



Washington Chapter UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 1, 2008

Wednesdays in Epiphany

The Crummell-Cooper Initiative, a partnership between the Afro-Anglican Clergy Fellowship and the Union of Black Episcopalians (Washington Chapter) sponsored the First Annual "Wednesdays in Epiphany" in January 2008 at four Washington churches. Each session gave participants points for developing or upgrading their church's plan for membership growth and community outreach.



The Rev. Vincent Harris, rector of St. George's, Washington addressed the topic, "Who Are We?" in which he amplified guidelines for determining the particular identity of each church so that it can both embrace its' unique identity and build upon it in carrying out the Great Commandments (Matt 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matt 28:19).



The Rev. Ann-Marie Jeffery, priest in charge of St. James, Bowie, discussed "Who Are They?" Drawing upon her experience as urban missionary at Epiphany, Washington, she presented ways that churches can enhance their

outreach ministries to people not of the congregation but of the neighborhood: poorer people, homeless persons, and workers.



The Rev. Jocelyn Irving, rector of Church of the Atonement, discussed the importance of having a warm, welcoming attitude to visitors who should to be treated as guests of the family. She graphically told how carrying out the Great Commission requires going out to meet people where they are. She and a cadre of parishioners visit homes and invite neighbors "to come and see". When the neighbors come to the church, it means being prepared with everything from keeping pampers on hand to escorting children safely home after evening events.



The Rev. Virginia Brown-Nolan, rector of St. Luke's, Washington, on the last Wednesday,

addressed the topic, "Give It Up; Turn It Loose", getting rid of things that clutter and leave less room for God in our lives. She reminded us that some "stuff" is necessary to ground us in our identity and to connect us to our past but not much. She forcefully showed that we must let of anger (Matt 5:23 and Matt 18:15-17) and not elevate human laws over God's (Mark 7:5-13).

Each presentation was followed by spirited discussion. Facilitators for these discussions were the Rev. John Harmon, Trinity, Washington; Ms. Iris Harris, St. Timothy's; the Rev. J. Carleton Hayden, St. George's; and the Rev. Allan Johnson-Taylor of Epiphany, Forestville. We were very gratified that the participant count for each session ranged from 70-100. When the design team estimated attendance to provide the dinner preceding each lecture/discussion, numbers were from 10-35. That the response exceeded our expectation said to us that we were on the right track in building a learning community between the black congregations that will become increasingly proactive and flexible in mission growth.

Stacy Harper-Avilla
Co-Chair, Crummell-Cooper Initiative

ABSALOM JONES DAY BECOMES A WEEK-END EVENT IN WASHINGTON

The Washington Chapter of UBE took another step in their history by presenting a weekend of activities, instead of one day, to celebrate the life and witness of The Reverend Absalom Jones. On Saturday, February 9, they presented a workshop on leadership and on Sunday, February 10, held an Evening Prayer worship service.

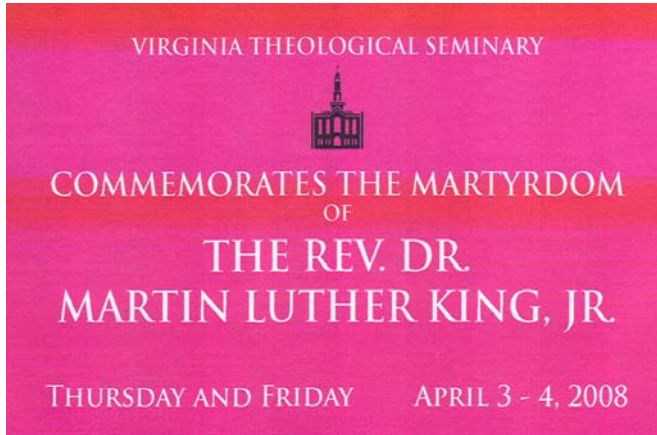
The Saturday workshop was a continuation of learning from the November 2007 Kanuga Conference, Transformation and Renewal V. In November, the Washington Diocese sent 20 participants to the Kanuga Conference as a first step in their new Alexander Crummell-Anna Julia Cooper Leadership Initiative. This

program brings together clergy and laypersons to explore new ways of strengthening our churches. As part of the Crummell-Cooper Initiative on Leadership, the workshop was divided into three parts – the history of Blacks in the Diocese of Washington, defining servant leadership, and learning taken from Kanuga. All three presenting panels were interactive with the audience and created very lively discussions for the 60 participants from the 15 different churches that attended.

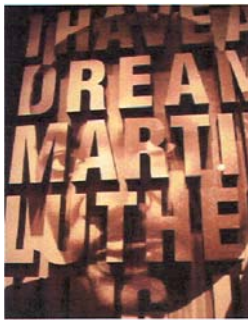
The Crummell-Cooper Initiative will next meet for a workshop on Radical Welcome, May 17, 2008. The Rev. Stephanie Spellers from St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston, Massachusetts will present this program. You are welcome to join that event, contact the Washington Chapter at jwormack@verizon.net or call 202 829-6445.

The worship service on Sunday included Reverend Absalom Jones. A celebration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the importation of slaves into the United States featured a prayer service, the principle form of worship in 1808. Since Rev. Jones delivered his Thanksgiving Sermon to commemorate passing of this legislation, we thought it fitting to hear his words again. Our own Angel Washington (Rev. Virginia Brown-Nolan), an investigative reporter for radio station WGOD, took us back in time to hear the words of Rev. Jones (Rev. Frazier Green, in period costume). It must be noted that many of the words spoken then are apropos today.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Absalom Jones celebration by the Washington Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. A member of the community who exemplifies the life and witness of Reverend Jones is honored at the worship service and scholarship donations are accepted. The chapter has contributed more than \$100,000 to the scholarship funds of our three Black Episcopal colleges, Voorhees, St. Augustine, and St. Paul, as well as the Episcopal/Anglican Chaplaincy at Howard.



Civil Rights Leader 1929 - 1968



On this, the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we remember him as he asked us to remember him: that he gave his life to serve others. He asked us to remember that he

Thursday, April 3 - Friday, April 4, 2008

Featuring

The Rt. Rev. Nathan D. Baxter and

Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems

The Lettie Pate Evans Auditorium



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Nathan Baxter was Dean of Washington National Cathedral from 1991 until 2003. He was elected Bishop of Central Pennsylvania in 2006, following several years in parish ministry and service as associate dean

and professor at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his years at the Cathedral, Bishop Baxter served as spiritual leader on many memorable occasions in our nation's history. President William Clinton selected him to write and deliver the prayer of the nation at the White House Millennium Celebration, and Bishop Baxter

led the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance following the September 11 terrorist attacks.



The Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems is a nationally renowned theologian and an ordained elder in the African Methodist Church. Formerly a member of the faculty of both Vanderbilt

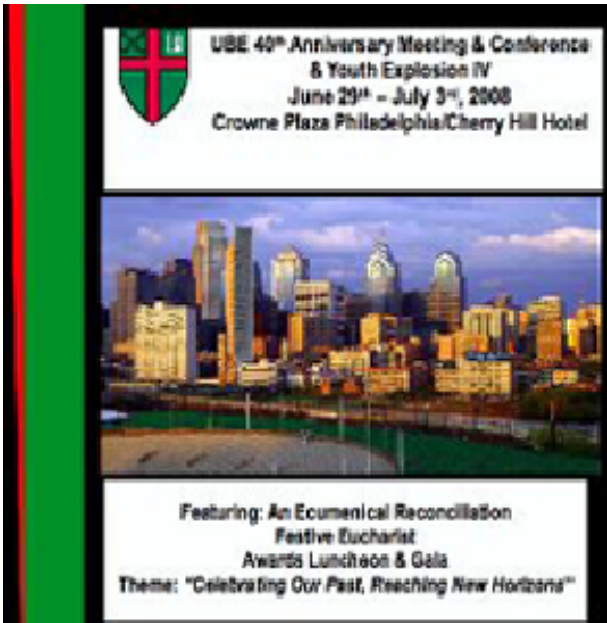
University and Spelman College, she has been celebrated by Ebony Magazine as one of America's top 15 preachers. Dr. Weems is a popular radio and television personality, regularly providing commentary on religion, gender, race, and sexuality. She served as a panelist on Bill Moyer's award-winning *Genesis Project*, and is the author of numerous books, including *Listening for God: A Minister's Journey through Silence and Doubt*.

To register for the Commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., call Ms. Joy Warburton at VTS (703.461.1735) or go to www.vts.edu and click on "View Events."

Virginia Theological Seminary is located at 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
RADICAL WELCOME**

The next step in the Crummell-Cooper Initiative is Radical Welcome, a concept used at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, MA to expand ministries. Rev. Stephanie Spellers is the minister for Radical Welcome. She has done extensive study on the subject of welcoming churches and has authored **Radical Welcome, Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation**. She will present a workshop on the subject in Washington



Please make sure hotel reservations are made by May 30th, 2008 by 5:00 PM local time.

Hotel accommodations are available at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia/Cherry Hill Hotel. Call 1-800-227-6963 or 856-665-6666. Be sure to let them know that you are with UBE to obtain the special rate of \$109.00/Night, Single/Double.

Located at 2349 W. Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 or at www.crownplaza.com/cherryhillnj

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Email: unionof_blackepiscopalians@yahoo.com
Website: www.ube.org

NOTICE

Washington Chapter Union of Black Episcopalians

What is your parish news?
Please select a member to send in
your highlights for the newsletter to:
UBE, Washington Chapter
corresponding secretary
PO Box 55038
Washington, DC 20040-5038
Email: laprowl@aol.com

Praise God. Share your Good News.

April 18 and 19, 2008 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

Hosted by
Earl B. Scott Chapter, Northern New Jersey
The Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting of the Union
of Black Episcopalians will take place April 18-
19 in Asbury Park, New Jersey. For more
information contact Joseph Overton at
215-937-6010.

**Got Newsletter?
Got Membership?
Your membership and your
support are vital to UBE.
Here's another opportunity to
join.**

Washington Chapter - Union of Black Episcopalians APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Church: _____

Make checks payable to Washington Chapter, UBE

Pay at meeting or mail to:

Mrs. Margaret Lewis,
8008 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012

	<u>Local</u>	<u>National</u>
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Life		\$500 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Church	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>	100 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Sponsor	50 <input type="checkbox"/>	150 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Family	35 <input type="checkbox"/>	60 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Individual	25 <input type="checkbox"/>	40 <input type="checkbox"/>
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APRIL FOOL
YOU MIGHT BE AN EPISCOPALIAN IF

... when you watch Star Wars and they say "May the force be with you." , you automatically reply "And also with you."

.. the only good reason to raise your hand during a hymn is to question the organist's re-harmonization.

... words like: "vouchsafe", "oblation", "supplications", "succor", "bewail", "wherefore", "dost" and "very" (in its archaic sense) are familiar to you even if you don't have a clue what they mean.

... the sight of a woman in a clerical collar doesn't make you cringe.

... you think that the Bible is a holy book because it quotes the Book of Common Prayer so well.

... you catch yourself genuflecting or bowing as you enter a row of seats in a theater.

... you visit any Protestant church, and when you get seated you say, "Where are the kneelers?" or, "Where is the altar?"

... You ever find yourself saying, "Oh, but we've never done it that way before."

... your friend said "I'm truly sorry." . . . and you replied, "and you humbly repent?"

... You know that the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden are not positions in the local prison.



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