



## Journey together

SYNOD — (συννοδία) — to journey with, a journey in company

March 2007

# The Bishop's Page

**WENGERT AND DURAN AND MANGUS!!! MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> IN THREE PLACES!!**

On March 24th, Dr. Timothy Wengert (professor of Lutheran Confessions at Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary) will be at Grace, Waynesboro for a new ACTS class in Lutheran Confessions, and Pastor Ruben Duran (ELCA Director for Development of New Congregations) will be at Epiphany Lutheran, Richmond, 9am-1pm, and our own guru of stewardship, Mr. Cary Mangus, will be at Ebenezer, Marion, 9:30am-3pm, for a powerful workshop that “Congregations Develop Generous People!” [we thank Healthy Congregations and Lutheran Family Services for this workshop!]

Now Wengert is to Lutheran Confessions what Dean Smith is to coaching college basketball, as Emily Post is to etiquette, as Tiger is to golf. I commend those who had the wisdom to enroll in this course!

Ruben Duran is one of our national leaders in outreach, in speaking the faith to others, in sharing the good news. He is upbeat, passionate, joyful, witty, and no-nonsense about our sharing the good news of Jesus with others. I'm going to be there! I wouldn't miss it!!

If you want to see joy in giving embodied, come spend time with Cary Mangus, our synod stewardship specialist.

**“BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VALLEY STRATEGY TEAM!” SUNDAY,  
MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>!! REFORMATION, NEW MARKET, 2:30-7:30PM**

We will have Ruben Duran as our key note and then have several workshops as we prime the pump for thinking about renewing and revitalizing our being the Lutheran Church together in the valley! It is about Word and Sacrament; it is about witness and service; it is about learning and supporting; it is about collaborating and coaching.

I want to thank our valley strategy team for bringing Pastor Ruben Duran to our synod!!

Each of our valley congregations should have decided about being a part of a pilot project by now. Thank you for giving this your consideration.

**We are Ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us!**

*II Corinthians 5:20*

## **I SAMUEL, HERE WE COME!!**

I want to thank Pastors John Schweitzer, Karen Van Stee, Steve Moose, and Chris Carr for their excellent introductions to Deuteronomy, Judges, Ruth, and I Samuel! I am learning a great deal as we continue reading through the Bible together as a synod! It is WONDERFUL to be taught by our teachers/pastors in the faith!! Look up the intros on the Synod Website!

## **SYNOD FINANCES!!!!**

The Virginia Synod together committed to 50% of our budget or \$1,069,387 to the ELCA. Because of your faithfulness to the church we were able to send \$1,103,496 [50% of what we received over our budget], an increase of our commitment of 3.2%!!

We closed the books in the black with some surplus which will be discussed by the Synod Council at its March meeting and shared with you in the next Journey Together.

We have received 2007 pledges from 150 congregations which is a new high number!!! Thank you very, very much! With these commitments we have fully pledged our 2007 budget. As you journey together over this coming year, mutually supporting one another, we shall be able to fulfill our commitments together! Thank you very much!

Our update on our support of Peace Lutheran in Slidell, La. We have received \$118,287.30 thus far and have sent \$111,897.75 to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod and \$3,710 to 'Gulf Coast relief.'. Thank you very much!! I want to commend and thank all those congregational mission groups and persons who have gone in person to serve, to muck out houses, to support financially people continuing to struggle in Louisiana, George, Florida, and Mississippi.

## **LENT**

May we all seek to be ever more in studying the scriptures, receiving the sacraments, giving time and money for the poor, praying for the church, the world, and one another, spending time with family and sharing one's heart of faith with their family. It is Lent, you know, the springtime of our faith. Let the seeds of our faith be rooted and grounded in the love of Jesus Christ.

I am so grateful for all our leaders, rostered and lay, who have worked and planned so diligently for the deepening of faith through these coming weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

*The Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VIPCare) is a counseling resource for Virginia Synod Rostered Leaders and their families. It is entirely confidential and may be used for individual, couple or family counseling. Call 804-282-8332 to set up an appointment with a counselor in your geographical area or to discuss finances. They will guide you in shared costs with the ELCA Board of Pensions, synodical support (no names/case # only) and your portion.*

# Pastors and Congregations

## 1. VACANCY UPDATE:

Any Virginia Synod pastor interested in being considered for an interview for any of the following vacancies should promptly notify a member of the synod staff:

BLUEFIELD, Immanuel	Study
BLUE RIDGE, Glade Creek	Interviewing
CHARLOTTESVILLE, St. Mark	Study
CHILHOWIE, St. James	Interviewing
CHURCHVILLE, St. Peter	Interim and Interviewing
FISHERSVILLE, St. James	Study
GALAX, Good Shepherd (Episcopal/Lutheran)	Study
GRAVEL SPRINGS PARISH	Interim
KONNAROCK, St. Matthew	Interviewing
LYNCHBURG, Bethlehem	Interim and Interviewing
MECHANICSVILLE, Messiah	Interim and Interviewing
MT. TABOR, Mt. Tabor	Interim
NEWPORT NEWS, Trinity	Interim and Interviewing
PATMOS, Woodstock	Interviewing
PEARISBURG, Redeemer	Study
SALEM, College	Study
TIMBERVILLE PARISH	Interviewing
VIRGINIA BEACH, Good Shepherd	Interim and Interviewing
WHITETOP, Faith	Interviewing
WOODSTOCK, Mt. Zion	Study

## NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

### + **Our sympathies are extended to:**

- The Rev. John Taylor and family following the death of his mother, Marriette Taylor, who died in North Carolina on February 12, 2007
- The Rev. Don Chudd and family following the death of Pastor Chudd's mother, Ellen, on February 24, 2007.

+ **Prayers for continued recuperation and good health requested for:**

- The Rev. Malcolm Minnick
- The Rev. Brinkley Goranson
- The Rev. Jack Martin
- The Rev. Cecil Bradfield
- The Rev. Richard Krasneck
- The Rev. Hal Harter
- Peggy Baseler, wife of Pastor Jim Baseler
- The Rev. Richard Boye
- Vivian May Nilsen, wife of Pastor Roy Nilsen
- Jenny Troutman, wife of Pastor Barney Troutman
- The Rev. Charles “Bill” Howell

+ **Congratulations**

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Tomas Barron** and **William Roberts** who have completed the ACTS curriculum. Bill’s certificate was awarded Saturday, February 10, 2007, at the 5 p.m. worship service at Peace Lutheran Church, Charlottesville. Tom’s certificate was awarded Sunday, February 11, 2007, at the 8:30 a.m. service, St. Paul Lutheran, Strasburg.
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Rev. Willetta Heising**, retired Virginia Synod pastor who lives in Williamsburg. Pastor Heising is featured in the 2007 Commemorative Edition of “More Conversations with Remarkable Women.”

## **News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff**

**From Pastor Chip Gunsten**  
Assistant to the Bishop

### **Call and Canoe Retreat**

#### **[Call and Canoe Registration Form](#)**

This retreat for college students will be at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Shenandoah River, May 18-20, 2007. The cost of the event is \$25 and the deadline for registration is May 1st. See the brochure and registration form included with this mailing.

### **Bishop's Day**

Bishop's Day is a time for youth in grades 7 thru 12 and their pastor and/or youth leader to meet with Bishop Mauney and members of synod staff to discuss vocational opportunities within the church as well as how to live out your Christian faith in vocations outside the church. See enclosed brochure for more details.

#### **[BISHOP'S DAY FLYER](#)**

Click the link above

**From Pastor Dave Delaney**  
Synodical Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

We welcomed 290 youth and adults to **Seventh Day** this year for the theme, "Who Sets You Free?" We offer our thanks to all who worked on the event as planners, staff, and Shepherd group leaders.

For 2007 High School graduates and parents: **Virginia Synod Youth Ambassadors School** – our weeklong event for graduated high school seniors in preparation for their transition away from the structures of home, family, and church – is scheduled for July 8-12, 2007. If possible, plan this summer's schedule to allow your graduating senior to attend!

**ELCA Region 9** is sponsoring an immersion trip for youth and young adults to **Puerto Rico** at the end of 2007. Information forms and applications were mailed in the Synod "Update" packet last fall and in February. They are also available on the synod website and the deadline for application is March 30, 2007. Contact Synod Youth Director Dave Delaney in the synod office with questions.

The deadline for another Region 9 youth event is approaching almost immediately. **Region 9 Bishops School** is offered on the campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, June 16-23, 2007 for youth who have completed 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. A flyer has been sent out with the synod Update packet and is also available on the synod website. The deadline for applying is March 15, 2007.

### **REGION 9 BISHOP'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM**

Applications for **Kairos 2007** (June 24-29 at Roanoke College for rising 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) and our new hunger awareness and service event, **Summer Celebration** (July 8-12 at Caroline Furnace for rising 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders), have been sent to all congregations and are available on the synod website. As of March 1, there were 49 registered for Kairos and the limit is 140 youth participants. The event normally fills very fast during March.

**From Pastor Jean Bozeman  
Assistant to the Bishop**

### **Clergy Spouse Retreat**

When: November 9-11, 2007  
Where: Barclay Towers, Virginia Beach  
Theme: Re-Created 4 RECREATION

Planning Team Cynthia Bowen, Babs Benson, Donna Gates, Joanna Gragg, Anita Himes and Jean Bozeman are excited about a weekend of sharing our baptismal faith and sharing that in daily life.

Put this on your calendar now and look forward to further details.

**From Celi Stoutamire  
Assembly Coordinator**

**IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Virginia Synod Assembly**  
*Ambassadors for Christ: Baptized Disciples*  
**June 8-10, 2007**  
**Roanoke College**  
**Watch for Official Notice coming later this month**

**From Elizabeth Smythe**  
**Staff Liaison for Power in the Spirit**

**[Power in the Spirit – July 12-14, 2007](#)**

The theme for this year is "Nurturing Faith: Home, Church, and School." Our Keynoter is Jim Nestingen, who will surely bless us and make us laugh! And, our Bible Leader, Susan McArver, will surely teach us and make us think!

Registration booklets should be mailed after the middle of March. Be looking for them and get your registrations in early and get ready for another opportunity to worship, learn, share, laugh, listen, and grow as we look at ways to nurture our faith!

**From Cary Mangus**  
**Stewardship Specialist**

**Stewardship of Life and Healthy Congregations Combine for Workshop**

**One of the marks of a healthy congregation is that they develop generous people. Generosity is not just a nice virtue. It is a natural response to a God who has been so generous to us. But how do we grow in our understanding of this concept? Attending a workshop from the Healthy Congregations series entitled "HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS DEVELOP GENEROUS PEOPLE" led by a Synodical Healthy Congregations facilitator can provide a great start! This is a wonderful opportunity for Stewardship of Life Committees to attend as a unit. The result would be a unifying effect for these teams as they could all share in the experience of learning of God's abundance of grace together. It is very exciting to think of these groups taking this experience back to their own congregations and "making a difference". Obviously, individuals are encouraged to attend also, as these teachings will speak to the hearts of each of us. These**

workshops are being offered on a regional basis in 2007. Normally there is a \$20.00 charge per person for a healthy congregation workshop. However, for this particular workshop, there will only be a \$6.00 charge as the event is being underwritten by the Synod Stewardship of Life Committee through the ELCA Shared Synod Stewardship Staff budget. All congregations are encouraged to participate in one of these events as we all grow together in God's grace. The following is the schedule for these workshops:

[Mar 24, 2007](#)      [Ebenezer Lutheran](#)      [Marion, VA](#)

[May 5, 2007](#)      [St. Luke](#)      [Richmond, VA](#)

These workshops will begin at 9:30AM and end at 3:00PM. For additional information contact Cary Mangus at 540-774-0983 ([cjmangus@cox.net](mailto:cjmangus@cox.net)) or Luther Mauney at 540-297-7231 ([LFSMauney@aol.com](mailto:LFSMauney@aol.com)). As registration forms are being emailed to all churches in the Synod, these forms will be available in your church office.

**From Pastor Luther Mauney  
Healthy Congregations Coordinator**

## **HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS FACILITATOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITY SCHEDULED**

### [HEALTHY CONGREGATION WORKSHOP REGISTRATION](#)

Click the link above

In the past two years 26 pastors and laity have taken the Healthy Congregations facilitators training for congregational leadership. This is designed to teach **congregational pastors and laity** how to lead Healthy Congregations workshops and provide leadership in their own congregations.

The next training opportunity will be held this spring – in the Roanoke area, April 19 and May 24. Again we CAN offer this in two places – one in the east and one in the west, depending on the level of interest. Those interested should contact either Luther Mauney ([lfismauney@aol.com](mailto:lfismauney@aol.com), or 540-297-7231) or Bob Holley ([rfholley@ntelos.net](mailto:rfholley@ntelos.net) or 540-885-4843).

Information regarding cost and registration procedures can be found on the enclosed information sheet.

Luther Mauney, Coordinator  
[lfismauney@aol.com](mailto:lfismauney@aol.com)

**From Pastor George Sims  
Mission Office For Planned Giving**

**[PLAN2giv Newsletter](#)**

**Miscellaneous**

† **For those discerning a call to ministry**

Wartburg Theological Seminary invites you to attend the Conference on Ministry: “Considering Your Call” on the campus of Wartburg Seminary. There will be a Spring session, March 10-12, 2007, or a Fall session, November 10-12, 2007. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-CALL WTS, or via E-Mail at [admissions@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wartburgseminary.edu). You can register on-line at [www.wartburgseminary.edu](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu).

† **Team Tri-Une**

In June a group of pastors and a few regular folks will take on the Bath County Triathlon. Our team name is Team Tri-Une. Tri-Une stands for many things. The three disciplines of triathlon – swim, bike and run. The triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And the three blessing we take from the sport of Triathlon – physical wellbeing, mental focus and spiritual discipline. Our team is sponsored by VA Lutheran Homes, Thrivent Financial and The Scruggs family. Team members are Kati Derrick, Paul Derrick, Pr. Chip Gunsten, Pr. James Armentrout, Pr. David Derrick, Pr. Mark England and Will Klick. Would you like more information? Contact Kati Derrick at [derricks@cox.net](mailto:derricks@cox.net). We encourage anyone who would like to support us in our efforts to give to the Youth to Youth Project of the VA Synod. Information can be found at [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org).

† **Gettysburg Historic Churches Offer Programming for the Visiting Public**

**[Click here for Flyer](#)**

See enclosed brochure detailing three programs offered to the visiting public by eight historic downtown churches in Gettysburg, PA. The programs are educational and entertaining presentations of events during and after the Battle of Gettysburg when churches became major hospitals and civilians became nurses. Contact [www.historicchurchwalkingtours.org](http://www.historicchurchwalkingtours.org) or Frederick Wentz at 717-586-5192.