



## Journey Together

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

June 2007

# The Bishop's Page

### **Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet, and a Light Unto My Path! Ps. 119:105**

I continue to learn in each new hearing of the Word, in each conversation among faithful congregational leaders.

I have heard from my Healthy Congregation facilitators that a leader is anyone who exerts influence upon another. I immediately think of pastor as the bishop in their congregation or a parent as the bishop within their home.

As a synod we should seek to strengthen these leaders as Proclaimers of the gospel both publicly in a pulpit and personally in face to face conversations that they may give voice to a crucified and risen Lord alive among us calling us to follow.

We should endeavor to support these leaders as Teachers of the Word making them more effective in their content and in their performance so that interest and learning follows.

We should lift up leading with Heart, relationally engaging, inspiring, leading by example, relationally walking with in such a way that others find themselves ready to walk with and at times willing to follow.

Our constitution resolves that we should be forming Advocates for the poor who speak publicly and act faithfully for those who do not have a voice within our society.

**P**roclaimers

**A**dvocates

**T**eachers

**H**eat centered leaders.

Within our homes, congregations, and synod may Jesus Christ be a light unto our PATH.

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

*II Corinthians 5:20*

## **REPORT ON THE VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Thank you to all who were in attendance at this year's assembly. Bethany Uhl has provided us all with a wonderful summary of the assembly!! Thank you, Bethany! Just go to the website and up at the top on the left you will see ["2007 Synod Assembly Bulletin Insert"](#).

## **VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY**

I want to remind our rostered leaders to continue to be attentive to the families with Virginia Tech students and alumni through the summer and the coming fall. We continue to have resources on the web site under "Virginia Tech." I encourage you also to keep them in mind as they make their plans in August to return to campus. Let us err on the side of asking too often how they are doing. Let us also continue to keep in our prayers the people of the Blacksburg area, Virginia Tech, and our congregations in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, the New River Parish, and the campus ministry at Virginia Tech. I would remind you of our two excellent Campus Pastors at Virginia Tech, The Rev. William King, 540-552-0066, and The Rev. Joanna Stallings, 540-951-1728.

*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:

BLUE RIDGE, Glade Creek	Interim and Interviewing
CHARLOTTESVILLE, St. Mark	Study
CHURCHVILLE, St. Peter	Interviewing
FISHERSVILLE, St. James/STAUNTON, Faith	Study
GALAX, Good Shepherd (Episcopal/Lutheran)	Study
IMMANUEL, BLUEFIELD-CENTRAL PARISH	Study
LYNCHBURG, Bethlehem	Interim and Interviewing
MECHANICSVILLE, Messiah	Interim and Interviewing
MONETA, Trinity (Associate Pastor)	Interviewing
MT. ROGERS PARISH	Interviewing
MT. SOLON, St. Paul	Study
NORFOLK, St. Timothy	Study
SALEM, College	Interviewing
STAUNTON, Christ	Study
STAUNTON, Faith	Study
TIMBERVILLE PARISH	Interviewing
VIRGINIA BEACH, St. Michael	Study
WOODSTOCK, Emanuel	Study
WOODSTOCK, Mt. Zion	Interviewing

## 2. ROSTERED LEADERS:

- ✠ Kelly Bayer Derrick has accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Philip, Roanoke, effective May 27, 2007. She was Ordained on June 9, 2007, at Synod Assembly Worship at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Roanoke.
- ✠ The Rev. Marion Cobb has resigned as pastor at Emanuel, Woodstock, effective June 7, 2007. He has been granted On Leave from Call status effective 6/7/07.
- ✠ The Revs. Scott and Cathy Mims have resigned as Associate Pastors at St. John, Roanoke. They have accepted a call to serve as Pastors at Good Shepherd, Virginia Beach, effective July 8, 2007.
- ✠ The Rev. Frederick Guy, North Carolina Synod, has accepted a call to serve as Pastor at Trinity, Newport News, effective July 30, 2007.
- ✠ The Rev. Robert F. Holley has resigned as Pastor at Christ, Staunton, and will retire effective July 1, 2007.
- ✠ The Rev. Daphne Burt has accepted a call to serve at St. Paul's School, Concord, NH, and has transferred to the New England Synod effective May 31, 2007.
- ✠ The Rev. Donna Ruggles has transferred her synod affiliation to Northeastern Iowa Synod effective May 1, 2007.

**NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT OUR PEOPLE**

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

- The Rev. Malcolm Minnick
- The Rev. Cecil Bradfield
- The Rev. Mark Graham
- Vivian May Nilsen, wife of Pastor Roy Nilsen
- Jenny Troutman, wife of Pastor Barney Troutman
- The Rev. Charles “Bill” Howell
- The Rev. William Wake
- Kathie Crumpton, wife of Pastor Ken Crumpton
- Ella Bozeman, mother of Pastor Jean Bozeman
- Norma Ruppap, wife of Pastor Ken Ruppap
- The Rev. Sid Nelson
- The Rev. Doug Stowe
- Barbara Kingsburg, wife of Pastor Jack Kingsburg
- Joan Donahue, wife of Pastor Fred Donahoe

**+ Congratulations**

- The Rev. Christopher Carr and wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their daughter, Susanna Marie, on Sunday, June 3, 2007.

## News and Notes from Synod Staff and Extended Staff

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

### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS (2007)

#### ***Virginia Synod Youth Ambassadors School: July 8-12, 2007***

At Roanoke College for Youth who have just graduated from high school A chance to take stock of where they have come in the faith and life journey and to look ahead to work, service, or college.

[See attached registration form](#)

#### ***Summer Celebration: July 8-13, 2007***

At Caroline Furnace Camp this is a summertime opportunity for Sr. High youth from all three of our supporting synods. Modeled after Kairos and Winter Celebration this camp offers a Servant Ministry element to the large group/small group model.

[See attached registration form](#)

#### ***Junior High Servant Event: July -August, 2007; July 29 – Aug 3, 2007***

For youth who are starting grades 7-9 to gather as congregational teams for service, faith reflection, and fellowship Registration forms and more information on these events are available at the Synod Website or by contacting Synod Youth Director Dave Delaney – [delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org) 540-389-1000

[See attached registration form](#)

#### ***VA Synod ELCA – PNG Youth to Youth Pilgrimage***

The Global Mission Committee of the Virginia Synod is inviting youth applicants to participate in a trip to the Islands District Evangelical Lutheran Church Papua New Guinea, our companion synod, from July 13-31, 2008.

[See attached brochure/registration form.](#)

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

**Church Vocations Conference - August 14-16, 2007**

The Virginia Synod Church Vocations Conference will be held at Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg, August 14-16. The conference is designed for those seeking to discern God's call to rostered ministry within the church as an Associate in Ministry (AIM), Deaconess, Diaconal Minister, or Ordained Pastor, as well as those who are presently within the candidacy process. The conference provides participants with the opportunity to meet with candidacy committee members and other rostered leaders through informal conversation, presentations, and worship. The theme for this summer's gathering is *Ambassadors for Christ: The Lutheran Family – A Family of Faith System,* which continues our synodical theme of Baptized Disciples - with leadership by The Rev. Shelby Depriest and Dr. Jay Balas, who will help us explore how our own families are centers for faith formation and how our families of faith might better equip us to live and share our faith in healthy ways. For further information and registration please contact Chip Gunsten at the synod office: 540-389-1000 or [gunsten@vasynod.org](mailto:gunsten@vasynod.org)

**Gathering of the VA Synod Ministerium**

All rostered leaders (Pastors, Associates in Ministry, and Diaconal Ministers) are encouraged to mark your calendars and plan to participate in the *Gathering of the VA Synod Ministerium* to be held October 15-17 at Natural Bridge.

The theme will continue our synodical year long emphasis on *Ambassadors for Christ: Worship and the Family of Faith.*, and we will be gifted by the presence and presentation of The Rev. Michael Burk, Executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources, ELCA, and The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott, Executive Director of Healthy Congregations. In addition to the plenary sharing, there will be workshops in the areas of: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services, Discipleship, Roots & Wings, Healthy Congregations and Family Systems, and Spiritual Direction. There will also be times for worship, fellowship, recreation, and personal conversation ... all offered to build up the Ministerium, so that we might be better equipped to build up those who daily live out their baptismal calls to serve family friend and stranger locally and globally as One in the Body of Christ. A brochure will be mailed out in August, and more information will be available in the next Journey Together ... for now – prayerfully plan to attend the *Gathering of the Ministerium*.

**From Celi Stoutamire  
Synod Assembly Coordinator**

- The Assembly news, written by our Assembly Reporter, Bethany Uhl, is available on the synod website. Please include this in your Sunday bulletin and/or church newsletters if you have not already done so.
- A reminder to those who did not have their picture taken at Assembly, please send a photo asap if you would like your picture included in the Rostered Leaders Pictorial Directory.
- A blue clerical shirt and a white “Titleist” cap were left on the Assembly floor. Please contact Celi at [stoutami@roanoke.edu](mailto:stoutami@roanoke.edu) to claim these items and to make arrangements for return.

**From Elizabeth Smythe  
Power in the Spirit Coordinator**

Power in the Spirit is ready and waiting! As we come together to nurture our faith and that of others, let us find joy, peace, and the word of God!

A few updates for your information include a Thursday evening opportunity for sharing and healing following the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech and a Friday evening presentation by Doug Berky, an internationally acclaimed mask/movement artist, followed by a reception sponsored by the office of Church Relations.

**July 12-14, 2007! See you there!!**

**[Click here for registration form](#)**

**From Pastor Luther Mauney  
Healthy Congregations Coordinator**

## HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS RESPOND TO DISASTERS

Disasters come in all kinds of sizes, shapes and impacts. They can be of the unimaginable horrific kind like the Virginia Tech massacre and impact hundreds of thousands of people, or they can be very private and personal and impact only a few. The effect is still the same – we feel blown away, helpless and lost.

**The challenge** is also the same – to respond in a helpful way. A complicating factor is that we cannot assume we know what the impact will be on others, and what they will necessarily need. For some people who have experienced other tragedies that still haunt them, the impact will be devastating. For others, who have been able to heal from earlier disasters, the effect of the latest one will not be as great. *In any event, for those of us in the church, with our mission to bring God's perspective into this world of disasters, disasters bring a special opportunity for ministry.*

To help ensure a helpful response, **healthy congregations** remember:

- As important as is the immediate caring for victims of disaster, it is even more important to plan for continuing care and support. Often the impact is not completely experienced until much later.
- Different people have different thresholds to disasters. For some a seemingly minor event can trigger a major reaction. For others a major event is handled well. One's history with responding to anxiety makes the difference.
- Sensitivity to the "why" questions, and a willingness to allow individuals to explore the spiritual aspects, are key dimensions of a pastoral care response.
- Our ability to care for others depends greatly on how well we have cared for ourselves. "Taking one's own temperature" before responding can alert us to how available we can be for others. The healthier we are, the better the chances are for our responses to be healthy.
- Maintaining contacts with each other, assuring the victims that they are a part of our network of families, staying connected, are key ingredients for survival and healing. Isolation is a dangerous position.
- We are a part of a larger community. Communicate with, and seek advice and help from, one another. Conversation with fellow sufferers and with others on whom we can lean, promotes healing. (The Lutheran Disaster Response network is a good resource.)
- Key hallmarks of God's church as expressed in our mission are hospitality and generosity. They are defining elements in our behavior.

Luther Mauney, LFS Coordinator of Healthy Congregations  
Jan Tobias, LFS Disaster Response Coordinator

**From Jackie Bourque  
Mission Interpreter Coordinator**

THANK-YOU to the 30 congregations who have identified a Mission Interpreter. These Interpreters have been trained and are committed to do one thing a month for 2 years to tell the story of the wider church to their congregation.

Is your congregation one of these, or are you still in the process of identifying one? In the first 4 training sessions, I trained most of the interpreters, but this spring, I trained small groups of 2, 3 and 4 persons in regional events. These trainings lasted about 2 hours, and the participants feel they have adequate materials and know-how to do mission interpretation in their congregation.

I am willing to go anywhere in the synod to train your Mission Interpreter. Your interpreter need not be a great public speaker; he or she just needs to be willing to do something each month. In fact, I would prefer temple talks be kept to a minimum. Bulletin inserts or snippets, newsletter articles, children's sermons (written for the pastor), hunger dramas (easy to get through ELCA/Hunger), bulletin boards, displays, Sunday School discussions, "Making Christ Known" newspaper, and other communications are sometimes better ways to tell the story.

If you have someone who you think would be good, have them call me, or better yet, give me their information and I will call them. If you have questions or have a Mission Interpreter who needs training, contact me at:

Jackie Bourque  
1444 Stokes Airport Rd.  
Front Royal, VA 22630  
540-635-8518  
jackie.bourque@embarqmail.com

**Miscellaneous**

† **June 2007 Lutheran Disaster Response-SEPA Tasf Force Update**  
[See attached bulletin](#)

† **Coming Events at National Lutheran Home**  
[See attached bulletin](#)

**Save the Date**  
[See attached bulletin](#)

† **Plan2Giv Newsletter**  
[See Attached bulletin](#)