

Council Workshops 2012

Session One Workshops: 11:00 AM

- 1. Challenges in the 21st Century: The Role of the Church** THIS WORKSHOP IS CLOSED - Maximum attendance has already been reached.
- 2. General Convention 2012: Overview and Preview** The General Convention (GC) of the Episcopal Church is held every 3 years. It's the largest legislative body in the world. The body is comprised of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. Each of the 106 dioceses of the Episcopal Church sends its bishop(s), 4 representatives, and 1 alternate in both orders: clergy and lay. These deputies spend hours in session and committee meetings to formulate, adapt, and adopt or reject hundreds of resolutions that will become Episcopal Church policy. Key issues at the 2012 GC are likely to include - budget process; challenges to Title IV concerning clergy discipline; the Anglican Covenant, the Standing Committee for Liturgy and Music's report on same-gender blessings, and push back from some dioceses on the denominational healthcare plan. This presentation will include time for questions and answers with members of the 2012 Delegation. (*GC 2012 Delegation: Jack Barrow, the Rev. Vincent Carroll, the Very Rev. David Cox, Ernest Holley, the Rev. 's Deborah Hunley, and Scott West, Billy Kingery, Bob Miller, Nina Salmon, the Rev. Dr. Bill Watson, the Rt. Rev. Neff Powell*)
- 3. Understanding the Sustainability Committee Report and What It Might Mean for the Life of the Diocese (Resolution 8;2010)** An opportunity to hear and share reflections on the committee's report with *members of the diocesan Executive Board*.
- 4. Breath Awareness: An Acting Technique for Reading Scripture** A hands-on workshop taught by professional actor and theater professor *Lucinda McDermott*, where participants will be introduced to an acting technique based on breath pioneered by actor Michael Moriarty (*Law & Order, The Glass Menagerie, Bang the Drum Slowly*. . .) with whom McDermott studied for a number of years in New York. This technique applied to reading scripture can lead to a more grounded, genuine, and integrated interpretation in the reading of scripture, and provide the reader with great confidence to be a channel for The Word.
- 5. Sunday School Is for Babies (and Other Lies We Tell Ourselves on Sunday Mornings)** What draws us to or keeps us away from our Christian Education programs on Sunday mornings? Why do some parents drop their kids off at Sunday School and then go out for coffee? Why do other parents come to church and leave their teenagers at home in bed? Are those of us who teach Sunday School contributing to the problem or to the solution? Join R. E. Lee Memorial parishioner, *Howard Pickett*, in a lively discussion about the health of our Christian Education programs.
- 6. Unapologetic Apologetics** We thought the big challenge in England came from the multicultural and multifait environment; but then came the New Atheists. This workshop will address the need for Christians to be confident in their faith and confident in articulating it. (*The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines, Bishop of the Diocese of Bradford*)
- 7. Bibles in New Forms: A Look at Bible Study and Technology** Have the Bible on your iPad, tablet or computer? Done a word search for "grace" in all of scripture? Looking for where in the Bible you'll find about the "rose of sharon"? This workshop will look at the use of Bible study software and websites and how to utilize them. (*David Fox*)
- 8. La Iglesia Episcopal Les Da La Bienvenida: Welcoming Hispanics to Your Congregation** This is an exchange of ideas about ways of welcoming Hispanics to our congregations, drawing on the ideas and experience of the presenters (members of the Diocesan Hispanic Ministry working group (DHM) and of the participants. (*Francisco J. "Paco" and Lynda S. Pinto-Torres*)
- 9. Small Churches: The Other Half of Their Puzzle--Models of Ministry, Faith, and Finances** Explore ways of attracting and funding clergy for our small churches and some resources available to facilitate that process. We will also hear several "success" stewardship stories as an entree to a discussion on effective stewardship approaches. Led by DIOSWVA Small Church Committee members, *The Rev.'s Becky Crites, Ron Johnson, and Jonathan Harris, and Kathy Killian*, After the workshop, during the Small Church Luncheon, we will open up the floor for general discussion/sharing on the workshop topics. **You must register for the Small Church Luncheon if you wish to attend that luncheon and discussion time.** There is no charge for the 11:00 workshop; however, the cost of the luncheon is \$20 unless you are already registered for the full Council weekend.

Session Two Workshops: 1:45 PM

- 10. Responding to God's Call To Care** Caregiver, inspirational speaker, and author of *A Sacred Walk: Dispelling the Fear of Death and Caring for the Dying*, *Donna Authers* will explore ways in which we can apply our spiritual gifts to those in need of care, especially when life-threatening illness looms. Drawing on her 20 years' experience in Stephen Ministry, Donna will offer practical suggestions as to how we may better show God's love to friends and family members as we take our sacred walks beside them.
- 11. Presentation of the Report and Recommendations of the Task Force on Leadership (Resolution 7; 2010)** The members of the Task Force on Leadership will present and discuss their final report and recommendations. All are encouraged to be active participants in the discussion-- (*Jim Ackley, Chair*)
- 12. Promised and Vowed: The Theology of Same-Gender Blessings (Resolution 7; 2011)** The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music is preparing rites for the blessing of same-gender unions to be reviewed at the General Convention of 2012. These rites are being prepared as part of the "generous pastoral response" the Church has been called to make to same-gender couples, most especially in states where they are allowed to be legally married. How can we understand the theology of these rites? What does it mean to "bless," and what do we think is happening when the Church blesses couples? Annual Council 2011 called on the bishop to create a group to study the theology of same-gender blessings in order to assist the people of the diocese in understanding what will come before the General Convention. This workshop is an introduction to the work of the study group. (*Members of the Study Group*)
- 13. Would Jesus Be a Tweeter?** Parishes face challenges these days unlike any in previous generations when it comes to publicity and communication. Every time we gather to discuss such strategies, it seems the landscape and options have already changed since the last time. How do parish leaders stay focused on local ministry while staying plugged-in to the larger dynamic of social media? Does your parish need a Facebook page? Should you Tweet the times of your service? How much time should you spend on publicity? Come for an interactive presentation designed to answer these and many other questions. (*Jody Daniels, The Rev. Scott Russell*)
- 14. Lee the Episcopalian: Was He Really a Saint?** Robert Edward Lee was a lifelong and devoted Episcopalian. But what was his Episcopal faith like? And how did it influence his life and some of the central decisions he made? *The Rev. David Cox* has been writing a book on the topic and will share his insights on the spiritual life of Lee.
- 15. Maintaining Our Relationship with The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS)** Presented - the history and development of the relationship, how the ECS is coping with the formation of two new countries and the current conflicts therein, and our current involvement with the Sudanese Church and the Sudanese in Roanoke. (*Rt.Rev. A. Heath Light, Rtd. Bishop of SWVA; Rt. Rev. Andudu Adam Elnail, Bishop of Kadugli and the Nuba Mountains, ECS*)
- 16. The Spiritual Care of Persons with Dementia** Explore the spiritual needs of people with dementia, the challenges of ministering to them, and various avenues of providing pastoral care to them. (*The Rev. Christine Payden-Travers, chaplain with Centra Hospice*) Maximum: 25 people
- 17. Daughters of the King** An open invitation to Christian women who feel the call to further God's kingdom through prayer and service. (*Helen Campbell, Eileen Clark, Helen Ann Spessard, Chesley Vohden*) Maximum: 30 people
- 18. Spirituality of Pets** Using stories, discussion, and sharing, participants will explore how our pets and other animals bring us closer in our relationship with our Creator and each other. (*Dr. Carole Mask, DVM; The Rev. Deacon Ellie Scofield*) Maximum: 30 people
- 19. Look Like You Care!** Like it or not, our church buildings and grounds send clear signals to newcomers about the character of the congregation who worships there—both positive and negative! Do you know what your church building is saying? Would you like it to say something different? Come to this workshop and learn effective strategies to shape our places of worship to be more inviting and hospitable. (*The Rev. John Runkle*)