**REGION IV COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting

May 24, 2017

St. Paul’s Church

PRESENT:

* Christ Church: Cindi Bartol, Geoff Giovanetti, Betsy Hahn, Susan Hahn, Dorothy Linthicum
* Church of St. Clement: Rev. Robin Razzino, Annette Foster
* Church of the Resurrection: Betsy Faga
* Emmanuel Church: Very Rev Chuck McCoart, **Dean**, Barbie Frank, **Treasurer**
* Grace Church: June Huber, **President**, Jean Reed
* Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: Rev. David Crosby, **Executive Board**, Hance Haney
* Meade Memorial Church: Rev. Collins Asonye, Thomas Jones
* St. Paul’s Church: Karen Grane
* Guest: Thom Hahn

Our gathering began at 7:30 pm with our collective reading of the opening prayer as listed in the agenda.

President’s Report: June gave thanks for those who worked to put the items needed for this evening’s meeting together – Annette Foster, Karen Grane, Cindi Bartol and Susan Hahn – while she was away on travel with her husband.

Approval of Minutes: with the correction of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill delegate Hance Haney’s name, the minutes from February 8, 2017 were approved as distributed.

Dean’s Report: Chuck reported that the main topic of conversation at the last meeting of the Deans centered on the establishment of the Institute for Peace and Reconciliation at Truro. The communication from Bishop Shannon to the people of the diocese outlining the information that was shared with us this evening appears below, following the minutes. It is noted that not all of the Deans are in an affirming place for this concept.

Executive Board Rep report: Rev. David Crosby

* +Shannon’s report: House of Bishops meets 2x year (Mar & Sept); was in Kanuga 7-8 days. Shared that ++Michael Curry is “a real giant” & advocate for The Jesus Movement. He said that ‘Jesus is compelling as the church is not so much’ (don’t remember if this was Shannon’s summary or a paraphrase from Michael). Amy Williams, +Shannon’s asst. is a congenial leader and networker in the church, having attended the BEST (Bishop Exec. Secretaries Together) conference in Philly. The Bishop serves on the Standing Cmte. on Liturgy & Music, asking to be on the Calendar group, as they seek to identify more laypeople promoting in the faith. A BCP process for revision is due in 2018, even as we are “just beginning to mine the depths of the 1979 BCP.” Some Book of Occasion Services (BOS) revisions for contemporary needs to freshen language might be forthcoming. Finally, +Shannon admitted his calendar is out of control; hiring an Exec coach to assist him as he is ‘in when he needs to be out & vice versa.’ He closed saying no more than 60% of your week should be scheduled.
* +Susan was still on sabbatical.
* +Ted’s comment on the HOB is that ++Michael is ‘bridging gaps’ with the House of Delegates, working closely w/ Gay Jennings. The final total for the Shrine Mont “Shout It from the Mountain” campaign was $2,513,674! That is from 700 donors out of 89K Episcopalians and represents 95 (83 parishes & 12 missions) of the 180 congregations in the Diocese.  He continues as a ½ time/PT Asst. Bishop for the 7th year (4 years longers than expected).
* Ed Jones, Secretary, spoke about efforts with the Institute for Peacemaking & Reconciliation @ Truro in Fairfax entering into a 3-year period of discernment; backlash from ACNA leadership was beginning. Mentioned date for the 1-day special Convention @ St. Stephen’s, Richmond (11/4) , that 2018 Convention would be in Richmond and return to NoVA 2019 (likely in Crystal City).
* Ted Smith, Treasurer, said diocese looked very healthy on the income side.
* Buck Blanchard, Director of Mission & Outreach, now working ½ time with the Nat’l Church (815), & Aisha Huertas, Multicultural Ministries Officer, spoke about Issues in the Public Square re: Immigration & Refugee Resettlement and the works of Episcopal Migration Ministries and upcoming workshop opportunities being planned for Advocacy 101, Know Your Right, and Civil Disobedience Training. They wanted to make sure we all know: “Immigrants are not taking jobs; they are taking jobs no one else wants.”

Treasurer’s Report: Barbie will send a copy of the updated report that was corrected at the meeting in a separate email. There was discussion about how to best handle the checks needed each year to fund the youth delegate to Diocesan Convention and overnight accommodations, if needed. Cindi will work with June and Barbie to develop a plan and bring this to the September meeting.

Child and Family Network Report

The Child and Family Network Centers (CFNC) finishes its school year next month, and you are all invited to the **graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 16**:

 10:00am-12:00noon First Baptist Church 2932 King Street

Graduation festivities are a showcase for the children to demonstrate their skills through songs and activities. CFNC serves 136 children and their families in eight classrooms located in several areas of need in Alexandria.

We expect to finish the financial year (July 1-June 30) with a small surplus, and we have projected fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and 2019 to have modest deficits. We are on a prudent track, but will not be able to expand beyond 136 children in each of the next two years. Changes made in the current year and staff adjustments for next year will further enhance our viability.

CFNC was started in 1984 by a group of mothers living in a public housing community after they learned that their children failed kindergarten. From that modest beginning and early support from Region IV churches, CFNC has continuously grown both the reach and depths of its programs in response to community need.

Support to CFNC from all Faith Groups is less than 1% of the budget. While CFNC is very grateful for the initial and continued generosity of the Region IV Council, its churches, and parishioners, it has removed the by-law requirement for Region IV to be represented on its Board. Nonetheless, I ask Region IV Council to nominate a Board member—to continue to show our interest in CFNC.

Thank you.

Faithfully submitted,

Geoffrey N. Giovanetti

Region IV Delegate, Retiring CFNC Board Member

703-200-3597, ggiovanetti@gmail.com

NOTE: : Members of Region IV Council acknowledge and agree that it is no longer a necessity to have region representation as formerly required in the by-laws of CFNC.

Old Business:

1. Diocese surpassed the $2.5 M stretch goal for Shout It From the Mountain campaign at Shrine Mont and the regions were thanked for their contributions and efforts of support.
2. Region IV budget was approved by the Executive Board.
3. Regional youth event, *"Stop Hunger"*, hosted by Grace Church, was a great success.

New Business:

* **Signing up for the diocesan e-communique:**

Go to the webpage, www.thediocese.net. On the right-hand side of the bottom of the page, see the “Connect With Us” menu item. Below that is a button for “Email sign-up.” Click there and follow the prompts to receive regular news emails about your Diocese delivered to your inbox. There are also prompts to take you to sign up for the Diocesan blog, Twitter account, Facebook page, and other communication options. Here is a direct link, http://www.thediocese.net/news-and-events/ecommunique/

* **Outreach disbursements** – a full description of the ministries where the recommendations are to be distributed was provided electronically prior to the meeting by Betsy Faga, convener of the outreach sub-committee. The recommendations were approved as noted:

Child and Family Network [CFNC] 100.00

Church of St. Clement Hypothermia Shelter 0.00

Hunger Free Alexandria 200.00

Meade Church Bag Lunch Program 2000.00

Refugee Ministry 200.00

West End Lazarus Ministry 2300.00

Episcopal Young Adult Service Corp 200.00

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* The Youth Directors are planning another event for next winter/spring
* Karen Grane was unanimously affirmed when she expressed interest to apply for membership on the board of CFNC as Geoff Giovanetti rotates off of that position.
* The Rev. Collins Asonye was affirmed to fill the unexpired term of Region IV clergy rep to the diocesan Executive Board following the resignation of the Rev. David Crosby at the end of June due to change of ministry location. This will involve attending the September, October and December meetings wherever they are located in the diocese.
* At our September meeting, we will need to elect a Youth Delegate to Diocesan Convention, meeting at St. Stephen’s Church, Richmond, for one day, Saturday, November 4, 2017. The diocese is changing the time of year for Convention. 2018 will also have us gathering in Richmond but no date has been set. Cindi was asked to write up some guidelines and information that can be shared in each church as the youth discern a call to this service and our election of a delegate and an alternate.
* We had discussion around a request from Meade Memorial Church for us to consider sending a letter of support to the state Social Services licensing division in connection with the church hosting Bright Minds Preschool and childcare center. Cindi had drafted and distributed, prior to this meeting, such a letter for consideration. After the Rev. Collins Asonye spoke to the background information, the action and the letter were approved through a motion made by Karen Grane, seconded by Geoff Giovanetti. The letter from us was signed by the President and the Dean and included for your information along with the letter sent by the people of Meade Church.
* Part of the diocesan e-communication list – every delegate of the region should be receiving these notices and we should put a notice in parish news letters to encourage members to sign up to receive this also.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50p.m. following our saying of the closing prayer from the distributed agenda.

Respectfully,

Cindi Bartol – Christ Church

Secretary for this meeting

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Bishop Shannon’s communication with the people of the diocese – see Dean’s report above.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese,

In this Easter season, I am pleased to report that we have witnessed a rebirth of peace and reconciliation at our historic Truro Church campus in Fairfax City. Years of costly litigation have given way to a new era of community building and peacemaking.

As I noted in my Pastoral Address at January's Annual Convention, members of the Diocese have spent the past three years building new ties of trust and friendship with the Truro ACNA congregation, which is leasing the Truro campus from the Diocese. Those efforts have helped to give birth to an Institute for Peace and Reconciliation at Truro. The governing board of this Institute will have equal representation from the Diocese and the Truro ACNA congregation.

The final pieces fell into place last week when the 18-member vestry of the Truro ACNA congregation voted unanimously to approve all documents related to the creation of the Institute. Our own Standing Committee already had given its consent to this proposal, subject to the final review of documents by our Chancellor and by me. All of this has now been accomplished.

Our agreement provides for an important three-year period of discernment. You will be hearing a lot more about our activities at Truro during this period, as both the Diocese and the ACNA congregation reflect and pray on whether we have successfully launched this important Institute. If both of us agree at the end of three years that we have succeeded, the congregation will be granted a 50-year lease to the property that the Diocese will continue to own. We in the Diocese will not only participate in the Institute, but also will have continued access to the property for office space, events and services to ensure a long-term Episcopal presence at Truro.

I am aware that some in our Diocese may still have strong concerns about making long-term agreements with a congregation that left us and holds fundamentally different views on important matters of theology.

But after much prayer and reflection, I feel very strongly that we are being called to live into the Gospel in this way. Building new relationships with the ACNA congregation has helped us to recognize that there is so much to gain and to achieve. Indeed, there is much more that unites us than divides us.

A number of years ago, someone sitting next to me on a plane asked what I did for a living. When I told her, she said, "The Episcopal Church - isn't that the one with the lawsuits?" Soon, I hope such a person would say, "Isn't that the one with the peacemakers?"

The initial work of the Institute will involve seminarians and will focus on reconciliation among Christians, Muslims and Jews. Naturally, the very fact that such a major ministry is being run jointly by an Episcopal diocese and an ACNA congregation, two entities that had previously been very publicly in opposition, will be an additional narrative in itself. This is precisely the kind of witness that our Diocese and our Church need to provide in this divided and polarized world. A peace center has been born at a time when we desperately need it.

Blessings to all of you during this joyous Easter season.

Faithfully Yours,



The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston

Bishop of Virginia

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Letters pertaining to Bright Minds Preschool actions:

 From the region

Ms. Pamela Sneed

Licensing Inspector

Division of Licensing Programs

Virginia Department of Social Services

801 E. Main Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219 May 24, 2017

 **RE: Application of Bright Mind Preschool**

Dear Ms. Sneed:

Members of the Region IV Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, comprised of elected representatives and the clergy of the eight Episcopal Churches in the City of Alexandria, have been made aware of the current licensing conversations pertaining to the renewal licensing of the Bright Mind Preschool which gathers at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. Meade Church is one of the eight churches in our region. Our eight churches and people in other denominations also rely on the other facility spaces available at Meade Memorial Church during the week where community programs can be held. We are particularly focusing our communication in connection with the lunch program of bringing food into the parish hall of Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, Monday through Friday during specific hours, and caring for, as we are called to do, for those in need who rely on this program.

We are aware of a challenge or confrontation that took place on the property during the daytime hours when children were present in a learning center in another location of the church and other people were gathering to receive a much needed meal during the noontime hours in a different space. We understand that, on a visitation day for licensing, there was a confrontation among those coming for a meal and that was noted by the state licensing inspector.

Our request of supportive licensing is that you understand the need for both programs to be allowed to continue as they are separate from each other. The pre-school program for children is abundantly necessary – there are never enough spaces for early learning. The lunchtime feeding program also is vital to the people whom it serves. This program has been maintained by 3+ decades of identified need and ability to provide service. In other times, it was made available in a facility that is no longer available. When a change needed to happen, Meade Memorial Church stepped forth to offer space in the same neighborhood location so that the people, whose need was being cared for, could continue to happen without more hardship for those seeking aid.

We ask that you give every consideration to endorsing the presence of the Bright Mind Preschool location along with the presence of our local community outreach to those in need for nourishment, to take place at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. We trust that, working together, we will continue to have safe boundaries in place and to uplift all who can benefit from our outreach ministry that takes place at Meade Church.

Respectfully,

June Huber The Very Rev. Chuck McCoart

President, Region IV Council Dean, Region IV Council

From Meade Church

Ms. Pamela Sneed

Licensing Inspector

Division of Licensing Programs

Virginia Dept. of Social Services

801 E. Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

RE**: Application of Bright Mind Preschool**

Dear Ms. Sneed:

 As rector of Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, I write on behalf of my congregation in support of the above referenced application. Meade Memorial feels privileged to host this significant program of nurturing, enrichment and development for children served by Bright Mind. We have and will continue to cooperate with program administrators to ensure the day care facility is maintained and operated in a manner to safeguard the health, safety and security of the children. This is the highest priority of both Bright Care management and the people of this church.

 I understand that you have expressed safety concerns related to the feeding program the church provides for indigent and homeless individuals in the community. This program operates for only two hours, per day during the week. We have housed the feeding program for more than 16 years, without any issues. Furthermore, it is conducted in an area of the building separate and apart, and on a different floor, from where the day care center will be situated. In addition, volunteers who staff the feeding program are experienced in preventing recipients from wandering into unauthorized areas of the building. Moreover, we have reviewed the safety proposal by Bright Mind management and feel it offers additional enhancements to guarantee the wellbeing of the children.

 Nurturing children and helping the needy are central to the mission of this church, in keeping with the teaching of Christ. These objectives can both be accommodated within the walls of Meade, without harm or compromise to the other.

 The people of Meade urge approval of the Bright Mind Preschool application. And if granted, pledge to do all within our power to support the program, to ensure the best possible outcome for these children.

 Sincerely,

The Very Rev. Collins Asonye - Rector

Meade Memorial Episcopal Church

**ONCE AROUND – INFORMATION TO SHARE / PUBLICIZE**

Christ Church – Cindi Bartol

* Vacation BibleSchool – June 25 through June 30 with Grace and Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill.
* COMMUNITY**:** Every Saturday from June 3 to November 18, volunteers gather to collect, bag, and haul produce contributed by Market Square vendors. The produce gleaned is then shared and distributed through the Lazarus food pantries. We will kick off the season on June 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the foyer of City Hall to meet with volunteers to review the gleaning process, answer questions, and share in some fellowship before gleaning at 11:30 a.m. You will have the opportunity to meet our onsite coordinator, Brandie Mae Grubb, who serves as the Hunger-Free Alexandria Coordinator. **\* 2016 OTFM** Food Rescue Statistics: As many as 20 market vendors participated during the 2016 season with 5,588 pounds of free fresh produce being contributed, worth an estimated $10,000! This produce served residents in need of this healthy food through two Lazarus Food Pantries, the Annie B. Rose House low income senior housing and Friends of Guest House, a re-entry home for formerly incarcerated women in Alexandria. If you can volunteer an hour and a half on Saturday mornings outdoors, rain or shine, to glean, please contact Stephanie Roberts at stepharoberts@gmail.com . This opportunity is open to all, including families. You may commit to just one Saturday morning or a few during the season.
* Lazarus Food Pantry continues to be the largest and most well stocked weekly food pantry in the City of Alexandria. We need volunteers to help set up from roughly 8:00 am – 9:15 am each Thursday morning. Volunteers do not have to commit to every Thursday. Please contact Melanie Gray for more information, mgray@ccalex.org or 703.778.4937.
* The EfM group at Christ Church meets on Wednesday evenings beginning in September. To explore joining the EFM group at Christ Church, or get more information, contact Ridge Multop, 703.609.9559 or baritone58@gmail.com . Members of various churches often combine for this.
* Interfaith prayer circle: meets Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at the corner of Henry and Montgomery Streets in Alexandria, the site of the murder of Pierre Clark and a block away from the site of the murder of Saquan Hall. Prayers are offered for healing of the families, the neighborhood and community, and the end to such violence. Please join in prayer at the circle or wherever you might be at 3:00 each Sunday. Email the Rev. Heather VanDeventer, hvandeventer@ccalex.org for information.

Church of the Resurrection – Betsy Faga

* **Sunday, June 25 - Potluck Dinner and Program**

Come for a potluck dinner and learn about the Shroud of Turin from parishioner Lea Fowlie and discuss what you think about this cloth. Dinner at 6 pm; program at 7 pm; closing prayer at 8 pm.

* **June - Dental Hygiene Drive**

Join Resurrection in collecting dental hygiene products; such as toothbrushes, toothpaste (large and small sizes), dental floss, to be distributed to those in our community who need the products. Contact Region IV delegate Betsy Faga at bfaga10@gmail.com or 703.407.8889 to arrange pick-up or delivery.

* **July 10-August 21 - Backpack Drive**

Join Resurrection in providing backpacks for students at TC Williams International Academy and to other nearby schools as supplies allow. Resurrection will provide standard supplies to fill the packs. Contact Region IV delegate Betsy Faga at bfaga10@gmail.com or 703.407.8889 to arrange pick-up or delivery.

* **On Saturday, September 30** Resurrection will be holding another book distribution for children and youth during the Last Saturday Food Distribution. Your used or new books are welcome. Contact Region IV delegate Betsy Faga, see above, if you have any questions.

Church of St. Clement – Annette Foster

* The thrift shop is closed until September 8 when it resumes Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm store hours. Donations will be received once the store reopens.
* Members will attend the Bishop’s Jubilee at Shrine Mont - July 7-9, 2017. Please join us! Learn more and register: shrinemont.com/events/special-event/bishop-s-jubilee-2017
* Saint Clement parishioner, certified Yoga instructor, teaches free yoga classes in St. Clement’s Marshall-Rutter Hall Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 (including the summer months). All are welcome. Bring your own mat!

Emmanuel Church – Chuck McCoart

* While we have discussed the first two of our five strategic goals (Strong as a Community and Active in Ministries) we will spend the summer months discussing:  June - Nurturing to Individuals and Families, July - Connected to Tradition, and August - Financially Sound and Well Tended.  Following these monthly discussions we will then develop goals and objectives to be accomplished over the next five years.  Thank you for keeping Emmanuel in your prayers and know that the other region churches are in our prayers.

Grace – Jean Reed and June Huber

* On Wednesday, June 7th at 9:00 am, Grace Episcopal School will hold its 5th Grade graduation ceremonies.
* On Sunday, June 11th at 11:00 am, Grace parishioners will gorge themselves at the Annual Picnic. This event also marks the seasonal change from winter worship (9:00 am and 11:15 am) to summer worship (10:00 am).
* Wednesday, June 14th, marks the Parish Golf "Spring Fling" at the National Golf Club. Always a favorite of our rector.
* Grace's annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont will take place -- as usual -- the weekend after Labor Day, September 8th through 10th.
* Grace Church has called The Rev. Fannie Belanger as its new Assistant to the Rector.  She will begin her duties on July 14th.”

Immanuel church-on-the-Hill – David Crosby

* Immanuel is preparing to say good-bye to its beloved Parish Administrator and Associate Rector, and beginning searches to fill both positions.
* We are continuing, during our anniversary year, to welcome back former Rectors to preach and to participate in a forum about their memories and experiences of serving at Immanuel.
* Our seminarian sponsored by us, Will Packard, has just graduated from Seminary and will soon be ordained and begin work at St. David’s in Ashburn.  One seminarian with us for field education, Pilar Padron, just graduated and will be at Assistant at Grace, Kilmarnock.  Our other seminarian, Halim Shukair from the Diocese of Jerusalem, has one more year with us.
* We are welcoming and enjoying the new Kenyan fellowship within Immanuel, led by the Rev. Peter Gachira, who just graduated with an MA from Virginia Seminary.
* We just concluded, for the summer, our new 5PM Sunday Eucharist offered in partnership with Virginia Seminary and Episcopal High School.

Meade Memorial Church – Collins Asonye

* Rebuilding Together Alexandria, brought in about 30 young high school kids to paint the Parish Hall, which is used for Homeless ministry. The high school kids are from Latin America, who migrated to the United States about 6 months ago. The activity was part of their giving back to the community. The painted the parish Hall, clean the kitchen and the entire church building. It was Service and Love in action, the painting was professionally done. Rebuilding Together Alexandria, paid for the paints, lunch and surplies.
* Jazz At Meade (JAM), the acclaimed afternoon of jazz and R&B music by local musicians and vocalists, 2017, began in April and will continue through November. Marshall Keys, George V. Johnson, Jr., Dick Morgan, Anita King, Will Smith, Ephriam Wolfolk, Al Williams Project, Natale, Sandra Y. Johnson, The Vibe Collective/Latin Jazz, Nasar Abadey, Paul Carr, Tony Craddock, Jr., Vaughn Ambrose, Ronny Smith, Anna Mwalagho, The Unified Jazz Ensemble, Bruce Swaim, The Jolley Brothers, Kenny Sanders, Deandre Shaifer, Joel Holmes, Maurice Lyles, George Botts, Bertel Knox and Yvonne Johnson are some of the area's top artists who have graced the stage at Jazz At Meade. Most performances are 3rd Sundays at 4 p.m. Stay tuned for this year’s schedule.
* Pulpit Exchange: 06/8/2017, Fr. Asonye and Rev. Noelle will exchange pulpit at Christ Church and Meade Church, Alexandria respectively. The exchange will enable them to learn and share about ministry in each congregation. Each clergy will celebrate and preach at the services and lead Adult Forum. Members will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of any topic of interest to them.
* In September Meade will host the Region IV Meeting with a Potluck. We look forward to all the delicious food our delegates will bring.
* This Summer we are expectantly looking forward to the approval and opening the Bright Mind Day Care.

St. Paul’s – Karen Grane

* The Rev. Ross Kane, Senior Associate Rector, received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia in May.  He has accepted a new ministry as Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at VTS beginning in mid- June.  Although we are sad Ross is leaving St. Paul’s, we are excited about his new call.  His last Sunday at St. Paul’s is June 11.
* Larissa Beason has joined our staff as Children’s Ministry Assistant.  She has been with St. Paul’s since 2014 as an Explorers (2-3 year old day program during the week) teacher.
* Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 7:30 pm – Ascension Day Evensong. Donations including non-perishable items will be taken for the Lazarus Ministry.
* Sunday, May 28, 2017 – Our summer worship schedule combining the 9 am and 11 am services meeting at 10 am begins.
* Sunday, June 4, 2017 at the 9:00 am service – Acolyte Recognition and Commissioning Ceremony.
* Sunday, June 11, 2017 after the 10 am service – We will have our Parish Picnic at VTS.
* June 26-30, 2017 – We will have our Vacation Bible School exploring a new culture in “Passport to Peru:  Discovering God’s Good Gifts.”