

THE URBAN NETWORKER

WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2006

The Episcopal Urban Caucus

Founded 1980

• **Check our website at:**

- episcopalurbancaucus.org

Inside this issue:

Rev. Nelson Johnson Assembly Keynote Speaker

Rep. Martha Alexander to speak at EPF Luncheon

Youth call for First Intergenerational Workshop

A Glimpse at Saint Augustine's College

Remembering Annmarie Smith-Marvel

Farmworker Advocacy Network

What EUC Has Meant to Me: by Sarah Jarrett

REV. NELSON JOHNSON TO BE ASSEMBLY KEYNOTER

The Rev. Nelson Johnson will deliver Thursday morning's keynote address at the 2007 Assembly, speaking on Truth and Reconciliation. Rev. Johnson was born in Littleton, North Carolina on his family's farm. He attended North Carolina A&T College after spending four years in the Air Force.

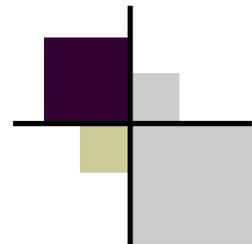
He has an extensive history as a visionary and community organizer for racial and economic justice both locally and nationally. He has served as Executive Director of the Beloved Community Center of Greensboro, as National Chair of Interfaith Worker Justice and as a member of the National Policy Review Board for the Labor Union UNITE-HERE. Rev. Johnson was among the individuals wounded on November 3, 1979 when members of the local community and members of the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi party clashed at a Death to the

Klan demonstration (reported in an article in the fall issue of *The Urban Networker*). He is currently the pastor of Faith Community Church.

In part of a final report on the happenings of November 3, 1979, in an article entitled, "From black power to multiculturalism," civil rights historian, William Chafe offers the following reflections on the leadership role of Nelson Johnson. Referring to a demonstration led by Johnson, Chafe acknowledges that the "experience highlighted the degree to which it (is) necessary, whenever blacks wish to secure greater economic, social and political justice, for them to break the rules... challenging the 'progressive mystique' with all its attentiveness to 'civility,' manners and public order. Hence, the (disgrace) cast on Nelson Johnson for daring to lead tenants in rent strikes, cafeteria workers in seeking a

minimum wage, or high school students who wanted to choose their own class presidents by majority vote. Johnson 'broke the rules,' and was an outcast as a result (because) he did not behave properly. "

We are indeed fortunate to have Rev. Johnson as our keynote speaker and we look forward to this outstanding leader's address on the topic of Truth and Reconciliation.



Representative Martha Alexander, EPF Luncheon Speaker

Martha Bedell Alexander is a Democratic member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing the state's one hundred sixth House district. She is also a homemaker.

As a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, NC, she serves as President of the Standing Committee, a member of the Court of Review and a

member of the Standing Commission on World Mission. In addition, she was a deputy to General Convention in 2003 and 2006.

Her past church activities include serving as a member of BRACE the (Benefits Research Advisory Committee) of the Church Pension Group and as chair of the Companion Diocese

Committee. She is a past member of the Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry, and has been a Stephen Minister Trainer, Chalice Administrator, Junior Warden, Layreader, Vestry member, ECW President, and Sunday School teacher.

We look forward to her EPF luncheon speech.



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

Saint Augustine's College, one of three Historically Black Episcopal Colleges (St. Paul's in Lawrenceville, VA and Vorhees College in Denmark, SC being the other two), was founded in 1867 in Raleigh, North Carolina by prominent clergy for the education of freed slaves. At Saint Aug's, Industrial Ed never became the sole focus of education, and over the years the school has become one of the most highly respected private, historically black coeducational institutions of learning in the country.

In recent years, the college's annual enrollment has approximated 1,600 students, nearly half of whom are natives of North Carolina. The remainder are from 37 states, the district of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, Jamaica and 30 foreign countries.

The college has a main campus that accommodates 37 facilities, three of which—its Chapel, Saint Agnes Hall and Taylor Hall—are registered as historic landmarks. A high percentage of its more than

10,000 alumni have distinguished themselves in a number of enterprises and professions. Among them are North Carolina State Auditor, the Hon. Ralph Campbell, Jr., the first African American elected to that position, Hannah Diggs Atkins, first African American elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Delany Sisters, the country's most renowned centenarians, whose publications of their best-selling memoir, *Having Our Say*, was made into a hit Broadway Play.

“Last year’s Assembly meant more than any other because ... we focused on homelessness.”

WHAT EUC HAS MEANT TO ME — by Sarah Jarrett (youth)

To start off I have been attending the Episcopal Urban Caucus since I was born. That means I have been to about 17 Assemblies. Even though I was not always part of the Assembly I learned a lot and gained many friends. The EUC is meaningful to me for different reasons. Every year it's like a new experience. I love being able to see old friends and gain new ones.

Last year's Assembly in Seat-

tle meant more than any other because the issue we focused on was homelessness. I am very committed to helping raise awareness of homelessness and volunteer at our local emergency homeless shelter whenever I have a spare moment. So last year was very special.

There are other reasons why I go to the EUC. I think I first started because my father is an Episcopal priest and that is one thing he attended faithfully with

my mother. It has really become a habit for me or just a normal thing to plan on doing in February. One thing I have enjoyed is listening to some of the lecturers and the banquet speakers. My two favorite speakers have been Ed Rodman who is a good friend of mine and Gayle Harris who is my godmother. I think that everyone should be able to hear them speak. Ed is just so powerful (continued on page 3)



February 2, 1934—
November 24, 2007

REMEMBERING ANNMARIE SMITH-MARVEL—Nell Braxton Gibson

Family members filled half of one side of St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston on November 29th and friends from far and near, including EUC and UBE members, came to pay tribute to the gentle spirit we knew simply as Annmarie. I went as a friend and to officially represent the Urban Caucus.

Canon Ed Rodman did a masterful job of capturing Annmarie's essence. Referring to her as “a tree planted by the

water,” he summoned the Spirits who were welcoming her into the pearly gates including her brother, Charles, who predeceased her by a month. Then he allowed members of the congregation to share their memories of Annmarie. Those of us who might have added our voices elected to listen as members of her family turned the homily into a very private look at a sister-in-law, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. These

private memories were as eloquent a tribute as was needed.

Canon Rodman ended by speaking of this remarkable woman as steadfast, faithful and the quintessential example of what it means to live through grief and pain without complaining.

Bishop Thomas Shaw reflected on her quiet presence. Bishop Barbara Harris was the celebrant.

Interactive Track Among Planned Site Visits

In 1989, two women, Maxine Solomon and Jill Staton Bullard witnessed breakfast sandwiches being thrown away in a fast food restaurant. From that observation the Food Shuttle was started and has grown into a powerful relief organization providing food for thousands every day.

Believing that hunger is unacceptable, the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle prepares and distributes wholesome, perishable food to the area's poor, hungry, undernourished and homeless. It

shares community support with volunteers of all faiths who donate 38,000 hours each year in coming together to help people from all walks of life. During the 2007 Assembly, EUC members who sign up for this site visit will have an opportunity to help pack lunch bags for distribution.

Some of the organizations' accomplishments are:

- Preparing 154,000 meals for homeless men, women and low income children
- Rescuing 5 million pounds of food from over 220 donors
- Delivering food to over 200 programs in seven counties
- Providing 500 grocery bags each week to low-income seniors and families
- Graduating 26 life-challenged adults from Culinary Job Training Programs



Farmworker Advocacy Network (FAN)

For the last five and a half years, Lori Fernald Khamala, a native of North Carolina has been an organizer for the National Farm Worker Ministry, an interfaith organization whose mission is to mobilize the religious community to support farm workers organizing for justice, empowerment and equality. Lori, a native of NC, graduated from Quaker-rooted Guilford College in 1999 studying Spanish and Community Building as a Vehi-

cle for Social Change. As part of her education, she spent two semesters in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The National Farm Workers Ministry will be part of Workshop #4, Advocacy for Economic Justice. The Farmworkers Advocacy Network was proud to be part of the victorious outcome of the Mount Olive Boycott with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the Taco Bell Boycott with the

Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

In February of 2006 a new EUC E-mail list was inaugurated . If your membership has lapsed and you would like to receive updates and announcements, you may download a membership form and send it with your payment of dues to our P.O. Box in New York. Those who register for the 2007 Assembly will automatically be added.

“FAN was proud to be part of the victorious outcome of the ... Mt. Olive Boycott with the ... Farm Labor Organizing Committee”

What EUC Has Meant to me—Jarrett (continued from page 2)

with his words and he can just make you listen.

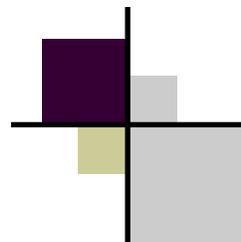
A minor setback going to the EUC has been being a youth and having some minor issues with the adults at the Assembly. However we are the future of this Assembly so it is really the adults' duties to teach us how to run it so that it can continue on hopefully for a long time.

The EUC has really been a

growing place for me. Every year I find that I like to talk out more and that when the youth plenary comes around I am no longer scared of speaking my mind. It is a great way to practice your public speaking.

The EUC has also helped me learn how to run for public office and lose. Even though losing is a bad thing it makes you learn why it happened and what to work on for the next election.

I could never think of not attending the EUC because it has become a part of me. It means so much to me and I think that everyone should be able to experience it no matter what.



EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

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

Phone: (212) 699-2998
Fax: (212) 699-2998

E-mail:
coordinator@episcopalurbancaucus.org
WEBSITE:
www.episcopalurbancaucus.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

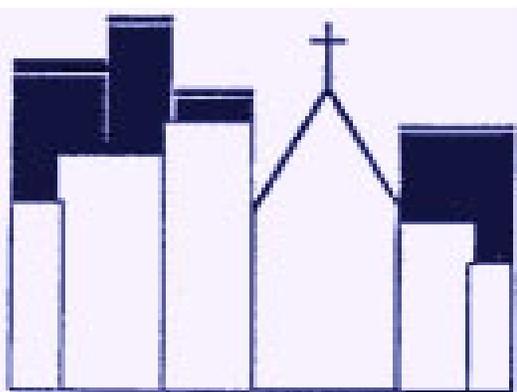
Officers:

The Rt. Rev. John Rabb
Robert Graham
Velva Wright
Diane Pollard

The Rt. Rev. A.C. "Chip" Marble
The Rt. Rev. Bavi Edna Rivera
The Rev. Jose Diaz-Martiniz
The Rev. Jane Soyster Gould
The Rev. Michael Hopkins
The Rev. Gail Keeney-Mulligan
The Rev. Charles Lane
The Rev. Constance Moorehead
Hannah Rose Baker
Hisako Miyazaki Beasley
Laura Chase
Liam Doherty
Emily Frye
Nell Braxton Gibson
Barbara Larsen
Katie Mulligan
Sheila Sims
Delois Ward

2007 Assembly Registration materials
to go out in mid December

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS—Founded 1980

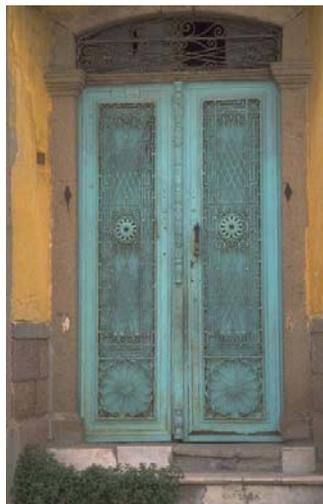


0

Youth Call for First Intergenerational Workshop

Building upon last year's workshop led by the Alternatives to Violence Project, youth members of the EUC have requested an intergenerational workshop, partnering youth and adults working together towards prevention of violence. Planners of the 2007 Assembly have responded to their request by planning a Healthy Dating/Healthy Family Workshop.

Research indicates that a foundation of healthy dating relationships leads to healthy marriages, which in turn lead to healthy families. The particular aspect of violence prevention this workshop will explore is helping teenagers form healthy interpersonal relationships, as well as recognize when relationships are heading in an unhealthy direction. Partici-



havior such as stalking, emotional manipulation and physical abuse. Adults will learn how to empower young people in the creation of healthy relationships.

The workshop will be led by Linda Winikoff, Attorney, Episcopalian and long time community activist in the Winston-Salem area.

With thanks to Kathy Pfister, local planning committee member and 2007 Assembly Youth Director, for the information provided in this article.

pants will learn how to help their peers value themselves as well as deal with negative be-