**Region IV Council**

**November 16, 2016, 7:30 pm**

**Church of St. Clement**

Present

Christ Church: Cindi Bartol, Dorothy Linthicum, Betsy Hahn, Susan L. Hahn

Church of St Clement: Annette Foster

Church of the Resurrection: Betsy Faga

Emmanuel Church: The Very Rev. Chuck Mc Coart, Barbie Frank

Grace Church: June Huber (President)

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: The Rev. David Crosby

Meade Memorial Church: The Rev. Collins Asonye, Thomas C. Jones

St Paul’s Church: Bob Steventon

Guests: Char Rusnak, Patrick F. Killeen, Jenni Faires

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by President June Huber With prayer 12 [pg 818 BCP for Church Meeting]

Members in attendance read through the meeting minutes from September 21, 2016 Region IV Council Meeting. There was no change to the minutes. A motion to approve them as distributed was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting Secretary swap was made for this meeting from Immanuel Church- on-the-Hill to The Church of Saint Clement.

Guest Speakers

President June Huber introduced Char Rusnak (Grace Church), Diocese of Virginia Delegate to the UN Council on the Status of Women. Ms Rusnak will be attending a two-week conference at the UN in New York City with other women and female youth from around the world in March 2017. Focus of conference will be “Changing women and changing work”. Priorities of the convention will be Education, stopping gender base violence and increasing social economic empowerment, and assisting marginalized people. Ms Rusnak noted that Bishop Goff is the Lead Virginia Bishop for this Episcopal multicultural & ethnic ministry. President Huber ask if Region IV may assist? Discussion commenced after Ms Rusnak said money donations are now needed. It was recommended that we promote a money collection to occur at the 222nd Annual Diocesan Convention January 26-28, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Reston, VA.

President June Huber introduced Patrick F. Killeen to discuss “Aging Well in Community” and “Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria”. Patrick explained the volunteers are a broad collaboration of health care specialists and fall under the City of Alexandria Health Department. As part of the Alexandria’s Community Health Improvement Plan, 2014-2019 the priority areas being worked are: Access to Care; Adolescent Health and Well-being; Aging Well in Place, Clean and Smoke Free Air; Healthy Living and Active Living; HIV and AIDS Prevention and Care; Maternal and Child Health; Mental Health and Wellness. Mr. Killeen’s contact information is:

Patrick F. Killeen

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President June Huber introduced Jenni Faires who stated the March 5 Stop Hunger Youth Event to be hosted by Grace Church is for all Region IV youth. At this time, a $3,000 commitment from Region IV churches is need to secure the March 5th event date. President Huber stated last Region IV Council meeting the Church of the Resurrection committed to underwrite the event by giving $1,000 and asked other churches is the region to join in partnership. All other Region IV churches are asked to email their $300 monetary commitment and notify the regional council by December 1st.

**Deans Report**:

The Very Rev Chuck McCoart reported Region IV Clericus met 10/11 to hear a presentation on Goodwin House Palliative Care and Hospice. Next meeting TBA. Grace Church, Russell Road’s Assistant to the Rector, Leslie Nunez Steffensen, accepted a call to be the Canon to the Bishop for Federal Ministries beginning 2/1/17; her last Sunday at Grace will be 1/22/17. Leslie will serve with Bishop-Elect Carl Wright in support of Episcopal chaplains in the Armed Forces, VA Hospitals, and Federal Prisons.

**Executive Board Report**: The Rev. Dave Crosby reported:

* Bishop Shannon is on the Standing Committee for liturgical music, an interim body of the General Church, which, among other things, is designing the process to be considered for revisions to the Book of Common Prayer.
* Bishop Shannon was happy with the Fall Clergy Retreat at Shrine Mont which explored “Tapping the Well Spring” – health ordinated theme. Pathways at Rosslyn are expanding for clergy and lay persons End of September, Bishop Susan will attend an intercultural conference that deals with community advocacy and interests. There have been 60 applicants and of those, 17 were interviewed for the diocesan director of Communications. Update Heidi H. Cho is the new Diocese Director of Communications. You can reach her at hcho@thediocese.net after December 19th
* Bishop Susan will take a sabbatical after the 222nd Annual Convention. She plans to contemplate the “Art of Delight” in the Gospel of John.
* Bishop Ted was delighted in his oversite role and opportunity to preach to 1,000 kids at the National Cathedral recently.
* The dates for the 222nd “Wall In Love” and 223rd Annual Conventions in 2017 are respectively January 26-28 at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, VA and Saturday, November 4 at St. Stephen's Church Richmond, VA.
* The Virginia Diocese region realignment for synergy and geographical reasons was presented. Region IV is not effected with the expansion of 15 regions going to 17 regions.

**Financial Report:** Treasure Barbie Frank provided the Account Balance as of 10/31/2016 is $4,063.76. From this balance, up to $1,000 was voted on last meeting of Region IV Council to support the March 5 Stop Hunger Youth Event if the commitment from individual churches falls short of the needed $3,000.

**Outreach Report:** Betsy Faga reported the West End Food Pantry staff is comprised of people from 4 churches and in its 4th week at Church of the Resurrection with a daily average of 38 people being helped. The Mayor of Alexandria attend the ALIVE! and the Hunger Free Alexandria Committee dedication of the newly renovated and expanded Alexandria Food Center, on Friday, Oct. 16. The Food Center is located at 801 S. Payne Street. Church of Saint Clement will host its annual Winter shelter from Jan-March 2017.

Old Business

1. 2017 Region IV Lenten Series will be led by the Rev. Greg Milliken of St. Paul's on the topic "Theological themes in Star Wars." The format envisioned is the same as for prior years: 30-minute Eucharist service beginning at 6:30 pm, simple supper at 7:00 pm, and program from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. The Rev Jo Belser plans to ask Good Shepherd Lutheran or Fairlington United Methodist Churches if they would like to join us. The schedule as proposed, with all but the April 5 host confirmed:

 \* March 8: Myth/Legend, call narratives in the Old Testament (Resurrection)

 \* March 15: Temptation (St. Paul's)

 \* March 22: Journey (Emmanuel)

 \* March 29: Spirit (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill)

 \* April 5: Redemption (proposed host: Meade Memorial ??)

2. A future Region IV youth participation event was introduced by Cindi Bartol. Youth are invited to participate on Dec 17 at 10AM with the laying of wreaths at Old Town Alexandria National Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America campaign. Contact Barry Stauffer bcstauffer@outlook.com , Christ Church, to participate in this youth event which is intended for all ages. It is possible for the church youth group to collect money contributions if that is preferable. Please take this opportunity back to your parishes and see if any are interested.

3. Rotation of host church for 2017 Region IV meetings was decided. Church of Saint Clement will remain a backup location if needed.

\*Wednesday, February 8, 2017 Grace Church

\*Wednesday, May 24, 2017 St. Paul's Church

\*Wednesday, September 20, 2017 Meade Memorial, including potluck dinner

\*Wednesday, November 15, 2017 Emmanuel

1. June Huber announced the Diocese website plan which will provided better ways to leverage our parish programs across the region. Region IV may create a table on our website that shares each church’s programs and ministries. [include web site address at the top of the minutes under the region name or at the bottom of that heading]
2. June Huber announced there is a need for chaplain volunteers for Chaplaincy Program at INOVA Alexandria Hospital. All participants receive programs of regular training and mentorship. If interested in joining the interfaith pastoral care team, call William Tweedley at 703-504-3809 or email William.tweedley@inova.org. Cindi Bartol noted that someone from Christ Church is now part of the program.

New Business

* Reverend Robin Gulick Razzino will be The Church of Saint Clement Priest-in-Charge for the next three years. Her first Sunday at Saint Clement is Nov 27.
* Bob Steventon announced Tuesday Cloister Night at Saint Paul’s church during Advent Season Nov 29- Dec 20 from 6:30-8PM. June Huber asked Bob to email the “Cloister Night at St. Paul’s” flyer to Region IV Council members.
* Election of Youth Delegate and Alternate. Region IV voted to send Emma Cuddy, Immanuel Church -on-the-Hill, as the Region IV Youth Delegate to the 222nd Diocesan Convention in January of 2017. Region IV voted Rebecca Shannon, Christ Church, as the alternate Region IV Youth Delegate. Consideration is being investigated as to how best support Rebecca’s attendance at Convention.
* President June Huber inquired about the distribution of Human Trafficking posters. Cindi Bartol explained all Region IV church received a stack of posters to be given out to church members for greater distribution in the community.

News from Around the Region

Inputs are to be sent to annettefoster@hotmail.com Annette Foster, The Church of Saint Clement.

Grace Church will host our next meeting on February 8, 2017 at 7:30PM. Secretary is Meade Memorial Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm with a closing prayer offered by the Dean.

News from Around the Region

Christ Church:

* Celebration of New Ministry of our 28th rector, The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons with Bishop Shannon Johnston presiding at 10:30 am Saturday, 11-19-16. The service also featured a sermon by The Rev. Kimberly Jackson, associate Rector of All Saints Atlanta.
* Shared Thanksgiving service Thursday 11-24-16 with Temple Beth El congregation at 10:00am
* Distribution of 175 Thanksgiving food baskets with turkeys for people in Alexandria. Excess of collected food will be share with the West End food pantry and the Lazarus ministry folks at Christ Church
* Lessons and Carols at 5:00 pm on Sunday, 12-04-16
* Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5:00 pm on Sunday, 12-04-16 (Doors open 4:30, festive reception follows)
* Christ Child Project store for those families we have received from social services of Alexandria will be Saturday 12-10. Financial gifts as well as unwrapped toys are gratefully accepted.
* Sunday, December 11, 6:00 p.m. – Neighborhood Caroling. Join in sharing the joy of Christmas through the timeless tradition of neighborhood caroling. Carolers will gather outside the church following the 5:00 p.m. service.
* Christ Church group led by Barry Stauffer will be participating in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at the Alexandria National Cemetery (Wilkes Street) on Dec 17 at noon (come earlier). All region IV folks are welcome to be there to help place wreaths. There is a ceremony at the beginning. WWII vets will be honored or their surviving spouses. Our Christ Church group is all adults, but there are some youth groups as well from various organizations like scouts. So all ages are welcome to come. It is heartwarming to see the cemetery once the wreath laying is done. It goes pretty fast.
* Sunday, December 18, 5:00 p.m. – Children's Christmas Pageant & Yuletide Feast

Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade will share the Christmas story in the annual Children's Christmas Pageant. All children in this age group are welcome to participate, regardless of previous involvement with Christ Church. Interested families should gather in the Fowler House at 4:30 p.m. the day of the pageant. Whether you have children or not, share food, fellowship, and a cookie exchange at a festive Yuletide dinner following the Christmas Pageant. Donations welcome.

* Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

◦ 3:00 p.m. – Worship with Communion and Carols (Holy Eucharist Rite II)

◦ 5:30 p.m. – Worship with Communion, Choir, and Carols (Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Historic Church)

◦ 5:30 p.m. – Festive Family Worship (Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Auditorium)

◦ 8:00 p.m. – Festive Worship with Communion, Choir, and Carols (Holy Eucharist Rite II)

◦ 10:30 p.m. – Festive Worship with Communion, Choir, and Carols (Holy Eucharist Rite II)

* Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service

10:00 a.m. – Worship with Communion and Carols (Holy Eucharist Rite II) - Especially appealing to those seeking a quieter Christmas celebration.

* Saturday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve Service

11:30 p.m. – Prayer service with readings from the Bible

* Sunday, January 1 – New Year’s Day Service

10:00 a.m. – Prayers for Peace Among Nations (Holy Eucharist Rite II) On Sunday, January 1, 2017, we will

commemorate the 75th anniversary of a prayer service that occurred at Christ Church on January 1, 1942 with President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. On New Year’s Day 1942 during the dark days of World War II, praying for national forgiveness was the first order of business. In dreary weather, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill motored from the White House to worship at historic Christ Church in neighboring Alexandria, Virginia. We'll commemorate that 1942 service with a Service of Prayer for Peace at Christ Church, remembering those prayers prayed so many years ago and adding our own voices and prayers for our nation, calling for an end to the violence that plagues us both here and abroad, calling for strength and humility in our nation’s leaders, and calling for justice and mercy to be practiced in the public sphere. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will include music and Holy Eucharist.

Church of St Clement:

* Ongoing- Buy your Christmas tree and wreathe from Saint Clement. 5:30-7:30pm Friday, 10AM-7PM Saturday, and 12-7pm Sunday.
* Ongoing – Saint Clement Thrift Shop is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10am-1pm.
* Dec 3 10am-4pm 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar. 25+ vendors will be at the bazaar.
* Dec 6 3-4:30pm Milk and Cookies with Santa https://stclementsanta2016.eventbrite.com
* Dec 16 6-8pm Christmas Movies at St Clement. Showing How the Grinch Stole Christmas and Rankin/Bass Christmas Specials.
* Dec 24 Christmas Eve 5pm Children’s Pageant and Holy Eucharist, 10pm Carols and Music, 10:30PM Holy Eucharist followed by Festival Christmas Reception
* Dec 25 2pm Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Church of the Resurrection: No report

Emmanuel Church: No report

Grace Church:

* Advent Greeting to all from Grace Church
* You are invited to join us at 5:00 on December 4 for a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The service will feature two movements from Handel’s Messiah, Paul Manz’s “E’en so Lord Jesus,” “The Midnight Cry” from the Southern Harmony, as well as works by Elgar and Stanford.
* Observe “Advent in Reverse” and help those in need. Instead of counting “down” the days until Christmas, you can count “up” by filling a bag with one food item for every day of Advent. Filled bags can be brought to the Grace Church Food Pantry. Please contact Jenni Faires (jenni.faires@gracealex.org) for more information.
* This year Grace is adding a fourth Christmas Eve service at 3:00pm, in addition to our usual services at 5:00pm, 7:30pm, and 11:00pm. All are welcome.
* Save the date: The world-famous Grace Church Chili Bowl will be on January 29, at 6pm. Get your appetites ready now.

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill:

* Our 23rd season selling pumpkins was a great success with a combined profit of $60,296! All our profits go to our outreach ministries including 30+ charitable organizations and causes located internationally, regionally, and locally.
* We rejoice with Rachel Shows Rickenbaker, a former seminarians at Immanuel, who will be ordained 12/10 to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood at Church of the Good Shepherd, Burke.
* Our annual Advent retreat at Holy Cross Abbey in Berryvile, VA 12/9-11 being led by the Rev. Dr. Frank Wade.
* Our annual Christmas Families campaign is underway to bring the good news of Christ's coming and God's love in tangible ways through gifts for 100 families designated by Child Protective Services and 10 – 15 families from the Alexandria Community Shelter.
* Bishop Shannon will be making his 2017 episcopal visit to Immanuel 1/15 at our 10:30 a.m. service in Immanuel Chapel at VTS.

Meade Memorial Church: No report

St Paul’s Church:

Between October 1 and December 1, St. Paul’s clergy and parishioners:

* Hosted Bishop Joseph Atem of the Diocese of Renk, South Sudan, at a reception on Oct. 15, and presented donations from our Pennies from Heaven scholarship drive for Renk Basic School ($17,405)
* Opened St. Paul’s Center for Spiritual Direction with the Rev. Howard F. Kempsell, Jr., Regina Roman, and the Rev. Samuel A. Mason, ObJN, as spiritual directors
* Hosted Youth Sunday on Oct. 16 with youth group leading morning services
* Held Family Fall Festival celebrating all our school families on Oct. 30 (St. Paul’s Nursery & Day School, St. Paul’s Explorers, Head Start program, Sunday school & youth group)
* Held Choral Evensong for All Saints’ Day (Nov. 1)
* Attended annual meeting of the Compass Rose Society in London (Nov. 2)
* Hosted events in October commemorating 200th anniversary of death of Alexandria’s Female Stranger, in partnership with City of Alexandria, Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, and Port City Brewery (adult forum, historic worship service, cemetery tours)
* Participated in Alexandria’s Scottish Walk as a stop on the Holiday Home Tours (Dec. 3)
* Completed our summer/fall gleaning at two Alexandria farmers’ markets, offering produce to Lazarus Ministry clients (gleaned over 5,500 lbs. of produce)
* Continued volunteer programs at Carpenter’s Shelter, Christ House, Meals on Wheels, Meade Memorial lunch program
* Continued our Lazarus Ministry, offering financial assistance to Alexandrians in need
* Completed first two (of three) phases of 3rd Century Capital Campaign (renovations & repairs, and eliminating loan debt)
* Moved forward on reviewing bids for playground/courtyard renovation
* Offered Faith Seeking Understanding course — 7-week course on Christianity in the Anglican tradition, for newcomers to St. Paul’s, newcomers to the Episcopal Church, and those who want to deepen their faith (Oct. 11 – Nov. 15)
* Offered Cloister Nights throughout Advent – Eucharist, simple supper, and prayerful silence (Nov. 29 – Dec. 20)
* Held Adult Forums on “Star Wars and Christian Theology” with the Revs. Ross Kane and Greg Millikin (Dec. 4-11), and “Caring for Family in a Technological Age” with Jane Carey, LCSW (Dec. 18)

Upcoming Saint Paul’s programming, events, and transitions in the new year include:

* Welcoming new parish associates – the Rev. Melody Knowles, Ph.D. of VTS, and the Rev. Christopher Miller, a former St. Paul’s seminarian
* Epiphany Choral Evensong (Jan. 6)
* Benjamin H. Latrobe Lecture featuring architect Michael Vergason (Jan. 25)
* Martha J. Horne Lecture featuring the Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold (Feb. 12)

Lenten Adult Forum series featuring Martin Smith (Mar. 12-26)