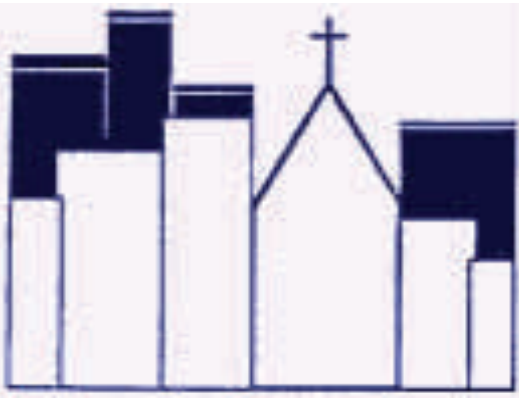




THE URBAN NETWORKER

OCTOBER 2010

FALL ISSUE

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

MINISTRIES OF
RECONCILIATION,
SOCIAL JUSTICE & PEACE
Founded 1980

- **Check our web-site at:**
- episcopalurbancaucus.org

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BILL STRICKLAND TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Bill Strickland: Social Innovator

As a Pittsburgh youth besieged by racism in the crumbling remains of the steel economy, William E. Strickland, Jr. should have been one of the Rust Belt's casualties. Instead, he discovered the potter's wheel and the transforming power of fountains and irrepressible dreams.

He was born in 1947 and grew up in Manchester, an inner-city neighborhood of Pittsburgh. His life changed when he became inspired by high school teacher Frank Ross, a skilled artisan on the potter's wheel. The relationship that Ross and Strickland initiated with a revolving mound of clay gave form to the future vision of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (MCG). The Guild began an after school arts program in a donated row-house that Strickland secured

while a college student at the University of Pittsburgh from which he graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in American History and Foreign Relations.

The decline of the steel industry created widespread unemployment and the Bidwell Training Center (BTC) addressed the problem by offering vocational training to displaced and under-employed workers. Due to Strickland's successful track record with MCG he was asked to assume leadership of BTC and guide it to producing skills relevant to Pittsburgh's emerging market economy. Strickland's involvement with BTC and MCG doubled the strength of Manchester Bidwell's ability to help the community. So with the template he envisioned for social change, Strickland began to form relationships with businesses, government officials and individuals who shared his dream.

Strickland's journey from at-risk youth to 1966 MacArthur "Genius" grant recipient would be remarkable in itself if it were not overshadowed by the staggering breath of his own vision. While moonlighting as an airline pilot he founded Manchester Bidwell—and almost incidentally a Grammy-winning record label and world-class jazz performance series. The organization's emphasis on the arts is no accident, as it embodies Strickland's conviction that an atmosphere of high culture and respect will energize even the most troubled students.

With job placement rates that rival most universities, Manchester Bidwell's success has attracted the attention of everyone from George Bush, Sr. to Fred Rogers. The inspirational power of his speeches and slide shows are the stuff of lecture circuit legend. With his potter's hands, (See p.2 Bill Strickland)

JOHN WELCH TO PREACH in PITTSBURGH

John Welch is Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is working on a doctorate in Bioethics and serves as Chief Chaplain for the City of Pittsburgh's Bureau of Police.

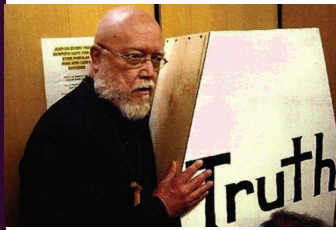
He holds a bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering and

Economics and a Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

He is active in the Pittsburgh community having served as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Centers for Healthy Hearts and Souls and as a member of the Advisory Board of the Metro-Urban Institute of

the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. For the past six years he has served as President of the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network. He is married to Reverend B. DeNeice Welch. Together they have four children and one grandchild.

SAYING GOOD BYE TO EMMETT JARRETT



Emmett Jarrett, former National Coordinator of the Episcopal Urban Caucus

(Excerpt from an article by Kathleen Edgecomb, Day Staff Writer)

Emmett Jarrett died October 9, 2010 at peace in a home filled with books, religious icons and a community of family and friends. "He shared his life and his love of life and he shared his death with all of us. It was a privilege and an honor" said Paul Jakoboski of the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center.

Jarrett helped organize the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Inc and was a

popular figure in the antiwar movement. For years he was a regular at peace vigils at the base of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in New London and participated in Peace Pilgrimages across Connecticut. He was arrested several times while protesting the war in Iraq. But he is most remembered as the man who opened St. Francis House on Broad Street ten years ago. It was an experiment by Jarrett and his wife, Anne Scheibner, to create an "intentional Christian community." It was a place to pray,

a center for peace and justice ministry, and a home that welcomed the homeless, those in transition and those looking for a more spiritual life.

Jarrett had a background in English and wrote poetry. He served in the army from 1959 to 1962 before becoming an ordained Episcopal priest. As a priest he served Episcopal churches in Boston, Silver Spring, MD and Stone Mountain, GA before moving to Connecticut to be closer to his wife's family. (See below)

"He could have been a high paid rector in a big Episcopal church but he wanted to live according to the Gospel..."

Jarrett challenged people to live with more concern for others than for themselves. According to Cathy Zall, Executive Director of the Homeless Hospitality Center, Emmett "could have been a high-paid rector in a big Episcopal Church but wanted to live according to the gospel—among people who needed him." He allowed people to live on his porch and offered his home to anyone in need.

He was diagnosed with bile-duct cancer in December of 2008. Up until a few days before his death he was active and attending community events, including the Homeless Dance fundraiser in September at Ocean Beach Park. In addition to his wife, Anne Scheibner, Emmett Jarrett is survived by a son, Nathaniel and a daughter, Sarah.

From 2000 to 2005 Anne Scheibner and Emmett Jarrett served as Coordinators of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. Jarrett edited the EUC publication, TO HEAL THE SIN-SICK SOUL and was a contributing author. Both he and Anne belonged to the Caucus since its inception. Their children were born and reared in the organization. For them the EUC was a family affair.

EMMETT JARRETT (continued)

BILL STRICKLAND (continued from page 1)

Bill Strickland is reshaping the business of social change. His Pittsburgh-based program offers a national model for education, training and hope.

Strickland is nationally recognized as a visionary leader who authentically delivers educational and cultural opportunities to students within an organizational culture that fosters innovation, creativity, responsibility and integrity.

He is the perfect speaker to tackle **the theme of this year's EUC Assembly in Pittsburgh—**

Building Bridges—Healing Connections In A Broken World.

Information obtained from the William Strickland website

The 2011 EUC Assembly will be held at The Double Tree Hotel and Suites, Pittsburgh City Center, One Bigelow Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Ph. 800-222-tree. EUC Members may register by phone or online by going to:

episcopalurbancaucus.org

FAREWELL TO RPM BOWDEN

(Excerpt from an article by Nan Ross)

RPM Bowden was a lifelong Episcopal churchman who served as a deputy to ten General Conventions and two terms on the church's Executive Council. He died on October 6th in Atlanta, Georgia after an extended illness. Born Richard Perry Milas Bowden in San Antonio, TX he was known throughout the church as "RPM." He was the eldest of three sons born to an Episcopal priest and was proud of saying

he first donned the vestments of an acolyte at the age of 2.

From Texas he moved to North Carolina where his father was rector of St. Mark's, Wilmington. Another call took the family to Tuskegee, AL and St. Andrew's Church. Following graduation from Tuskegee Institute in 1950, Mr. Bowden went to Atlanta to teach at Booker T. Washington High School. He remained an educator and administrator for more than 40 years, teaching instrumental music and later focusing

on community education. He was inducted in 2002 into the National Community Education Association Hall of Fame.

Bowden was sent to General Convention from the Diocese of Atlanta for the first time in 1973. He was elected a deputy seven more times and an alternate twice. As a deputy he took a leadership role on a variety of General Convention Committees including sergeant-at-arms chair for the House of Deputies, member of the Joint (see below)



RPM Bowden, former President of the Episcopal Urban Caucus

FAREWELL RPM (continued)

Commission on World Mission and a member of the Board of the Archives Site Selection Commission. He also served on the House of Deputies Dispatch of Business Committee. From 1994 - 1997 he served as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations.

RPM Bowden was connected to three Episcopal congregations in the Diocese of Atlanta: St. Luke's, St. Paul's and the

Absalom Jones Episcopal Center which serves four historically black colleges and universities. In his service to parishes he was a vestry clerk, treasurer, junior and senior warden and a lay Eucharistic minister. In 2007 when he was interviewed for the Atlanta Diocesan quarterly Bowden offered, "When I was growing up every morning we had devotions as a family, reading Morning Prayer and Bible lessons from the lectionary. It was drilled into

me that my call was as a baptized Christian. I want to be known for serving the church from birth to death."

RPM Bowden was an active member of the Union of Black Episcopalians and a former President of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. At the time of his death he was a Board Member of the EUC.

"It was drilled into me that my call was as a baptized Christian. I want to be known for serving the Church from birth to death."

RPM BOWDEN

MONETARY CHANGES FOR 2011 ASSEMBLY

These are hard times and the EUC has had a difficult time raising money over the last two years. Our President and Treasurer have sent out fundraising letters but the response has not been as good as it was in past years. We therefore find ourselves in the position of having to raise the registration fee for the 2011 Assembly. We have been fortunate in being able to keep the hotel rate at \$99 per night but the Early Bird registration for the coming

year will be \$300, up \$50 from previous years and regular registration will come to \$350, also up from past years by \$50. Other registration packages will follow this increase in fees.

Nell Braxton Gibson, EUC Coordinator

ERRATA

In the thirtieth anniversary issue of *The Urban Networker*,

in the article, "815" UNION-WORKERS by the Rev. Michael Relyea, the Paris Maintenance Corporation was incorrectly-identified as the Local Union. Paris is actually the cleaning contractor whose contract was cancelled by the Episcopal Church Center. Its workers are represented by SEIU (Service Employees International Union) Local 32 B-J. Paris was replaced at the Center by Benjamin Enterprises whose workers are non-union.

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

MINISTRIES OF
RECONCILIATION, SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND PEACE

P.O. Box 21182
Park West Station
New York, NY
10025

Phone: (212) 699-2998

Fax: (212) 699-2998

E-mail:

coordinator@episcopalurbancau

cus.org

WEBSITE:

www.episcopalurbancaucus.org

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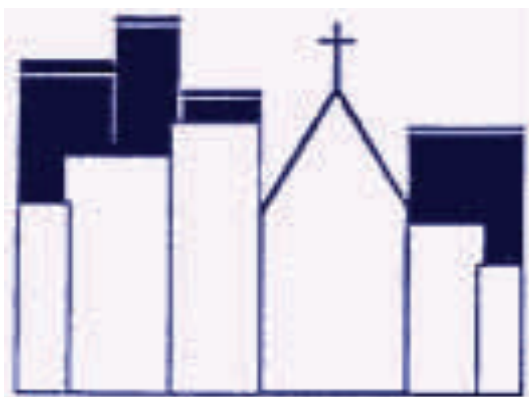
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**The 2011 Assembly: February
23-26—Pittsburgh, PA**

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS—Founded 1980



Building Bridges—Healing Connections

Building Bridges—Healing Connections in a Broken World is the theme for the 2011 Pittsburgh EUC Assembly.

Carol Gonzalez and the Rev. Nate Rugh are co-chairs of the local committee and have described their preparation for the 2011 EUC Assembly in the following words:

Seeking a theme that flows from and reflects the reality of who we are as a diocese in the context of a focus on social justice and peace, we seek to offer an opportunity for exploring inter-related tensions with grace and clarity while holding tensions in balanced simplicity. We seek a discerning way forward in effective advocacy and action in a more just and peaceful world.

Roman Catholic bishops reminded us a few years ago

that an awareness of the links between environmental degradation and urban poverty should deepen our advocacy, strategy and action as an Episcopal community. Climate change will have a disproportional affect on the world's poor. We must therefore continue to work for the MDGs so that we make links for collaborative action.

We hope to provide thematic clarity as well as breathing room at the Assembly in order to include the specific ministries of the Pittsburgh area that inform our speakers and workshops.

Amidst environmental and economic crises, rampant militarism and over consumption, we seek to address anxieties with action as agents of hope driven by faith, not fear. END

Pittsburgh Sites

AUGUST WILSON and **ANDY WARHOL** are two of Pittsburgh's native sons. Both the August Wilson Center for African American Culture and the Andy Warhol Museum are near the DoubleTree Hotel.

Other Pittsburgh attractions include the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, The Carnegie Science Center, the Frick Art and Historical Center, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Duquesne Heights Incline and the Pittsburgh Cultural District.

Plan to stay a few days and enjoy some of these sites. The weekend before the Assembly and the weekend after will be the same \$99 price at the Double Tree Hotel.

