



The Episcopal Urban Caucus

Founded 1980

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- [episcopalurbancaucus.org](http://episcopalurbancaucus.org)

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# THE URBAN NETWORKER

SPRING ISSUE

APRIL 2007

## PRESIDING BISHOP ADDRESSES THE URBAN CAUCUS

On Thursday, February 8th the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori flew into Raleigh, NC to address members of the twenty-seventh annual Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. Placing an emphasis on Engaging God's Mission, she encouraged members to consider how the Caucus's mission connects to the larger mission of our baptism which reconciles the world to God.

She said that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are contemporary examples of what Jesus did in His time—providing adequate food, drink and housing. The provision of these essentials, she said, create shalom.

Reminding us that systems do not change through silent prayer alone, she said the Caucus has the ability to help the rest of our nation and our world understand how to be

healers for all humanity and she congratulated the Urban Caucus on the inclusion of youth in the important work of social justice.

The Presiding Bishop took time out from her attendance at the Urban Caucus to make a trip to the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where she participated in a celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the first Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, who was the first African American woman ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. In her homily Bishop Jefferts Schori made reference to Dr. Murray's autobiography, *Proud Shoes*, in acknowledging that, because of the life and witness of Pauli Murray we can all wear proud shoes.

That evening she was the Chief Celebrant at the Urban Caucus Eucharist honoring Saints of the EUC.



The Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori (Photograph courtesy of Sonja Bennett, Communications Coordinator, Diocese of NC)

## The Rev. Nelson Johnson Shows Grace in the Midst of Pain

Rev. Nelson Johnson, EUC Keynote Speaker, founder of The Beloved Community and victim of a 1979 shooting by members of the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party, held his audience spellbound as he extolled the virtues of sincere truth seeking that can ultimately lead to the restoration of a broken community. "Truth," he

said, "is the basis for correcting past injustices."

Johnson said there is a gift in having a discussion with someone with whom you disagree because that kind of conversation acknowledges the image of God in everyone and causes both participants to concede that, "the God that loves me is the same God that loves my

enemy."

Speaking of how the demonization of one group by another in Greensboro in 1979 led to scapegoating and placed the black community and its leaders at risk by dividing people, he shared methods for effective mobilization within a community. After bringing his broken community together again (p. 2)



Bonnie Anderson speaking to members of the Urban Caucus in Raleigh, NC

(Photo courtesy of Sonja Bennett)

*"If there had been a TRC to release people involved in slavery, what difference might that have made today?"*  
**Rev. Nelson Johnson asked.**



The Rev. Nelson Johnson addressing Assembly (Photo courtesy of Sonja Bennett)

## A CHALLENGE TO VALUE POLITY, PROMOTE JUSTICE

On Wednesday evening, February 7th, **Mrs. Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies**, thanked members of the Urban Caucus for their faithfulness and witness even as she challenged us to value our polity and to help educate people in the pews about the Episcopal Church and its work. Her words came on the eve of her trip to the Diocese of San Joaquin where she was scheduled to meet with members of the group, Remain Episcopal.

She challenged the Urban Caucus to use its mission priorities to promote justice and peace for all people as set forth in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to examine how the quest to eradicate global poverty connects to the quest for eradicating local poverty. "We need to look at both as one situation," she said.

"I support the EUC's agenda of inclusivity," she told her listeners and urged that we "all work to see that the goal of inclusivity is embraced across

the Church." In that regard she promised to continue looking at the composition of Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards as she works toward 50% representation of women and people of racial ethnic diversity on the CCABs.

She ended her address by thanking the Urban Caucus for its faithful witness as it continues to strive for change.

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## 2007 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

### 1. Resolution Opposing B033 of the 2006 General Convention

**Resolved**, That the Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, February 7-10, 2007 expresses its opposition to Resolution B033 of the 2006 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and be it further

**Resolved**, That this Assembly

call on all bishops with jurisdiction and Standing Committees to give their consent to otherwise qualified persons who have been elected bishop without regard to "race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age" (Canon III.1.2); and be it further

**Resolved**, That this Assembly ask the Board of the Episcopal Urban Caucus to determine

ways in which the 2008 Assembly might more completely address the issues raised by B033 and develop a strategy for its repeal at the 2009 General Convention; and be it further

**Resolved**, That this Assembly ask the Board of the Episcopal Urban Caucus to communicate this resolution to all bishops with jurisdiction and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church. (cont. on page 3)

## Grace in the Midst of Pain (continued from page 1)

Johnson entered seminary. He returned with a clearer vision of how to move forward. It was from this new vision that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) emerged, offering police officers, former Nazi and Klan members, lawyers and even judges who had presided at the acquittal of those who were guilty of the 1979 shootings, an opportunity to participate in truth telling.

Shortly after the TRC started

its members invited Archbishop Desmond Tutu to come and speak. He told them, "We all stand in need of a new way to face the depths of our past and to understand its present if we are to have a future." To connect the truth process to a social justice and social transformation process is the way of hope, Rev Johnson told his rapt audience then asked, "If there had been a TRC to release people involved in slavery, what difference might that have

made today?"

"Sincere truth-seeking," he said, "leads to quality restoration of a fragmented and broken community and forms the basis for correcting past injustices. Truth telling gives us the grace to forgive and is critically important at this moment in the life of our communities and our nation." He ending his Address by challenging us to "go forward together and forge new communities."

## YOUTH BEAT with Xen Sternbergh (cont'd from page 4)

raised issues of atonement and reconciliation. It was informative in that it showed just how influential, for good or bad, slave trading was. It showed an entire town that was founded on slavery.

The (intergenerational) workshop that the EUC had on "Healthy Dating," was held to help youth in their teenage years with relationships. Hopefully it would help them create and sustain healthy, non-violent, long term relationships. It discussed how the term

"bitch" is now applied almost as a compliment and proprietary term. Many of the youth, myself included, saw this as a falsehood. I have, and never will, call any lady that term in fear of the resulting consequences. Then the workshop went on to discuss what was healthy and what wasn't healthy in a relationship. The workshop overall was a solid experience that I am thankful for attending.

Now we come to the end. The EUC was not just all fun and games mind you. It was a

serious meeting of hard working adults and eager-to-learn youth who wish to do God's work on earth. They do this work by meeting and discussing what should be done, then doing it. With the EUC and a marvelous Presiding Bishop, who wrote me an excuse note for missing school, I see this Church really being an entity for, by and with God. *Amen.*

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Wendy Cernel and  
Xen Sternbergh,  
youth reporter

(Photograph courtesy  
of Wendy Cernel)

## 2007 RESOLUTIONS (continued)

**2. Appalachian Initiatives**  
*Resolved,* That the fund for Appalachian Initiatives created by the 2006 General Convention be allocated to Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM) to support that organization in maintaining coordinated ministry efforts with the National bodies of the various denominations thus replacing the work previously done by the Commission on Religion in Appalachia.

**3. Funding for Youth**  
*Resolved,* That as Bishop (Gayle) Harris has kept her promise to fund two youth at the Caucus, we call for reaffirmation of other bishops to explore making the same commitment.

**4. Bringing Youth to the Caucus**  
*Resolved,* That efforts should be made to bring more youth to the Caucus in order to create

a stronger youth network. Methods for accomplishing this should be discussed at the Board meeting.

**5. Youth Planning**  
*Resolved,* That the youth are an important part of the Episcopal Urban Caucus and we the Caucus can serve them in better ways in the future. We would like a committee to be formed to determine how (cont. below)

## More Resolutions

to better serve the youth.

### 6. Youth Director

*Resolved,* That the EUC explore the possibility of appointing a permanent youth director.

### 7. MDG Participation

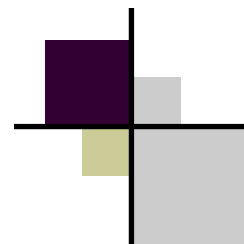
*Resolved,* That we contribute 0.7% of annual income from all sources to the fund for the Millennium Development Goals until such time as world poverty

has been eliminated in its entirety.

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## SAINTS OF THE EUC

The following individuals, now departed, were remembered in a Eucharist as Saints of the Episcopal Urban Caucus because their work in the area of Social Justice Ministry:  
*Chris Den Blaker*  
*Michael Lee Bryant*  
*Annmarie Smith Marvel*  
*Luisa Pommue Murrell*  
*Dana Rose*  
*Herbert Thompson, Jr.*  
*Frederick B. Williams*



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The 2008 Assembly will meet in  
Oakland, CA, February 13—16

## THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS—Founded 1980

### YOUTH BEAT - Xen Sternbergh Reporting

This year I had the honor of being selected to attend the 2007 Episcopal Urban Caucus. It is my understanding that the EUC has, relatively speaking, recently begun to have youth participants in attendance. Even with this somewhat new group attending, it was very easy to see the adaptations the EUC has made for the youth. The EUC has made leaps and bounds toward fully integrating the youth into the process of the Caucus. With youth being actual registered members and a youth dedicated workshop among other things, it felt as though the Caucus wanted me there and encouraged my input.

During the longer sessions



Youth and adults bagging food at the Wake Forest Interfaith Food Shuttle (Photo Courtesy of Wendy Cernel—youth)

of legislation, talking and listening to others give their reports on what they have been up to, I was able to observe and take note on just exactly what the adults do to run this Church of ours. With my experience as a Delegate to Convention for my church I had some idea of what

is done, but with this group I was able to see a more national perspective; with the resolutions being passed not only affecting the diocese, but other provinces as well.

During my time at the EUC I came in contact with many people, sadly names do not come to mind now, but the feelings and ideas passed between people at the EUC are still memorable. With a commitment to protect our future, the EUC looked back upon its past so that it may avoid mistakes already committed.

We watched as the DeWolf family traced their roots back along slave trading routes to Africa in a documentary film that (continued on page 3)