

Southern Africa Partnership Committee (SAPC) 2005 Annual Report

Context. The Southern Africa Partnership Committee (SAPC) has completed its second year. This ministry began with the passage of a resolution by the 109th Convention (2004), which authorized the recent work of the Southern Africa Partnership Task Force (2003). It continues a long standing relationship between the Diocese and southern Africa that began during the anti-apartheid struggle. The SAPC's ministry focuses on the Province of Southern Africa: Angola; Lesotho; Mozambique; Namibia; St. Helena; Swaziland; and South Africa. Highlights from the work of this committee include:

An “all-call” forum to the Diocese about the SAPC (April). Approximately 50 individuals from parishes throughout the Diocese responded to a call by Bishop Chane to hear about and ask questions about the first partnership between a U.S. Diocese and an entire province within the Anglican Communion. Several members of the SAPC offered presentations about the work of the SAPC, with an overall invitation for participants to join this ministry. This was also an opportunity to update our database and listserve.

Growing Parish to Parish Ministries. The SAPC has produced and distributed a brochure, *Making Connections with the Province of Southern Africa – a guide to parish to parish ministry*, that describes the resources available to parishes interested in establishing ministries with the Province. It includes ideas for building partnerships and examples of partnerships that currently exist between the Diocese and the Province. A subcommittee of the SAPC is in dialogue with several parishes which are in various stages of “partnership” with the Province. We continue to articulate ways to facilitate partnerships and welcome ideas for specific activities and projects to broker within the Diocese.

Hosting visitors from the Province. The SAPC was very pleased to host Bishop Meshack Mabuza and his wife Lucy, Diocese of Swaziland, during their July visit to Washington D.C. They gave a special briefing to the SAPC on the HIV/AIDS situation in Swaziland and the work of the Mother's Union which cares for orphans and vulnerable children in Swaziland. Bishop Meshack and Lucy were honored guests at a reception co-hosted by the SAPC and the Africa Round Table (St. Alban's Parish), attended by approximately 50 people who heard very moving accounts of the ministries and conditions of life in Swaziland.

The SAPC was also blessed in July with a visit from three clergy (Austen Jackson, Clarence Chee Mee and Leslie Adriaanse) from False Bay, South Africa. The clergy were on a “world-wide” tour and met with several groups within the EDOW during their stay to learn about ministries to schools and seniors.

Brother Timothy Jolley, Diocese of Grahamstown, South Africa, met with several SAPC committee members and spoke at Christ Church, Georgetown in May about the ministries of the uMariya uMama we Themba Monastery. Christ Church has been in relationship with the Monastery for several years and in November led a pilgrimage to South Africa

which included a stay at the Monastery and visits to several AIDS/orphans projects in the Grahamstown and Cape Town areas.

St. John's, Lafayette Square hosted guests from South Africa who have established a primary school called Kwasa (a Zulu name meaning "dawn" or the "light is coming)."

This continuing relationship between St. John's and an Anglican Parish in Springs, South Africa is nourished by the personal commitment of parish members in this Diocese and in South Africa. St. John's visited its partner in South Africa in 2004 and will return for another visit in February 2006.

Mr. Lyndon Metembo from HOPE Africa joined the SAPC March meeting and shared the vision of HOPE Africa with the Committee. He also reinforced the challenge for many in the Province to have access to the communication mechanisms to share their stories and be open to partnerships with EDOW parishes.

Establishing personal connections in the Province. Dr. Annie Brown, a member of the SAPC and faculty of Howard University devoted three months of her sabbatical to working in a South African government program which supports orphans and children with HIV/AIDS. She represented the SAPC in visits to Swaziland and South Africa by establishing personal contacts and identifying specific partnership opportunities within those countries.

Supporting specific ministries in the Province. The SAPC has submitted a proposal for \$1,000 in behalf of Reverend Nancy Tshabalala, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Swaziland, a congregation of women and orphans who provide food and clothing, and pay school fees for children in rural Swaziland. In addition, the SAPC awarded \$1,000 to St. Peter's (Poolesville) to support its feeding program (facility construction and all) in Richmond, South Africa and \$1,000 to the Mother's Union in Swaziland for its weekend care of young orphans.

The SAPC responded to a call from the College of Transfiguration to supply text books to the college library. These volumes were hand delivered by pilgrims from St. Columba's, Christ Church, Georgetown and St. Margaret's, DC in November. This event has also triggered opportunities for other partnerships with colleges and seminaries in the Province, as many are eager for updated and new texts for their libraries.

Reaching out through the SAPC listserv. The SAPC listserv continues to send periodic bulletins to its members. The most recent was circulated in December on *Giving Opportunities in Southern Africa*. Two education projects, one in South Africa and one in Lesotho were featured. Others will follow in early 2006 with a special focus on Swaziland and Angola.

The SAPC invites you to join the listserv and follow our progress on the Diocesan website, as well as consider your parish in partnership with the Province of Southern Africa.

Dr. Jane G. Schubert, Chair