Rhythms of worship

The Rev. Canon Lester Thandakile Mackenzie of the Diocese of Los Angeles played an African drum called a djembe as a volunteer choir sang at the opening Eucharist of General Convention.

BY PAT MCCAUUGHAN

Rousing drumming, spirited music, a 50-voice choir of bishops, deputies and visitors and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's words "mission, mission, mission" quickened pulses, inspired clapping and a little dancing, energizing the July 8 opening worship and the official start of the 76th General Convention in Anaheim, California.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who had arrived in Anaheim the night before, was among about 3,000 worshippers who filled the convention hall as Jefferts Schori invoked metaphors of changed hearts, transformed minds and transplanted hearts as signs of renewed life and opportunities for mission.

"A new heart results in renewed creation – that reconciling mission we’re so fond of talking about," Jefferts Schori said, preaching against a backdrop of three multicolored tapestries with images depicting convention themes of identity, ubuntu and mission.

"Hearts renewed stay that way, living flesh not hardening into stone, when they continue to share that new life – the exercise of pumping keeps a heart healthy."

She recalled participating in the consecration of Bishop Suffragan Edna Bavi "Nedi" Rivera of the Seattle-based Diocese of Olympia, also provisional bishop in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, whose late father, the Rt. Rev. Victor Manuel Rivera had served as Bishop of San Joaquin.

At the end of his daughter's consecration Rivera wrapped Nedi, in his cope, she said. "Some of you may not know that while Victor Rivera was bishop in San Joaquin [California], and
for many years afterward, he insisted that women should not be ordained.

“He didn’t go to Nedi’s ordination as a priest, and he had never taken communion from her, over the more than 25 years that she served as priest. I asked Nedi later how he had come to change his mind. She said to me, “He didn’t change his mind; he changed his heart.”

During communion, the Rev. Canon Lester Thandakile Mackenzie of St. John’s ProCathedral in Los Angeles danced and played an African drum called a djembe. “God is calling me by name,” he sang.

Jefferts Schori, in her sermon, also cited the Episcopal Church in the Philippines as “a remarkable example of what a healthy and life-sustaining heart looks like.”

During the offertory, the Rt. Rev. Edward Pacaya Malecdan, the Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, presented Jefferts Schori with a gift, a check for an undisclosed sum of money, as a token of friendship and solidarity with the Episcopal Church (TEC).

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) traces its roots to TEC. “The heart transplant began in 1898, with services held by chaplains of the occupying U.S. Army,” Jefferts Schori told the gathering. “Though we would probably prefer a different avenue, the miracle of new life happens even in war, and it happens even despite colonial structures.”

General Convention 1901 established the Missionary District of the Philippines and elected Charles Henry Brent as bishop and the first Filipino clergy were ordained, the presiding bishop said. In 1937, it became a diocese and by 1971, there were three dioceses, each with indigenous bishops.

In 1990, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines became an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion, achieving financial independence in 2008.

“Philippines insisted that he wouldn’t ‘found an altar against an altar’. He ... believed that the cities already had most of the altars they needed. He went looking for people who were open to being born again, from above, open to receiving a new heart and a new spirit.”

The church’s mission is to offer “heart transplants to the languishing … The heart of this body is mission – domestic and foreign mission, in partnership with anyone who shares that passion, “ a message that spoke to pediatrician Anne Schuette, a first-time deputy from the Diocese of Fond du Lac, and a volunteer choir member.

“I’m new, but I’m trying to jump in with both feet, and experience as much as I can,” she said.

Some participants enjoyed the experience of being among the more than 3,000 worshipers at 10 Communion stations. The North American Association for the Diaconate helped set up the altar space with 50 one-pound loaves of locally-baked bread and 20 flagons of sacramental wine, said Sandy Webb, a seminarian volunteering for the General Convention office.

Karen Olson, a visitor from Minneapolis said she felt one of those Spirit-led pacemaker jolts the presiding bishop spoke of which tweak heart rhythms and empower mission. “She called us into action for mission,” Olson said. “She called us to really listen and get our hearts right.”

For Diana Clark, a deputy from Newark, the sermon helped connect the ubuntu theme to “our lives as Episcopalians, as Christians. It is a much richer concept than I thought.”

The Rev. Mom Kpator, a deputy from Liberia, said the best part of all occurred when the presiding bishop challenged the gathering to mission work. “So, how will this heart push more lifeblood out into a languishing world?” Jefferts Schori asked.

“Can you hear the heartbeat? Mission, mission, mission.”

The heartbeat was palpable, said Kpator, rector of St. Peter’s Church in Gbarnga, adding:

“The church is dynamic, not stagnant. Mission is important.”
Williams: Economy in ‘crisis of truthfulness’

BY MATTHEW DAVIES AND MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG

Describing the global economic downturn as a “crisis of truthfulness,” Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams addressed more than 2,000 people attending a July 8 forum in Anaheim, California, as part of the Episcopal Church’s General Convention.

During the last six to nine months, Williams said, “we have suddenly discovered we have been lying to ourselves. For the last decade or more there has been a steady erosion of trust in our financial life. Our word has not been our bond. We have learned to tolerate high levels of evasion and anti-relational practices.

“We have lied to ourselves about the possibility of profit without risk,” Williams told those gathered at the forum, titled Christian Faithfulness in the Global Economic Crisis.

“We have lied to ourselves consistently about the possibility of limitless material growth in a limited world. We have denied precisely that ubuntu that this convention seeks to venerate and reinforce,” Williams added, referring to the convention theme that emphasizes the interconnectedness of people in community.

Moderated by President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson, the forum featured a discussion panel with Sarah Eagle Heart, the Episcopal Church’s program officer for Native American/Indigenous Ministries; Michael Schut, economic and environmental affairs officer for the Episcopal Church; and Dr. Stephen Dzisi, a physician and technical director for Netsfor-Life, an Episcopal Relief and Development partnership program that fights malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

Anderson asked the three panelists: “If you had one thing to say to the Episcopal Church in one or two sentences, what would it be?”

“We’re being called to work together to find our priorities with one another,” said Eagle Heart. “What can we do to make the most impact for our communities throughout the world? What is your vision so that we can soar like eagles and provide that hope for all?”

Schut emphasized Christ’s message of healing the sick and setting the prisoners free. “We now acknowledge that if we don’t care for all creation we’re not going to care for all humanity,” he said.

Dzisi expressed his gratitude for the church’s support of NetsforLife, which recently announced it has distributed more than two million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets in sub-Saharan Africa.

“We are all interconnected,” said President of the House of Bishops Katharine Jefferts Schori in introductory comments. “How we live, how we use resources … each act has an effect on all our human siblings across the globe. We are beginning to recognize that each of those acts may be more consequential than we imagined.”

Jefferts Schori said the world is “in the midst of a crash course in economic interconnectedness … The excess and greed in this global economic crisis have been biblical in scale. As a human community we all share some responsibility. We’ve been quick to assert our own need while ignoring the privation nearby.”

Williams spent the afternoon of July 8 hearing the stories of a cross section of participants at convention.

In addition to observing the work of the House of Bishops, Williams met with members of the convention’s official youth presence, the House of Deputies president’s council of advice and a small group of lesbian and gay deputies. He also met with provisional and assisting bishops in the four dioceses that are reorganizing after the majority of their members and leadership left the church.

Members of the first three groups said in interviews that they were pleased with the chance to be able to tell the archbishop something about their mission and ministry.

Diocese of Fort Worth provisional bishop Ted Gulick told ENS that he and his colleagues Jerry Lamb of San Joaquin, Robert Johnson of Pittsburgh and John Buchanan of Quincy had decided not to talk to the media about their lunchtime meeting with Williams.

The Rev. Canon Lisa Gray (Michigan) said of the time that eight lesbian and gay deputies spent with Williams, “in 16 minutes, we were able to create a tapestry of eight different lives, each spending a little over a minute and a half sharing our stories.”

During their meeting the archbishop reflected with the deputies about what he had heard in their stories and shared his perspective, Gray said.

“I came away feeling heard, but more importantly I came away with a strong sense of compassion for the difficult position that the archbishop is in trying to lead at a time where a clear path forward is not self-evident,” she said.

Deputy Mike Spencer (Eastern Michigan), who was what he called “the lead-off storyteller” during the meeting, said that “we wanted him to understand that while we certainly have some expectations, we willing to work if he’s ready to call on us, we’re ready to go wherever he needs to send us,” he said.

Stressing the equal roles of laity, clergy and bishops was part of the goal when House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson and her council of advice met with Williams.

Anderson said that the group told the archbishop that, while most of the requests from the wider Anglican Communion for the Episcopal Church to do certain things to resolve the current tensions in the worldwide body have been addressed only to the church’s bishops, “we are a church of more than one order of voices.”

In the meeting with the convention’s official youth presence, Williams “wanted to hear about our stories; he wanted to hear about us,” Elizabeth Anderson (Michigan) said.

Carolyn Chou (Pennsylvania) said that she hoped Williams remembers that the youth of the church are “passionate and engaged and active members of the church that are going to help continue to grow the church.”

The youth presence consists of one of the two young people from each of the church’s nine provinces who have seat and voice in the House of Deputies.
Deputies approve budget priorities

BY MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG AND MELODIE WOERMAN

The House of Deputies on July 8 adopted five priorities proposed by the Program, Budget and Finance (PBF) committee that will guide the mission of the Episcopal Church for the next three years.

“We understand and offer these as priorities for the ministry of the Episcopal Church, not priorities one over another,” PBF members said in their explanation of Resolution D052. “All are essential and of equal value, and should be received with a ‘both/and’ rather than an ‘either/or’ spirit as together they engage and empower the communicants, congregations, and dioceses of this Church in common ministries that serve God’s mission.”

The resolution now goes to the House of Bishops for consideration.

In crafting the resolution, PBF members reinterpreted and expanded a set of priorities included in the Executive Council’s draft budget. Those proposed priorities were: doing justice and alleviating poverty; claiming our identity; growing congregations; strengthening governance and foundations for mission; and promoting Anglican partnerships.

Each of the five priorities comes with a series of explanatory phrases. They include:

Network the members of the body of Christ
• Establishing and supporting collaborative efforts within and among dioceses and congregations to promote vibrant ministry in service to God’s mission
• Structuring healthy relationships with overseas dioceses of The Episcopal Church and those Anglican provinces historically related to The Episcopal Church, clarifying commitments with firm timelines and establishing necessary accountability
• Promoting partnerships with other dioceses and churches of the Anglican Communion, encouraging multi-diocese mission efforts that reduce redundancy and enhance relationships both domestic and foreign

Alleviating poverty and injustice
• Inspiring and modeling a genuine commitment to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals.
• Addressing, domestically and abroad, the challenges and consequences of a failing global economy
• Advocating for and working to provide education, healthcare, employment, housing, and equal rights for all of God’s beloved

Claiming our identity
• Exploring and discovering who we are as the Episcopal Church, within the comprehensive reality of our complex culture and in relationship to others
• Educating about Episcopal Church governance and polity, forming at all ages our Christian, Episcopal, and Anglican identity
• Telling Christ’s story and our story, utilizing current technology and a vibrant contemporary communications network

Growing congregations and the next generations of faith
• Establishing lifelong Christian formation throughout the Church, with specific support of youth and young adults
• Making evangelists of all communicants
• Supporting congregational vitality and development, with particular attention to immigrant, indigenous, and underserved populations

Strengthening governance and foundations for ministry
• Inspiring and developing sound leadership at all levels of the Church

Moving from programmatic structures to ministry networks
• Providing legal and operational support for dioceses in transition or litigation

Committee chair Pan Adams-McCaslin had insisted that the hearing was aimed at the budget’s big picture and reminded the audience that the committee would hold a spending hearing on July 9.

Reinstatement of a triennial budget line item appropriating 0.7 percent in revenue for specific Millennium Development Goals spending as well as Christian education and formation, Native American ministry, multicultural congregational development, alleviation of domestic poverty, youth ministry, and leadership development figured prominently in the testimony.

The House of Deputies also adopted resolution D027, which defines the “Five Marks of Mission.” Those five mission emphases previously had been adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council (an international Anglican body composed of bishops, clergy and laity). They are:
• To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
• To teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
• To respond to human need by loving service;
• To seek to transform unjust structures of society; and
• To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

In other action
The House of Deputies approved a special order of business to meet as a Committee of the Whole on July 9 and July 10 to give deputies the chance to talk about resolution B033, adopted by General Convention in 2006. That resolution called upon standing committees and bishops with jurisdiction to “exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion,” which was generally assumed to pertain mainly to homosexual priests living openly in committed relationships.

Note: for a fuller version of this story, see www.episcopal-life.org
Christ demands love

My partner and I are members of the Episcopal Church. We have been together 22 years. We support the church with our time and money. We were officially married in Canada in 2008. The [Anglican] Church in Vancouver provided us welcome and care so that we could celebrate our marriage and the blessing of that marriage by a priest. It was beautiful. It was a NON-ISSUE. Love and loving are sanctioned, demanded by Christ. It was all Christ asked of us.

We continue to pray for the Episcopal Church in the U.S. and the courage of those that continue to stand up and make visible Christ’s love in action.

Terry Anderson, Wichita, Kan.

Don’t divide communion

Here we go again, another debate on human sexuality. Everyone knows how the wider Anglican Communion feels and restraint was requested and agreed upon. I pray that common sense and prayer with reflection will guide the decision makers. Don’t tear the communion asunder. If same-sex issues, prayer book revisions, pro-abortion stances are approved, this will divide the church.

Membership is dwindling already as well as revenue.

Please reconsider, many of us in TEC are watching! God bless you.

Rick Pagliughi, Plantation, Fla.

Send your comments to letters@episcopal-life.org

Correction: In a story in the July 8 edition of the Daily, Episcopal Life incorrectly reported that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance would present the Executive Council’s budget priorities for the 2010-210 triennium to the General Convention. In fact, PB&F worked from the council’s priorities to develop its own set of proposed priorities.

Celebrating Lay Employees

Come learn about the findings and conclusions of the Comprehensive Lay Employee Study and recommendations.

We look forward to seeing you at Booth 309.
Hall of wonders

BY SHARI SHERIDAN

With a flurry of drums and gongs, the Korean Drummer Corps of St. James School in Los Angeles launched the opening of the General Convention Exhibit Hall, where visitors can browse the aisles for everything from chalices to fair trade coffee.

Led by drum corps director James Choi, 13 costumed youngsters marched throughout the hall playing Korean instruments representing the sounds of thunder, rain, wind and clouds.

Aileen Aidnik, assistant director of the St. Francis service dog training center in Fair Oaks, Calif. Emily will be assigned soon to a disabled veteran, Aidnik said.

Providing music of a different sort, Faith Alive President Tom Riley stood in his booth, serenading the hall with hymns on his saxophone. While at the 2003 General Convention in Minneapolis, he recalled, “I just said, ‘I wish there was more of a spiritual aura in the Exhibit Hall.’” He rented a sax and started playing; he liked the instrument so much, he bought it at the end of convention and has brought it to every one since. “For the most part, it’s had good reception.”

Faith Alive, a renewal lay witness weekend program, is among many ministries, advocacy groups, services, seminaries, camps and other organizations exhibiting in the hall. Vendors range from book publishers to sellers of food, ethnic handicrafts, vestments and church-related souvenirs.

Artisan Marietta Sophie Louden, owner of Bench Designs, walked a visitor through the process of creating hand-crafted worship items, or “holy hardware.” Pointing to a silver chalice, she said, “People don’t realize that this metal is teased up into the shape you see through about 25 gazillion hammer blows.”

Her display includes the crozier she created for Bishop Dabney Smith of the Diocese of Southwest Florida with cloisonné renditions of the diocesan seal. Stopping by the booth, Smith pointed to the inscription of the diocese’s current and past bishops on the crozier, with room to add the next five. It reminds him, he said, that “I carry it; I don’t own it.”

Spokane Deputy Carolyn Terry lost little time in beginning her shopping. “I’m a bookaholic,” she admitted.

The Exhibit Hall “is always a fun place to wander around and learn things and see things,” she said.

Those needing a little pick-me-up while browsing, meanwhile, can stop by the Episcopal Relief and Development booth to try the new Bishops Blend line of teas as well as the Bishops Blend coffees. Like the coffees, the organic Earl Grey and organic Moroccan mint teas are fair-trade products, providing a living wage to the farmers that grow them, said John Hollister, director of sales for Pura Vida Coffee, which rebates part of its sales to support ERD’s ministries.
Chicago Consultation hopes to educate

BY JERALD HYCHE

Bringing its support for full inclusion of gay and lesbian Christians to General Convention, the group called the Chicago Consultation released on July 7 a study guide designed to help people in the pews face tough questions about homosexuality – and come up with their own answers.

But leaders of the 18-month-old group made clear that the 34-page booklet, Christian Holiness & Human Sexuality: A Study Guide for Episcopalians, presents a perspective in support of same-sex blessings and the ordination of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Episcopalians.

“In parishes everywhere there are members of the church who are struggling with misconceptions about human sexuality in the context of scripture, tradition and liturgy,” said the Rev. Ruth Meyers, co-editor of the new publication. “We’re trying to reconcile that with this study guide by providing information that can help people to make up their own minds.”

The booklet’s five essays, written by eminent Episcopal and Anglican theologians, review human sexuality within the context of scripture, tradition, ethics and liturgy, followed by discussion questions. “Presenting disparate views on the issue is not the purpose of this study guide,” Meyers said. “The purpose is to show why we believe GLBT persons are a part of God’s gift to us.”

Such is the message the group hopes to spread over the course of General Convention. While hoping for the adoption of same-sex blessings and the exclusion of any restrictions on gay or lesbian bishops, the group has no organized strategy for affecting legislation except to invite candid conversation.

“We can’t predict what will happen here at convention,” said Meyers of Church Divinity School of the Pacific. “Our hope is – and I believe it’s possible – that we can take a step forward toward full inclusion of all the baptized.”

The consultation also released this week a DVD titled Voices of Witness in Africa, which features gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Africans telling personal stories about their lives under the threat of discrimination, imprisonment and death.

The video and an accompanying study guide is intended to help overcome misconceptions that stifle relationships across Anglican Communion borders, said the Very Rev. Gary R. Hall, co-editor of the booklet and co-convener of the consultation with Meyers. Hall, dean of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., co-convenes the consultation with Meyers.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who also attended the reception, said regardless of the consultation’s agenda, the group is a good model for any group within the church.

“Their primary value is being a gathering of people who are helping to educate the larger church,” she said. “I’m supportive of education and information and transparency. The piece they did on the voices of Africa I thought was very helpful education.”

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JULY 9

AUTHOR SIGNING TODAY

1:00 — Bishop Gene Robinson
Author of In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God

SPOTLIGHT ON: Vestments and Furnishings

2:00 to 4:00 — Trevor Floyd, Morehouse Church Supplies’ Manager of Ecclesiastical Services
Come and learn about our newest products and services!

JULY 10

SPOTLIGHT ON: Revised Common Lectionary

11:00 to 1:00 — With expert advice for your church

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

1:00 — Bishop Edward S. Little
Author of Joy in Disguise and Ears to Hear

2:00 — Ian S. Markham
Author of Liturgical Life Principles, How Episcopal Worship Can Lead to Healthy and Authentic Living

3:00 — Michael Schut
Author of Simpler Living, Compassionate Life, Money & Faith and Food & Faith

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Celebrating a Vision for Radical Evangelism

Wednesday morning at 11 am the Evangelism Committee held a hearing. The first resolution heard was D038 asking the Church for 3.5 million dollars to propagate and implement “The Episcopal Church’s Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics.” Some of the first to speak in support of the resolution were 13 year-old Ariana González-Bonillas (Diocese of San Diego) and 16 year-old Michelle Aguilar (Diocese of Southeast Florida). While expertly verbalizing the diversity, richness, importance, and hope of Latino/Hispanic ministry, the two at the same time embodied this hope as Michelle described herself as, “third generation Mexican-American and first generation Nicaraguan-American.” At the same time, Ariana succinctly depicted the challenges of Latino/Hispanic ministry as she recounted how her mother would dig through the church’s recycle bin after the Spanish language service in order to read the announcements in the English bulletin to find out what was happening in the life of the wider church. “The Spanish service was that cut-off from the mainstream,” she stated.

Co-sponsor of the resolution, the Rev. Jane Gould (Diocese of Massachusetts) began her comments in broken Spanish. In order for her to be faithful to the Gospel, she recognized the importance of doing her best to learn Spanish but even more importantly to become fluent in Latino/Hispanic culture. She shared a personal experience about a pregnant 16 year-old Latina who had been kicked out by her family and her church. The youth’s partner did not grow up attending a church, as his mother was a single parent who never felt welcome as such in her church of origin. The two overcame these experiences of exclusion and came to Gould asking...
Collaborative Mission Is Possible

When in the heart of an underprivileged community: being a mission oriented church and working in collaboration with others. The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate and San Andrés Episcopal Church, Yonkers, NY practice just that. Bass-Choate believes that ministry must be a reciprocal sharing of resources and gifts. She says, “Mutual relationships improve connections, while one-sided giving hampers connections.”

The Latino/Hispanic population of San Andrés is predominantly second and third generation families who found that the Episcopal Church welcomed them in the best spirit of hospitality. San Andrés has partnered in outreach and mission with self-sustaining congregations as well as city, church, and community organizations to support its ministry. Their mission programs include providing after-school program and summer camp for 32 children, ESL, joint youth ministry that sent kids on mission to Taizé, France, and clothing/food ministries.

Partnering organizations include the New York Episcopal Charities, Trinity Wall Street (Manhattan) St. Barnabas (Irvinton), the City of Yonkers, St. Thomas (Manhattan), and Christ Church (Bronxville). The spirit of ubuntu is by nature communally beneficial; Fr. Michael Bird, from Christ Church stated, “we feel it benefits both parties to share ideas and ministries to broaden our definition of relationship.”


-Rosanna Rosado

La Rvda. Yamily Bass-Choate con una niña de San Andrés.
The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate with a child of San Andrés.

La misión llevada a cabo en colaboración sí es posible

En el corazón de una comunidad latina marginada se hace posible crear un ministerio si van juntos con la misión y colaboración con otros. La Reverenda Yamily Bass-Choate y la Iglesia Episcopal San Andrés en Yonkers, Nueva York son ejemplos de esta colaboración. Bass-Choate cree que el ministerio debe ser un compartir recíproco de recursos y de dones. Ella dice – “relaciones mutuas mejoran las conexiones mientras que si éstas no existen las obstaculizan.”

La comunidad de San Andrés la configuran familias predominantemente segunda y tercera generación de latinos/hispanos que se acogieron a la bienvenida y al espíritu de hospitalidad que les ofreció la Iglesia Episcopal. San Andrés se ha asociado en cuanto a su alcance y misión y para el sostenimiento de su ministerio con congregaciones auto sostenibles y también con organizaciones de la ciudad, eclesiásticas y comunitarias. Su programa de misiones incluye el proveer programa después de clases y campamento de verano para 32 niños, clases de inglés como segunda lengua, ministerio de jóvenes combinado con otras iglesias. Este programa envió a jóvenes en misión a Taizé en Francia. También se ofrece un ministerio de distribución de ropa y alimentos.

Las organizaciones que se han asociado con San Andrés incluyen la New York Episcopal Charities, Trinity Wall Street (Manhattan), St. Barnabas (Irvinton), la ciudad de Yonkers, St. Thomas (Manhattan), y Christ Church (Bronxville). El espíritu de ubuntu nos identifica como individuos en comunidad; el Padre Michael Bird, de Christ Church, dijo – “Vemos que beneficia a ambas partes el compartir ideas y ministerios con el fin de ampliar nuestra definición de relación mutua.”


-Rosanna Rosado

Please Support Resolution D038
Program, Budget, and Finance Hearing
Today at 7:30 pm
Convention Center 207C

Por favor apoye la Resolución D038
Audiencia Pública de Programa, Presupuesto, y Finanzas
Hoy a las 7:30 pm
Centro de Convenciones 207C

Caucus Latino/ Latino Caucus
jueves, 9 de julio /Thursday, July 9
10-11 pm
ANAHEIM HILTON
Cuarto Carmel/Carmel Room
(4º piso/4th floor)
POR PRIMERA VEZ los episcopales donde quiera que se encuentren podrán seguir en vivo y en directo la Convención General de la Iglesia Episcopal 2009 a través de una página web.

El centro de comunicación (Media Hub) amplía y le da colorido y atractivo a su experiencia de la Convención General de la Iglesia Episcopal 2009 ofreciéndole muchas maneras de interactuar, transmisión en vivo, riadas de video y muchas imágenes.

El director de comunicación digital, Mike Collins expresó que “la Media Hub constituye una manera innovadora de mantenerse al corriente de todas las acciones, las discusiones y el ministerio que sucede durante la Convención General. En su opinión, “este medio es una manera de conectarse a la Convención que no se había hecho anteriormente”.

Collins también expresó “Esta es la primera vez que los feligreses pueden seguir la Convención General desde sus casas o desde sus trabajos. Todo se encuentra en la Media Hub”.

¿Qué le ofrece la Media Hub a sus espectadores?

- reportaje completo en múltiples medios de comunicación de la Setenta Seisava Convención General de la Iglesia Episcopal.
- video en vivo o video a petición del espectador;
- disponible en inglés y programas selectos en español;
- la posibilidad de seguir la Convención General a través de Twitter en @gcmediahub09. Tweeting about GC? Hash: #gc09;
- riadas de noticias, calendario diario, seguimiento del proceso legislativo, chat en vivo, “flicker feed” y mucho más.

La Media Hub se puede compartir y su contenido puede emportarse con el de otros socios, blogs, noticias, noticieros y amigos.

Collins explica que “cuando produjo el reportaje de otras Convenciones Generales y el verano pasado el de la Conferencia de Lambeth se dio cuenta que las personas tenían que ir a varias páginas web en busca de información. Queríamos crear una manera de comunicar en la que los espectadores pudieran seguir a cada paso todo lo que estos eventos les ofrecen a todos, estén donde estén. Continuó diciendo “estamos ofreciendo reportajes en vivo como por ejemplo, los procesos legislativos, las discusiones públicas, las audiencias. No estamos editando.”

El concepto de Media Hub fue desarrollado por Mike Collins. El equipo de desarrollo de la página web de la Iglesia Episcopal creó el portal. Wesley Bliss es el encargado principal de desarrollar el sitio junto con Gregory McQuillon y Chris Clement quien también diseña y ayuda con el desarrollo.

La Convención General 2009 se llevará a cabo entre el 8 y el 17 de julio en el Centro de Convenciones de Anaheim en California. La Convención General de la Iglesia Episcopal se lleva a cabo cada tres años, es el sistema legislativo bicameral de la iglesia. La Convención General está constituida por la Cámara de Obispos, ascendiendo a más de doscientos miembros, y la Cámara de Diputados con clérigos y personas laicas representantes provenientes de ciento diez diócesis, más de ochocientos miembros.

La Iglesia Episcopal con ciento diez Diócesis en dieciséis naciones es miembro provincia de la Comunión Anglicana Universal.

Iglesia Episcopal: www.episcopalchurch.org
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The Rev. Mario Millán
Rosanna Rosado
Alejandra Trillos
The Rev. Daniel Vélez Rivera
Ema Rosero-Nordalm
her to baptize their baby. The Episcopal Church, “is not catholic light, it’s Gospel strong!” declared Gould.

Two themes were echoed time and again by almost all of the 13 who testified in support of the resolution: the current limitation Latino/Hispanic ministry faces due to insufficient financial resources and the amazing opportunity the Episcopal Church is presented within Latino/Hispanic ministry. The Rev. Canon Austin Rios, Canon for Spanish Speaking Ministries, Diocese of Western North Carolina, contrasted the amazing hunger he encounters among the Latino/Hispanic community and how receptive they are to “the nuances of the Episcopal Church” with the fact that upon returning from General Convention he is faced with closing a growing Latino/Hispanic mission due solely to a lack of funds.

The Rev. Ed Lovelady (All Saints, Nevada) spoke of the rapid growth of the Latino/Hispanic ministry that has been a part of his congregation for the last two years, saying, “the thing I find most difficult is finding any money to support this ministry...if we can do anything to provide money, we’ve responded to our call to do ministry.” The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate (Diocese of New York) warned that if we don’t respond to and support Latino/Hispanic ministry, “we’re shooting ourselves in the foot... we have the opportunity to open our doors, to be the multilingual, multicultural, multicolored church we’re called to be, to take Jesus Christ’s word to everyone.” The Rev. Canon Carmen Guerrero (Canon for Peace and Justice, Diocese of Arizona) encouraged us instead of continuing to, “talk about the shrinking church, the people we are losing, to start talking about the people we are gaining!”

- The Revs. Christy Laborda and Daniel Vélez Rivera

You’re Invited to the Latino/Hispanic Ministry Reception

Saturday, July 11, 2009
El sábado 11 de julio de 2009
6-11 pm

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church
311 W. South St.
Anaheim, CA

Shuttle to St. Michael’s will be provided.
For more information: Rosanna Rosado 917-238-6745
Food, Dance, Fun! Free—all are invited!

Esta invitado a la Recepción del Ministerio Latino/Hispano
Se proveerá transporte.

Para más información comuníquese con:
Rosanna Rosado ● 917-238-6745
Comida, Baile, Diversión
¡Todos están invitados!
Es gratis.

Edición 2 • Jueves, 9 de julio de 2009

Evangelismo, continuó de la página 8

Evangelism, continued from page 8

El Rvdo. Ed Lovelady (All Saints, Nevada) habló del crecimiento extraordi-
nario del ministerio latino/hispano que ha sido parte de la congregación en los últimos dos años, diciendo: “lo que yo encuentro más difícil es la falta de dinero para sostener el ministerio. Si ustedes pueden proveer fondos para este ministerio responderán al llamado del pueblo”. La Rvda. Yamily Bass-Choate advirtió: “que si no respondemos ni apoyamos el ministerio latino/hispano, nos estamos hiriendo a nosotros mismos...tenemos la oportunidad en este momento de abrir nuestras puertas y de ser una iglesia multilingüe, multicultural y multiétnica que responde al llamado de nuestro Señor Jesucristo para llevar su palabra a todas las personas. La Rvda. Canóniga Carmen Guerrero (Canóniga de Programas por la Paz y la Justicia – Diócesis de Arizona) nos exhortó a que: “¡De-
jemos de hablar de una iglesia reducida, y de las personas que se van de ella y empezar a reconocer las personas que estamos recibiendo!”

-Los Rvdos. Christy Laborda y Daniel Vélez Rivera

Please pick up a copy of The Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics

Por favor recoja una copia de la Visión Estratégica de la Iglesia Episcopal para alcanzar a los Latinos/Hispanos
The 46th Episcopal Women’s Triennial Meeting opened Wednesday afternoon with its traditional greeting from the church’s presiding bishop. This just happened to be the first time they were greeted by another woman.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori shook the hand of every woman in attendance and handed each a golden cross pin bearing the ECW symbol. “It was very exciting for all of us,” said President Kay Meyer, who stood by handing the crosses to the Presiding Bishop.

Other firsts for opening day included having a video camera operator on hand to send live coverage to people around the country via the General Convention Media Hub. ECW members and husbands of delegates phoned to say that they were being viewed in a live webcast of opening proceedings.

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan, chaplain for the gathering, blessed the plenary space and presented the first of her daily meditations on the meeting’s theme, “Grow in Grace.”

“Grace is one of those words like ‘love,’ so ever present that I fear we may not hear or feel it as intently as we should,” she said. (See page 13 for an excerpt from her talk.)

Music provided by a choir led by David Stankey and Nancy Beach inspired participants with a variety of numbers from classical to folk to gospel. President Meyer called it “magnificent.” A bagpiper playing “Amazing Grace” led the procession of diocesan presidents and provincial and national leaders.

The first plenary session included introductions, roll call, adoption of standing rules and the program for the meeting.

More than 370 delegates and guests are registered for the 10-day Triennial meeting.
BY ELLEN SLOAN

(Excerpted from her opening day meditation)

“GROW IN the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” This beautiful yet challenging theme chosen by our national ECW board is taken from the Second Letter of the Apostle Peter. It comes just after Peter tells them “not to lose their own stability,” “don’t be carried away by the lawless” or material things of the world. Grow in grace.

Grace—a simple word, easy to articulate, used so very often in the Bible. Grace—charis—appearing over 150 times in the New Testament, spoken at the beginning of most of the epistles and letters as Paul and others greet people, and very often also at the end as he concluded with a blessing: “Grace and peace from God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Grace is a one of those words like “love,” which is so ever present that I fear we may not hear or feel it as intently as we should, not seek to understand it, not experience its power, or listen for its subtleties and be reminded that God’s grace is pouring out towards us—for free! Do we hear it so often that we glaze over at times and don’t take time to explore its inner depths and meanings and where it is in our lives?

Where and how is grace keeping us stable and not carried away by the things of the world? Where is it continually drawing us back to God? Pushing us, pulling us—even when we are pushing back or in the depths of despair that God’s grace may be absent.

Unlike the symbols of water or light that we have here today, grace may be a bit more of a challenge to us—a little more difficult to articulate to someone, or to use as a mantra or an image to focus upon, or to involve our human senses. Of course, we cannot touch it like water or see it like light. Its definition is beyond description and is intangible in the literal sense. We’ve always had to use our minds and hearts to get our souls around grace.

In the Old Testament God is frequently described as merciful and gracious and offered to the people of Israel the only hope of survival in a threatening and pain-filled world. Divine graciousness was an ancient and powerful force (and still is) that enabled people to have faith and hope and meaning—within the care and love of something beyond their understanding. The apostle Paul took grace to new spiritual heights and helped people to transform the concept of grace into a living and breathing essence that signified the ultimate love of God.

Continued on page 14

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan, chaplain for the Triennial meeting, blesses on opening day beaded necklaces made by a woman from the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. The necklaces are gifts for the members of the ECW national board. PHOTO: NAN ROSS
PRAYER FOR TODAY

Thursday, July 9
Pray today for chaplains, musicians and choirs.

Episcopal Church Women’s Prayer
Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen.

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

Kay Meyer was elected Episcopal Church Women’s Province IV president in 2003 and in 2006 was elected national president. A member of St. Andrew’s in Fort Valley, Georgia, she’s been active in every facet of parish life. Beyond the church, she is president and CEO of Jolly Nut Company, a national mail-order company and food processor. She was recognized by the Greater Macon Women Business Owners as their Woman of the Year. She’s been married to Sam Meyer for 38 years, and they have two grown children.

Continued from page 13

through Jesus Christ.

Grace was everything for Paul—sufficient, compelling, omnipresent, and free to all humankind. Through Christ’s incarnation as one of us, through his poverty and humility, and even to his suffering and dying for us, God’s grace became tangibly accessible to all of humanity. Ephesians tells us, “For by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works.” Eph. 2:9

No strings attached. On the house, so to speak. Paul’s understanding of God’s grace was also intricately caught up in not only how God in Christ pours out grace upon us individually but as importantly, how we are about our fellow human beings. This is not something wrapped up in the individual alone. We are not supposed to be solo acts on this earthly planet. Creation is not about seclusion or exclusion but more about relationship with all of God’s people.

How does the grace of God flow through us to one another? How does it help us to forgive, to reconcile, to build up rather than to break down community? How do we infuse God’s grace within us to heal and nurture and love? How do we respond to God’s grace by the healing and lifting up of all humanity and seek to bring all creation back to God? How do we follow Desmond Tutu’s call of ubuntu (the theme of this General Convention) to seek unity and harmony in the knowledge that we are intricately connected to one another—there’s no way around it. Another reminder that we are the Body of Christ.

Each morning at our gathering here, we will look at grace again and again. We will look at grace through the eyes of women you know and those you do not know. And we will look within ourselves—within our own hearts and souls—to discover where grace is growing—and how it may flow back out to others, and where we may not see it at all and wonder where God is in our lives.

I implore you take our theme seriously—so seriously that it really comes to life—that it becomes more than a theme of “growing in grace.” That the little seeds of growth will not only grow within you but begin to flourish and transform some part of your being.

Look for those little transformations this week, my dear friends in Christ. They often start very small—like delicate seeds and they are lying all around you ready to be planted.

Grow in grace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

One of our Honored Women

BY KAREN BIRR

THIS FRIDAY, each diocesan ECW will announce its Honored Woman, someone who has served her church in exemplary ways. Here is a profile on one of them.

Mary Anselmo has been an Episcopalian for 35 years, with her first contact with the church through an ECW meeting. She is a member of St. Barnabas’ Episcopal Church, Florissant, in the Diocese of Missouri.

Anselmo has served on the vestry and has given her help to many parish events and projects including wedding receptions, anniversaries, special dinners, yard sales, bazaar crafts and baked goods. She has given her money and time to purchase and cook breakfast for “Room at the Inn” homeless guests that come to St. Barnabas’ for the evening.

The energy behind numerous fund-raisers, pasta dinners, Bocce Ball, and raffles, she is currently the parish ECW president and a convocation delegate. She has coordinated several diocesan ECW annual meetings and worked on the Diocesan Flower Festival. When a former priest and his family had a house fire, she took them in to live with her and her family until they had a place to stay.

Anselmo lives with her husband, John, of 45 years and one dog and one cat. She has three grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Do you have a photograph, story or a story idea for Triennial Today? Please e-mail the editor (editor.ecwtt@gmail.com), or drop by our office (Room 304A) to fill out a News Tip form.
ECW works to build a house for New Orleans—
dollar by dollar, brick by brick

BY NAN ROSS

THE BRIGHT red babushka covering Mary Ann Ransom’s head makes it easy to spot her on opening day of the 46th ECW Triennial, weaving through the crowd of women gathering outside the plenary hall and snapping photographs she’ll later upload to the ECW website.

Not much will slow her down except for a persistent reporter who has been told she’s the person to talk to about the Jericho Road Housing Initiative and the national ECW’s audacious plan to raise enough to build a home in New Orleans.

When Ransom, ECW president for the Diocese of Western North Carolina, was elected to the national ECW board three years ago, her passion for outreach earned her the spot as liaison to Episcopal Relief and Development. Her first ERD meeting took her to New Orleans.

“We were given a tour to look at the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina,” she said. Then she heard about the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, which helps New Orleans area families acquire affordable homes to replace the ones they’ve lost.

Ransom knew what she had to do. “I presented a proposal and asked the ECW board if it would consider a national project to raise $110,000—enough to build a home with Jericho Road in New Orleans.”

She won them over. Today national president Kay Meyer says, “It’s been so exciting to have a national project to have us all rally around—and to do it arm in arm with ERD is fantastic. This is one concerted effort that we are have made together, and it’s been a success.”

So far, ECW provincial, diocesan and parish groups have raised more than half of what they’ll need to build their house. They hope to meet their goal while in Anaheim.

Helping to make that happen is a well known singer and musician, Elisabeth von Trapp, one of The Sound of Music von Trapps and an ECW member committed to helping the people of New Orleans. She visited the city in the weeks after the hurricane and has made it a personal priority to help with its recovery.

Von Trapp will perform at an Evening of Entertainment benefit for the entire Episcopal community at 7 p.m. Sunday in Pacific Ballroom B of the Hilton Hotel adjacent to the convention center. Donations will be accepted at the door in the form of cash, check or credit card, “So bring your pocketbooks, ladies!” says Meyer.

“Elisabeth is so committed to this cause,” Meyer adds. “She first read about our Jericho Road Project in ECW’s Communiqué and called me to see how she could help. We’re thrilled she will be here to perform, and she’s even hoping to take her show to every province of the Episcopal Church during the coming year.”

ECW’s nine provinces are hard at work raising funds for the house. Province V leaders challenged the other provinces to match their $14,000 contribution and have surpassed their goal. So far, they remain well ahead, but conversation in the meeting room on opening day shows some competition is building.

A record of contributions—to be updated daily—will be kept in a notebook in the back of the plenary room, next to what looks like a child’s play room. A list of all contributors will be published in the fall edition of ECW Communiqué.

Mary Ann Ransom was inspired to use scores of cardboard “bricks” to give Triennial goers a chance to see the progress they’d made in their fund-raising.

Many ECW members have enjoyed assembling—and reassembling—the bricks. Each yellow brick represents a $50 gift to the Jericho Road project; each blue brick a $100 gift, and each red one a $200 gift.

“We’ve really had fun with this,” says Ransom. “Need a break from the meetings? Just head for the back of the room, knock it down and start over!”

By the way, at the close of the Triennial meeting, the cardboard bricks will be donated to a Los Angeles day care center.

A partially built structure of cardboard toy bricks represents the house ECW is trying to build with the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative in New Orleans. A fund-raising effort is underway in parishes, dioceses and provinces. From left are Cordelia Burt of Province VIII, Mary Ann Ransom of the ECW national board, and Nancy Sherwin of Province V, which has challenged other provinces to raise $14,000 towards the $110,000 cost of a new home for a family left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. PHOTO: NAN ROSS

YOU’RE INVITED

Please join the ECW for an evening with
Elisabeth von Trapp
Sunday, July 12
7:30–9:00 p.m.
Hilton, Pacific Ballroom B
A benefit for Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative. Donations will be accepted at the door.
The Diocese of Los Angeles welcomes you to Anaheim & invites you to explore the nexus of . . .

Faith & Our Future

L.A. Night  July 15, 7:30pm, Anaheim Arena

Genesis: From Breath to Wonder

Encounter God’s creativity and creation in an Emerging Church experience of vibrant music, spoken word, and light-painting artistry. Featuring insights from Brian McLaren and produced by L.A.’s diocesan Center for Creative Ministries. Tickets are free and available in the L.A. Hospitality Center, Exhibit Hall.

Reminder: Pick up free tickets in L.A. Hospitality Center, Exhibit Hall

L.A. MidDay  1pm, L.A. Hospitality Center, Exhibit Hall

In 10-minute briefings and informal dialogue, engage these topics and leaders:

**TODAY: July 9** Meet author-priest Malcolm Boyd for dialogue as he signs his new book, “Wisdom for the Aging: Practical Advice for Living the Best Years of Your Life Right Now.”

July 10  Immigration & Refugee Ministries: Catherine Wagar & IRIS staff

July 11  Middle East Journeys: Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage Participants

July 13  Interfaith Nexus: Finding Common Ground as Abrahamic Faiths

July 14  Latin American Ministries: Explore New Evangelism & Resources

July 15  Environmental Change-making: Joanne Poyourow & Peter Rood

Daily  Meet leaders of the Anglican Communion Compass Rose Society

L.A. Jazz  July 14, 6:30pm, Jazz Kitchen, Downtown Disney

Hollywood meets the Big Easy for this refreshing mix of the music of Vince Guaraldi and the prayers of Malcolm Boyd. Tickets: $25 each, must be reserved in advance by email to lajazz@ladiocese.org. (Seating limited to 200.)

For more on Convention Youth Program, Children’s Program, Disneyland Night, & local congregations, visit the Diocese online at www.ladiocese.org.

Help build Gordon’s House...

Framing Begins Tomorrow, July 10, in the Arena

Come share in building a new Habitat for Humanity home for a deserving family in Orange County. Framing continues July 10-11 in the Anaheim Arena; building will continue on site in nearby Westminster. The project honors the late Gordon B. Yeaton, Jr., local priest, teacher, and agent for change. Sign up at L.A. Hospitality Center. Financial contributions welcome to reach Phase Two goal of $125,000.

Visit www.ladiocese.org/gordonshouse