

Southern Africa Partnership Committee (SAPC) 2006 Annual Report

Context: The Southern Africa Partnership Committee (SAPC) has completed its third year. It continues a long standing relationship between the Diocese and southern Africa that began during the anti-apartheid struggle. SAPC's ministry focuses on the Province of Southern Africa: Angola; Lesotho; Mozambique; Namibia; St. Helena; Swaziland; and South Africa. It supports the Province in addressing important challenges such as HIV/AIDS, women's issues, theological education, economic and social justice through partnering relationships between dioceses and parishes here and there. Highlights from this year's work of this committee include:

A Partnering Hearts Project launched at the 2005 Diocesan Convention provided information to individuals and parishes on opportunities (large and small) to contribute to projects in the various countries in the Province such as, providing support for school children, nutrition for women and children, support of HIV/AIDS vulnerable children and orphans, and supporting the College of Transfiguration Theological Seminary.

Hosting Visitors from the Province: SAPC was very pleased to host Bishop Dinis Sengulane of the Diocese of Lebombo, Mozambique during a June visit to Washington, D. C. This visit was particularly insightful in that the Bishop made an impassioned presentation on the need to combat malaria which is a bigger issue than HIV/AIDS in his country.

The Rev. Canon Jesse Sage from the Diocese of Grahamstown attended our September meeting and brought greetings from the Bishop of Grahamstown. Canon Sage was here to visit two partner parishes, St. Columba's and Christ Church, Georgetown.

SAPC was also pleased to host, in October the Rev. Orma Mavimbela from the Diocese of Swaziland. Mother Orma has a growing outreach program for children – many of whom are HIV/AIDS orphans. They are provided 2 meals a day, school uniforms, recreational and other educational programs. She spoke at St. Columba's and the Cathedral and then traveled on to the Diocese of Iowa to visit another church partner to Swaziland.

Outreach to Parishes: Several parishes expressed interest in information on partnerships, and members of SAPC provided presentations on partnership opportunities, among these were: St. Barnabas, Upper Marlboro; Trinity, Upper Marlboro, and St. Peter's Poolesville.

Four parishes are already involved in active partnership relationships: St. John's Lafayette Square with the Kwaza Centre in Springs, South Africa; St. Columba's, and Christ Church (Georgetown) in a joint relationship with the Seminary and Monastery in Grahamstown, South Africa and St. Peter's, Poolesville with the community of Richmond, South Africa. All of them are open to other parishes joining with them as a

way to participate in an already established partnership. Each of these parishes have traveled over to visit their projects and hosted visitors here.

Establishing personal connections in the Province: SAPC provides a forum where those from EDOW who travel to the Province of Southern Africa can report on the progress of various projects and/or provide information on new partnership opportunities.

Bishop and Mrs. Chane provided an exciting overview with narration and photographs of their fall visit to South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland. Mrs. Karen Chane provided a special women and children's issues report from these visits. The Bishop provided information on several new partnering opportunities. The Bishop's Advent Appeal **Children 2 Children** mite box program resulted from his visit to the Dukathole settlement where after his visit a fire destroyed over 400 shanties leaving 1,000 homeless children in desperate need of food, shelter and clothing.

SAPC received a briefing from Ray and his wife, Sue Carroll, of St. Dunstan's parish on their six-week visit to the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown, South Africa. Ray and Sue lived in the college community and taught a class on Christian leadership and management of churches. Ray plans to develop a management curriculum for the college and would like to share their experience with others parishes in the EDOW. This was an excellent example of individuals with particular skills using those skills to assist a program in the Province. SAPC would like to add others to its Skills Bank.

The Rev. Mpho Tutu met with us and reported on the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage (www.tutuinstitute.org), which she started to support people on spiritual journeys through retreats and pilgrimages (including South Africa).

An "All-Call Meeting" for anyone interested in the partnership was hosted by St. Columba's in September. Approximately 60 individuals from parishes throughout the Diocese responded to a call by Bishop Chane and SAPC to hear about EDOW's relationship with the Province of Southern Africa. Our 4 active parish partnerships offered presentations about their programs, with an overall invitation for participants to join this ministry. This was also an opportunity to update our database and listserv, begin development of a Skills Bank and to appeal to individuals to consider a personal ministry in partnering.

SAPC Retreat. Facilitated by Dr. John Cope, SAPC held a retreat in October for reflection, education and charting a new way forward with more focused efforts in communication and programming to involve more individuals and parishes in the EDOW partnership ministry.

Finally, the committee would also like to remember one of its founding members, Ellen Washington, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident October 25, 2006.

Dr. Annie Woodley Brown, Chair