**Region IV Council**

Regular Meeting February 03, 2016

Church of St. Clement – Alexandria, Virginia

PRESENT:

Christ Church: Cindi Bartol, Geoff Giovanetti

Church of St. Clement: Very Rev. John Hortum, Sheila Kearney

Church of the Resurrection: Rev. Jo Belser, Betsy Faga

Emmanuel Church: absent

Grace Church: June Huber

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: Emma Cuddy [ youth alternate delegate to Diocesan Council]

Meade Memorial Church: absent

St. Paul’s Church: absent

Our gathering began at 7:30 pm with the opening prayer offered by all: see agenda for the prayer.

Approval of Minutes: motion by Geoff Giovanetti, seconded by Jo Belser , to accept the minutes of 11-18-2015 as distributed was approved and they will be posted on the Region IV web site.

Treasurer’s Report: motion by Sheila Kearney, seconded by Geoff Giovanetti, to accept as presented. Invoices for 2016 dues will be sent to the parishes shortly.

Youth Delegate Input: Our elected alternate youth delegate, Emma Cuddy from Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill acquainted us with information about herself. She is delighted to be part of the youth presence and disappointed that our rescheduled and abbreviated Council location with limited space will not allow for alternates to be present.

Lenten Series: Jo Belser reviewed the details of the attached flyer. Cindi Bartol will post the flyer on the Seminary post office bulletin board.

Outreach Committee Report: Betsy Faga shared -

* The needs of new clients being met with the newly started, West End Lazarus Ministry which is going very well is to be commended. Details can been read in the attached summary submitted for consideration of the diocesan bishop’s Award for Outreach.
* The **Music for Food** concert given by members of the Fairfax County Youth Orchestra in November and held at Christ Church was a Quality success via presentation, raised $1005.00 for food purchases for the Lazarus ministry. Input: good idea to repeat, needs to be at a less busy time of year.
* As part of their Church-on-the-Go, people from Christ Church will be visiting at Church of the Resurrection to learn about the Lazarus ministries new endeavors.
* Books for children of all ages are going to be distributed at the ‘last Saturday food distribution’ on March 26th. Each church is asked to solicit donations and bring them to Resurrection prior to that date.
* Pictures from the Region IV Fall Youth event are available for downloading on the Church of the Resurrection’s face book page.
* It was suggested that we consider having a Youth Talent Show as a fundraiser for our regional outreach endeavors.

New Business:

* Discussion was held around the report/letter issued by our 3 bishops in reference to the Primates’ Communique of last month. Clarification of concepts, shared impressions, and understandings were brought forth and we were glad to have additional input.
* Agenda Alexandria: a group that has 8 meetings a year to discuss and consider issues pertinent to our City of Alexandria. Cindi Bartol brought this group to our attention because their upcoming meeting on Monday, February 22, is titled “Race in Alexandria”. To be held at the Hermitage Retirement Home, 5001 Fairbanks Avenue, with entrances across Beauregard Street from Goodwin House or the 1st street on the right off of Seminary Road after crossing Beauregard St. Google AgendaAlexandria for details. There is a $5.00 charge to attend the panel discussion and additional charges if you wish to go earlier and have dinner. In light of The Episcopal Church’s along with other venues’ focus on race relations, it is thought that this might be a place for people to hear and learn. Please publicize for others to consider attending.

Dean’s Report:

* John Hortum’s term concludes at the end of Diocesan Council/Convention after a new Dean is approved at the gathering.
* The region’s hypothermic unit has been located and operating in the winter months at Church of St. Clement for over 20 years. Over 300 pair of socks have been collected and distributed this winter by the focus of SOCKS IN THE BOX -

Executive Board Rep report: [the Rev. David Crosby] 102 of the 181 parishes have submitted their diocesan pledge. If you have not yet done so, the Budget Committee needs to hear from you to render a budget for Council, now scheduled for March 5th at Church of the Epiphany in Herndon.

President’s Report: June Huber, as incoming President and in the absence of Beth Wiggers who is still in office until the conclusion of Council, led the meeting. There was a call for nominations for secretary but none was forthcoming – we did not wish to deprive the upcoming, scheduled secretary roster!

Child and Family Network Centers Report: [given by Geoff Giovanetti] Please see the attached flyer for the upcoming Spring Benefit and Fundraiser which will be held at **National Harbor on April 29, 2016**. There are many other opportunities to be involved in this most worthy group that are also listed. The Child and Family Network Centers (CFNC) is having its Spring Benefit at National Harbor this year. CFNC’s mission is to provide caring, high-quality, free pre-school education and related services to at-risk children and their families, in or near their neighborhoods in Alexandria and the Arlandria area.  The goal is to prepare those near the poverty level for success in school and life.  CFNC is currently serving over 150 children and their families. Please consider personally supporting CFNC, with either your time or your resources.

\*\*\* Why is CFNC important to Region IV (or vice versa)?  CFNC was established over 30 years ago by concerned mothers whose *children had failed Kindergarten*.  Because of the critical nature of Region IV’s early support, **CFNC’s by-laws require** that a member of the Region serve on its Board.  As that Board Member, I strive to keep the Region informed of CFNC’s activities.  Please contact me or visit [www.cfnc-online.org](http://www.cfnc-online.org) for more information.

A motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. was made by Cindi Bartol and affirmed by all. The closing prayer was given by the Very Rev. John Hortum.

Respectfully, Cindi Bartol, substitute/acting secretary for this meeting

**ONCE AROUND – INFORMATION SHARED**

**Christ Church** [submitted by Cindi Bartol]

Lenten Book Study 10 gathering times and locations for an all-parish Lenten book study of Marilynn Robinson's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel**,** Gilead. A deeply moving and theologically complex experience, it raises themes of forgiveness, salvation, and the limitations of the human heart. For the five week study, we will gather in people's homes and at the church. Books available in the Gift Shop and on Amazon. Check web site and register to join us.

Souper Bowl of Caring – sponsored by the youth who are collecting full sized toiletries for the Lazarus Ministry.  Consider full sized shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizer, and body lotion (especially given the cold weather). Items can be placed in the food pantry collection box on Sundays, brought to the church during business hours ANY DAY of ANY WEEK, if you they can’t be delivered to the Ingathering on February 7.

February 7 - World Mission Sunday — a time to celebrate our long history of mission projects and to hear young speakers from our own church and elsewhere share their experiences in this vital part of ministry. Noah Hillerbrand, a sophomore studying Healthcare Studies and Biology at the University of Richmond who has done mission work in this country and in Africa [Sudan], will preach at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00a.m. services. At the 9:00 a.m. forum, Christ Church youth who made a mission trip to Vermont last summer will talk about their journey and its effect on their faith.

Lenten Quiet Day – Saturday February 13th. Led by former Presiding Bishop the Most Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold. Flyer was distributed to the Region IV email addresses – please share. Check our face book page for specific details.

**Church of St. Clement**: [submitted by Sheila Kearney]

We have been blessed with committed volunteers for our Hypothermia Shelter which houses the homeless overnight in our sanctuary from the first Monday in January through March 15th. We are especially grateful to the coordinator of this ministry, Tom Greco, who lives near the church and managed to open the shelter each night during the ‘snowzilla’.

On February 9th from 5:30 to 7:30pm we will host our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The families of our day school join parishioners in this annual celebration before Ash Wednesday.

February is **SHARE YOUR LOVE** month at St. Clement. We are showing our love for our furry friends by collecting donations of towel, blankets, food and toys for our furry friends at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). The month will culminate in a Pizza Bingo Night on February 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We are inviting our bingo players to bring donations for AWAL.

St. Clement will also be participating in the 2016 Alexandria Ecumenical Lenten Series “The Theology of Harry Potter” on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

**Grace Church**: [submitted by June Huber]

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Tuesday, February 9. The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) youth group will be hosting a pancake supper with Rite 13 on Shrove Tuesday, February 9, at 6:00 pm. Enjoy a last hurrah before the beginning of Lent and help J2A begin raising funds for their 2017 Pilgrimage!

Monday Night Lent Series -- Our Monday Night Lent Series will run Mondays, February 15 through March 14. Each week we will explore how to live into our baptismal vow “to seek and serve Christ in all people.” On Monday, February 15, we will welcome the Rev. Frank Wade from Virginia Theological Seminary to speak to us about how we minister to each other and to members of our community through our worship – on Sundays, for funerals and weddings, and in many other ways. The program begins each night with Holy Eucharist at 6:30 pm, a simple supper at 7:15 pm and a speaker from 7:45 to 8:30 pm.

Lenten Retreat – On Saturday, March 12, we will have a daytime retreat at Grace Church that is centered on the Rule of St. Benedict and how it can apply to our own lives. Details are still in the planning stage.

**St. Paul’s [submitted by Karen Grane] :**

**Ash Wednesday services will take place on February 10 at 7:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 5:30 p.m. (family service), and 7:30 p.m. Please join us.**

**Adult Forums:** Join a constitutional lawyer, a rabbi, Islamic scholars, and biblical scholars to learn how reading the Bible is similar to and different from reading in other textual traditions.  Adult Forums are at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

**Parish Book Study:** This Lent, we invite the parish to read a spiritual text together, the book [*Being Christian*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001WvM51qGQeBCaNeKCSqzRLVZudNjFfHLmYjlu2KDzMoTf7WzHufdP-95bTMjN3UBWunyZ2699wEuKoEkdU6spDO82KXljQ0bpz5An-13OLcCtxssMXWSW5EPgbwb40SBKp7a2jWWyktf2WWAbOO9BRfZBn2kk4ix1gwox6728Q09oi4upbgLVHvj3zI7IDqezxpwWmU7zxA2NV2xY1Hb8xd_dp0AvitKDj4rmuad_d_nVyCHS1ooLXg==&c=wCZLiLsofoznWZPfx22K4KQGiL1P9W0z6o_8wqvK4mTo5vFjKSztqA==&ch=5ZYXdo1R-zHhvdyafK2aNFTzsRVzy6-YtLUJfVarG5WhlgZ5ecJ21w==) by Rowan Williams. It is a profound and accessible articulation of the Christian faith by the finest English-speaking theologian of our time. St. Paul's offers the book for purchase for $10. Our Adult Forum on March 20 will be dedicated to discussion of Williams' book.

**Cloister Night:** This program provides intentional devotion that resembles the deep spiritual experiences of living in a monastery. Meeting weekly 6:30-8:30 p.m. from Tuesday, Feb. 16 to March 15, the evening consists of Eucharist, a simple supper, shared devotion, and prayerful silence. To sign up, email [Bob Steventon](mailto:cloisternight@gmail.com).

**Inquirers' Class:** If you are new to St. Paul's, seeking membership, or wish to learn more about our parish and the Episcopal Church, the Inquirers' Class is for you. The class meets on Wednesday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. from Feb. 17-March 23. To sign up or learn more, contact [the Rev. Ross Kane](mailto:ross@stpaulsalexandria.com).

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**Secretary Responsibilities for 2016:**

**Meeting Date Church**

1 – 2016 02 – 03 – 16 Meade Memorial Church

2 – 2016 05 – 18 – 16 Grace Church

3 – 2016 09 – 21 – 16 St. Paul’s Church

4 – 2016 11 – 16 – 2016 Immanuel-on-the-Hill Church