Three services on Ash Wednesday** – 7:45 am; 12:15; 7:00 pm

**Daily Morning Prayer** – The Rev. Bruce Birdsey will lead a morning service in the Columbarium Chapel: 8:10 – 8:30 Monday – Friday

**Three Wednesday night programs:** dinner followed by programs presented by Dr. Cary Blankenship. Topic: “One Nation Under God: Religion’s Influence on US Foreign Policy.” The programs will end with Compline. Time: 5:45 – 7:15.

**Two Sunday Adult Forums:** March 22 and March 29: Mimi Weaver will facilitate these two 45 minute sessions on “Hearing, Speaking, and Walking in Love.” We will focus on how to hear and speak in ways that encourage connection in even the most difficult situations.

**Reading together:** Everyone is invited to read JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION by Bryan Stevenson. Sarah Price, our seminarian and Prof. of Social Work at VCU, will lead a discussion of the book at the Sunday Adult Forum on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Giving Outside the Mite Box:** Mite boxes in the shape of our church will be available to use for collecting your daily offerings. Prior to Palm Sunday, we encourage you to use your offering money to buy a poncho, umbrella, raincoat, or boots to give to those we serve through the Red Door Ministries Program. Bring them to church on Palm Sunday.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**March 2, 2017**

Recent Events:

- We had a good turnout on February 19<sup>th</sup> at our panel discussion with Dr. David Coogan and several of the contributing authors to “Writing our Way Out”, part of our RVA Talks @ St. Marks series. It was followed by some good conversation and a meal of chili and cornbread.
- Our annual church meeting was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, including Vestry elections. It was followed by the annual Vestry Retreat on the weekend of February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Roslyn Retreat Center.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Events:

- RVA Talks Book group continues on First Sundays – currently reading *Between the World and Me* by Te Nehisi Coates.
- Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon presentation by Rev. Lynn Litchfield of *GraceInside*, an organization that provides chaplains for Virginia’s state prison system.
- Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Noon, Deacon Sally Gunn will share with us about her ministry at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland.
- Our annual yard sale is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Pick-up of donated goods (for delivery to St. Mark’s) will start on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- We have a new website coming! We are hoping to have it up and running within the next two months.
- Our next Community Dinner will be Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM. Best \$5 deal in town! (Held the first Tuesday of each month.)
- We are reconstituting our Justice & Advocacy Team, one of its first initiatives – a Huddle group now has over 60 names in the network, most drawn from the neighborhood.

Continuing Opportunities

- Inspired by our friends at Grace & Holy Trinity, St. Mark’s has started a chapter of Boomers & Better, to be known as “Boomers & Better Boulevard”. Regular events include weekly coffee and breakfast groups at the Westwood Pharmacy and the Best Café at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Curmudgeon’s Lunch is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Arianna’s.
- Junior and Senior Youth Groups meet each month for fellowship and service.
- Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry is held on the Second and Fourth Sundays of each month, from 9:00 until 10:30 AM. This is a shared ministry with St. Andrews and others. It has expanded to offer pet food and clothing.
- We continue to collect and distribute clothing (including shoes) and personal care products for our food pantry guests. Current needs include rolling suitcases and duffles, backpacks, sleeping bags, rain gear, underwear and socks.
- A “Teen Learning About the Church Group” continues. They meet the first Sunday of every month except August. Among its learning goals is to prepare teens for confirmation.
- Three on-going Bible Study Groups: Buck’s Bible Bonanza on Wednesday nights, 7:00 – 8:00 PM and the Wednesday Morning Bible Study (10:00 AM) led by Malinda Collier, and a Lectio group led by Father David (first Fridays at 8am).

- A women's spirituality group meets the first Tuesday of the month after our Neighborhood Dinner.

**Holy Comforter  
Report to Region X  
March 2017**

Maria Maguire has joined us at a Young Priest Initiative Intern. Maria grew up attending Christ Church in Glen Allen. She graduated from UVA with a major in studio art and a minor in religious studies. Last year she was part of the Episcopal service Corp based at St. Stephen's in Ferguson, MO.

Dinner groups are forming again.

In the past we have offered "Ashes-to-go" at Willow Lawn. This year Hilary is trying something different. She will stand in the median on Monument Avenue at the traffic light from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Now, that is taking *go* literally!

Hilary is leading a Confirmation Class/Discipleship Study during Lent based on the *Five Marks of Love*, from SSJE and VTS.

We are promoting the participation in Lenten Madness <http://www.lentmadness.org/about/>

Lenten suppers will be held on Wednesday with a simple supper followed by the viewing of an episode of *Joan of Arcadia*, a short-lived tv program from 2003-2005, followed by discussion. This program was popular last year so this is revisited this year with new episodes. The program was developed by the Presbyterian Church.

Joan Vaughan, a parishioner, will lead a workshop on making Ukrainian Easter eggs following the service on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Bishop Shannon will make an Episcopal visit to us for our Easter vigil.

Much needed electrical updating is being done in the parish house.