



*Washington Chapter*  
**Union of Black Episcopalians**  
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## **2007-2008 PROGRAM YEAR REPORT**

This was a break out year for the Washington Chapter with the start of a new leadership initiative that promises great rewards in our individual churches. A new website and a revised newsletter promise more effective communications.

**Crummell –Cooper Leadership Initiative:** The Washington Chapter sponsored a diocesan-wide leadership program, in partnership with the Afro-Anglican Clergy Association of Washington and the Diocese of Washington, to offer new ideas and exchange information aimed at strengthening our churches

- **Kanuga Conference.** The establishment of the Crummell-Cooper Leadership Initiative began with the “Transformation and Renewal Conference: People Get Ready” at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Twenty participants from five parishes took part in the five day training event.
- **Absalom Jones Workshop.** In February, as part of our Absalom Jones Celebration, the Kanuga participants joined with others for a discussion of what they learned from the conference and of problems shared by most congregations.
- **Radical Welcome Workshop.** In May, The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, author of “Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Sprit of Transformation,” presented her workshop on developing an all inclusive ministry for growth. This was an expanded session of her presentation at Kanuga..

**The Epiphany Series:** In January, we revived a chapter practice from the 1970’s by offering a weekly series of four Wednesday night suppers with presentations and discussion. This proved to be a favorite as evidenced by an average of 70 attendees each session. Each meeting was different – churches, sections of the city, speaker, and subject matter. The host church provided food and logistics and the Chapter provided advertising. A free will offering paid for food. The success of the program demands that we offer it again for the 2008-2009 program year.

**Absalom Jones Celebration:** Our 30<sup>th</sup> annual service, celebration, and fundraising campaign awarded \$2,500 each to St. Augustine’s, St. Paul’s and Voorhees Colleges and the Howard University Chaplaincy received \$1,000 to support scholarships and endowments. Our Absalom Jones Achievement Award was presented to MaryRose Chappelle for 10 years of untiring leadership to the Absalom Jones Celebration. To commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the importation of slaves into the United States, the Evening Prayer service re-enacted Rev. Jones’ 1808 Thanksgiving sermon.

**Vermont Visitors:** A Reconciliation Dinner and Discussion with visitors from the Diocese of Vermont took place at St. Luke’s DC. The 22 visitors, including the Bishop of Vermont, were in town to celebrate Vermont Day at Washington National Cathedral. The discussion concluded that we have more things in common than we sometimes realize. An invitation from the Diocese of Vermont to reciprocate the visit this fall is now being scheduled.

**Website:** Our new web site is a great hit. Check us out. <http://www.washingtonube.org> You will also find our newsletter on line. The color photos and regular updates keep the Chapter well informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice West Wormack, President