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CROSS-EXAMINATION

The General Convention

by Karl Ruttan

The triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church, United States of America, meets June 12 to June 22. This is an extraordinary event with people gathered from all over the Church and visitors from around the world. The General Convention is the official governing body of the Church and is made up of Bishops, laity, and clergy from every diocese. Because it includes 8 deputies from each of over 100 dioceses and over 100 Bishops, it is thought to be the largest legislative body in the world.

Once again the General Convention will get attention from around the world and be covered widely in the press. The Convention will be dealing with issues of homosexuality, authority in our Church, and our relationship to the world-wide Anglican Communion. This year's Convention will be extremely important for the future of our Church. We will elect a new Presiding Bishop who will serve for nine years. The Convention will decide on how to respond to the Windsor Report, a series of recommendations from an international committee appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to maintain communion within our differences. The Windsor Report requested that a moratorium be held on the election and consent of any gay-partnered Bishops, that there be a moratorium on the development of liturgies that bless same-sex relationships, and that the Church express regret that it had breached the bounds of affection in proceeding with this issues without more consultation with the worldwide communion. The moratoria would last until the Lambeth meeting in 2008 when Anglican Bishops will gather from around the world in England. The House of Bishop, in order to respond to the recommendations while remaining inclusive, established a moratorium on the confirmation of **all** new Bishops until this General Convention.

The Convention will debate how to deal with the Windsor report. The Convention will decide whether to proceed with the full inclusion of gays and lesbians, or whether to adopt the recommendations of the Windsor report. A number of compromise resolutions have been presented. Several Episcopal elections have taken place in the last few months which will be presented to the Convention for confirmation. At this time none of the Bishop-elects are gay.

While the controversy surrounding homosexuality will take a considerable amount of time and energy, other important issues will be discussed. Issues as far reaching as our response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, our relationship to Cuba, and our country's response to immigrants will be debated. A resolution affirming that evolution should be taught in schools is on the agenda. Our ecumenical relationships with the Moravian and Methodist Churches will be discussed. A canonical change dealing with clergy misconduct has been presented. Church growth and evangelism will be discussed as well as how to best reach out to young adults.

I would encourage you to come to Columbus to experience the General Convention. We begin each morning with Bible study groups in the context of a festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I hope you will follow carefully the events of General Convention. I will be serving as a deputy from our diocese and will report to you fully about our actions. Be aware that not everything the secular press reports is accurate- so check Episcopal News Service at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/>. Please pray for the Episcopal Church and the West Virginia deputation.

The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan
rector
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Branda Vapardord
director of music
Branda Dearien
parish administrator
Katherine Giltinan
Christian formation
Bob Westmoreland
organist
James Wilson
custodian
vestry
Greg Clarke >08
priest=s warden
Lila Ramkey >07
people=s warden
Bren Pomponio >07
clerk
Becky Burns >06
treasurer
Ellen Archibald >09
Joe Bolway >09
Cheryl Clements >07
Pete Hamrick >08
Diane Hendricks >08
Ann Morris >08
Bob Swartz >07
Michelle Walker >08
David Ranky
Assistant Treasurer
David Ranky/Becky Burns
theologian
Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith
evangelism/new member
Mary Fitzgerald
parish life
Marv Barkalow/Donna Hamra
outreach
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
stewardship
Bob Swartz
Nathan Annet
children=s christian formation
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell
youth christian formation
Diane Hendricks
confirmation
Wanda Dettinger
pastoral care
Phyllis Atwood
BAC/OWES
Bob Swartz/Bob Miller
Carter Blundon
after school
Betsy H. Low
Matha Cole
rector
Ann Carle
Trish Stob
Julianne Kemp
Interchange editor

Saint John=s Interchange

The parish newsletter for the people of God called to form the Christian community of Saint John=s Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia.

May 24, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 11

Sunday, June 4, 2006

Day of Pentecost

Sundays, June 11, 18 and 25, 2006

First, Second and Third Sundays after Pentecost

8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m.

Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library

9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum, June 4; Isabel Mwangi of Kenya, named Kenyan Business Woman of the Year by the United Nations Development Corporation for innovative marketing benefiting HIV positive women and artisans, Room 109, last forum until September.

10:10 a.m.

Chapel for Older Children, Room 225

10:10 a.m.

Parents= Fellowship, Room 208

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with choir.

10:30 a.m.

Godly Play, Rooms 299 and 223

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 5th Grade, Room 221 (last Sunday School day until September)

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, with choir

11:30 a.m.

June 4, Sundaes to be served in Hunter Hall

Interchange Deadlines: We begin our summer schedule for Interchange. The next issue will be published for the weeks of July 2, 9, 16 and 23. Please submit items to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org or call the church office, 346-0359, by 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 20.

New Website: Our new website is now ready, please visit, stjohnswv.org

Memorial Day Picnic: The entire church is invited to a Memorial Day picnic sponsored by the Christian Formation Team. The Gorman Shelter at Coonskin Park has been reserved all day on Monday, May 29. Come early and play games and the actual picnic will begin about 4 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. Bren Pomponio will be at the grill cooking hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the church. Please come and bring the entire family.

Sundae Sunday: June 4 is Sundae Sunday when we recognize our Sunday school teachers and honor our children. We also will recognize our acolytes and graduating seniors. We will have sundaes for all after church at coffee hour. Let us know if you or someone in your family is graduating so that we can recognize them.

Why Do We Bring Our Children to Church? Please save the date of Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to noon for a very important symposium. The Christian Formation Team of St. John=s will be sponsoring a workshop for all congregational members. Karl Ruttan will lead us in developing a mission statement and evaluating the Christian formation of our church=s next generation. The intention is to assess our strengths, and our weaknesses. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, however we are ALL parents to the children of St. John=s. Child care and fun activities will be provided for the next generation. Lunch will be served following the symposium (menu TBA).

Picture This: If you did not have your picture taken for the directory and would like to submit a photo to be placed in the directory, please send it to the office by June 15. Also, the regular yearly directory is being placed out on Sunday mornings for corrections and/or additions. These must be done by the 15th also. If you have moved, changed jobs, telephone numbers, e-mails, etc., please mark it in the directory or call the church office, 346-0359.

Habitat House a Great Success: Thanks to Mary Fitzgerald, St. John=s liaison on the Lenten Apostles= Build, and all others involved in making this a successful project. The Habitat House was dedicated on Holy Saturday and the Habitat committee met to wrap up the build on May 18 in the Habitat conference room. As of that date, the project was short \$8,764.13. Eight congregations met or exceeded the goal, one is still raising funds and two have reported funds were not received by Habitat. This home was more expensive than other homes -- it has four bedrooms, more site preparation and more concrete had to be used for the driveway. It was decided that for the next build: 1) 14 and 15-year olds can work as long as they do not use power tools; 2) The cost of the next home will be around \$60,000 or \$5,000 per church; 3) The next build probably won't be during Lent -- the weather was too cold this year. We may kick off the build at Easter when weather is a little warmer and drier. Mary says, AThe Saints of John worked well together on this project. There are many people who were involved -- the volunteers who worked on the build as well as those who prepared and provided lunches and refreshments. Not to mention the volunteers for the fundraising -- the coffee cups are awesome! I really appreciate all the information, support and encouragement each of you provided during this project. It meant a lot to me personally and it truly helped in completing the home. Thanks for showing me how it's done at St. John's!@

Did You Read the Book? Whether you did or not, there will be a DaVinci Code Night on Tuesday, May 30. We will meet for the 7 p.m. showing at Park Place Cinema, 600 Washington St. E. The

movie is about 2 1/2 hours and we will discuss it over a beverage and/or a snack afterward at The Marriott. C'mon out! It's not a school night anymore!

Summer Movie Night: Enjoy the award-winning, uplifting and unflinching documentary "Murderball" about wheelchair rugby on Sunday, June 11, in Room 209 at 7 p.m. Due to adult content, teens must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and if you are bringing younger children, you must notify Brenda at 346-0359 by June 7 so child care can be provided in another room.

Musical Note: The Anthem for Pentecost Sunday, June 4, is a setting of "Breathe on Me, Breath of God," discovered in our choral library. It was composed for The Rt. Reverend Robert E. Lee Strider, Bishop of West Virginia, 1939-1955.

Is It a Bicycle Wheel or a Rose Window? You decide! These specially designed T-shirts benefit the Spokes for Folks bicycle collection, repair and giveaway program. They are available for \$15 and come in sizes small to 2X. Please stop by at coffee hour or give the church office a call.

Happy Birthday: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next four weeks: May 29, Danny Cline and Michael Miller; May 30, Teddy Johnson and Kelly McDonald; June 2, William Maxwell; June 3, Leah Macia, Collin Morris and Deborah Ruffner; June 4, Jim Keffer; June 5, Dee Morris; June 6, Mary Boyd and Andrew Swing; June 7, Kris Morris; June 8, Joyce Rockwell; June 10, Alison Wilson; June 11, Sandra Barkey, Kimberly Johnson, Margaret Lindsey and Shirley Studivon; June 12, John Canfield, Janet Robertson and Paul Wilson; June 14, Ray Shackelford; June 17, June Halloran; June 18, Will Revercomb, Julia Sears and Rosemary Smith; June 19, Bonnie Bailey, Martha Cole, Mary Fitzgerald and Benjamin Snyder; June 20, Wayne Gorrell; June 21, Susannah Vitaglione; June 22, Kate Alie, Steve Chiosini Jr. and Joe Crow; June 23, Steve Revercomb; June 24, Nathan Arnett and Page Hamrick; and June 25, Alexander Canfield.

SAGA=s monthly meeting will be to participate in The WV Pride Celebration which runs from Fri June 2 to Sun June 11(Parade/Festival Day).The Pride Celebration is marking its 10th Anniversary. A group from St. John=s has marched in the Pride Parade since its origin with the support of the vestry. The Pride Parade is an opportunity to perform a symbolic act of justice: Come and march in the short parade (less than hour), standing in for many GLBT people in the state (and even at S. John=s) who cannot risk being open because they cannot be out their jobs or in their families. The parade begins lining up at Haddad at 12:30on Sunday, kicks off at 1:30, and marches 4 blocks or so to Davis Park.. No matter if you ever attended a SAGA meeting. If you share our mission in your heart, you are welcome.

Book Store Closing: The Diocesan Book Store located in St. Elizabeth Life House, 1109 Quarrier St., is closing in June. There are some great bargains on religious books and books of interest to the Episcopal Church. Hours are Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Peterkin Summer Camp 2006: See camp information on the back of your June calendar insert.

PETERKIN CAMP INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

It is time to register for Peterkin Camp and Conference Center in Romney. Our camp offers programs for all ages and provides a memorable experience for all young people. It helps shape people's lives and connects them with our church and diocese. This year's schedule is:

June 8-9: New Counselor Training

June 10: All Counselors Review

June 11-12: New Counselors Overview

June 11-13: Small World Camp B 3 yrs. old to 3rd grade (with a parent)

June 13-17: Mini-Camp -- Entering 1st to 3rd Grades

June 18-24: Boys and Girls Camp -- Entering 4th to 5th Grades

June 25-July 1: Family Camp -- Families and Adults

July 2-8: Intermediate Camp -- Entering 8th to 9th Grades

July 9-15: Senior Camp -- Entering 10th to Graduating Seniors

July 16-22: Junior Camp -- Entering 6th to 7th Grades

July 23-29: Creative Arts -- Entering 4th to 7th Grades

July 30-Aug. 5: Hallelujah Hike B 13 to 18 years

Aug. 6-12: Jeremiah Work Group

Aug. 13-19: Boys= Choir

You can register through the office or at [www. Peterkin.org](http://www.Peterkin.org).