

FOURTH WATCH

— Newsletter of The Province of Sewanee —

Province IV of The Episcopal Church

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Fall 2018



PROVINCE IV ELECTED new officers for the Triennium 2018-2021 at its pre-General Convention Synod at Kanuga in June. Pictured here are, from left, The Rev. Cn. Frank Logue (Diocese of Georgia), clergy representative to Executive Council; The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase (Georgia), vice president; Kathryn W. McCormick (Mississippi), president; Alice B. Freeman

(North Carolina), lay representative to Executive Council; Tess Judge (East Carolina), treasurer; and Mark Smith (Alabama), secretary. Also serving on the PIV Executive Committee will be Diane Gabbard (Lexington), PIV UTO Representative; and Becky Taylor (Central Gulf Coast), PIV ECW President.

Last edition of 'Fourth Watch'

Communications, network ministry changing in Province IV

This issue of "Fourth Watch," the newsletter of the Province of Sewanee/Province 4, is the last edition. In today's age of speedy digital communications, a newsletter simply is not the most efficient way to share news and information throughout the province.

"Fourth Watch" began in the fall of 2001. Scott Evans Hughes was then president of the Province and the Rt. Rev. Bob Johnson was vice president. Fresh with funding from General Convention, the Provinces were encouraged to hire coordinators (in our case, an "administrator") to help boost communications and networking to aid ministry initiatives in the nine provinces of the Episcopal Church.

I was hired in late spring of 2001, the first administrator for Province IV. Given that I was editor of my diocesan newspaper (the "Highland Episcopalian" in Western North Carolina) and



Willard

had worked as editor and publisher of daily newspapers in both Carolinas and in Georgia, one of my first tasks was to create a newsletter. Initially, "Fourth Watch" was printed in black ink on beige paper, folded and mailed via USPS to some 450 provincial leaders. It was a tool to share reflections, news items, upcoming calendar events and information about PIV's stable of ministry networks.

Its name was chosen from the story (found in three of the Gospels) of Jesus walking on the water... Matthew 14: 25 says: "And in the fourth watch of the night

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Reflections on PIV Communications

‘Fourth Watch’ last issue

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Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.”

The early Greeks had a system of keeping watch, broken into four time periods. The “fourth watch” was the time from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., just before dawn. In an obvious play on words, “fourth” referred to Province 4; it also symbolized a time of expectancy, awaiting the coming of the Lord and our attentiveness to God’s call to us.

“Fourth Watch” certainly has been a useful tool, but communications have changed over the years. We began our PIV website — www.provinceiv.org — in May 2011 and within a couple of years, the printed edition of “Fourth Watch” melded into a digital device. This allowed for color photography, expanded use of photos and images, and saved the province a considerable amount of money in printing and postage costs. (Our website continues as a valuable asset, both of resource material and as a repository for news and information on a timely basis.)

The digital “Fourth Watch” coincided with the use of email communications to connect with leaders in all of our 20 dioceses and elsewhere throughout the church. We continue to send email bursts providing announcements, dates and news items quickly to the 699 individuals on our master mailing list. Going forward, news items will be emailed on a more expedited basis. *(If you are not receiving Province 4 emails and would like to be added to the list, please send your contact information to: episcopalp4@gmail.com)*

When I first began this job, one of my tasks was to travel throughout the Province and meet with ministry groups as they assembled to plan and execute projects. Over the course of years, the ways we do ministry has changed. The old network system with a representative from every diocese getting together annually to share best practices and new ways of being the

Church simply has not been able to withstand the demands of individuals’ time and diocesan monies available for travel.

Some ministry groups have been decommissioned because new leadership did not step up to take the reins. In other cases, the “work” was taken over by different, non-provincial groups or ministries. And, in some cases, the network system continues to operate smoothly and efficiently.

In place of most network funding, Province IV has moved to a new system of providing ministry grants on an annual basis to creative initiatives that reward (and require) collaboration between dioceses and serve as models of mission enterprise to others throughout the Church.

Over the past 18 years, it has been my privilege to work with so many of you in Province IV and I’m grateful for the friendships I’ve made along the way. I have been blessed to work with Provincial Presidents who have inspired and encouraged me to do my best work. Thank you, Scott Hughes, Bob Sessum, Richard Miller, Angela Daniel and Kathryn McCormick. Wow! How fortunate are we to have had such courageous and visionary leaders in our Province. Little wonder we are known throughout the church by the fruits of our work in the vineyards of the Lord.

As I ease out of the role of Province IV administrator, I foresee continuing collaboration, more online web conferencing and webinars in our future communications. There is still a lot to be said for one-on-one contact, and I don’t think that will ever be replaced totally by digital connectivity. In fact, it is the very bonds of friendship and purpose that enable us, as the people of Province IV, to do the work we are called us to do.

Thank you all for a blessed tenure with you in this part of God’s kingdom.

— Gene Willard
Administrator

Stay connected in Province IV

If you are not receiving Province 4 emails and would like to be added to the list, please send your contact information to:
episcopalp4@gmail.com

Images from Synod:



Province IV Youth

New perspective: what it means to be the ‘Body of Christ’

Recently I sat with a group of young people and adults who were celebrating Holy Eucharist in the church where I serve as the Youth Ministries Coordinator. The Happening Team was gathering for a meeting to prepare for The Diocese of East Carolina's Happening #72. We began our time together recognizing God's Presence among us and inviting The Holy Spirit into all that we are and all that would be done together that day.

Everyone who was present had experienced the devastation of Hurricane Florence... in fact, some of our team members could not get to our meeting due to the destruction and flooding surrounding them. We sat close together on the floor in front of the altar rather than sitting in the pews. Our worship was amazingly powerful! No one wanted to move when the Liturgy had ended. We recognized that we were in a Holy Place within a Holy Time with people who felt the power and love of our God at work among us! We stayed within that sacred time and space to share our thoughts and our feelings together. **PERSPECTIVE...** we had experienced Holy Eucharist through a new set of eyes and from a new perspective. We had experienced a new beginning, a new sense of hope and a renewed understanding of what it means to be the “Body of Christ.”

In July, Province IV Youth Ministries had a similar change of **PERSPECTIVE** as we gathered at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Atlanta within the Diocese of Atlanta, at the Province IV Youth Event. 2018 Each diocese within Province IV was invited to bring high school young people and adults to participate within a service learning opportunity where we could share our lives and offer our service as we shared God's Love within the world.

After working and serving others on various worksites and within a variety of mission opportunities, we returned to All Saints Episcopal Church to immerse ourselves in learning more about peace & social justice. Our awareness was enhanced by “**POSTS FOR PEACE**,” an organization that seeks to support and build individual and community resilience, engagement, compassion, and cohesiveness



Posts: diverse, creative, collaborative

through creative, collaborative, inclusive experiences exploring and artfully representing relevant peace & social justice issues.

After discerning the social justice issues that were “burning” within the PYE 2018 Youth Community (Suicide, Gun Violence, Immigration, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Human Trafficking, Racism) we divided into groups to generate conversations that would raise awareness, stimulate deeper discussions and lead who people who would see our completed “**POSTS**” to take action and to assist in resolving injustices within our communities and within our world.

The 8-foot vinyl posts made in this PYE workshop were collaborative efforts with everyone adding something to the completion of the post. We

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Learning about peace, social justice at All Saints, Atlanta

PIV Youth discern social justice issues

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encouraged diverse and creative thinking as the PYE participants embraced multiple perspectives and greater universal understanding of the issues. With the support of two professional artists who assisted in the development, design, application, art techniques and final touches, these POSTS will be visually inviting, powerful, informational, designed with accurate eye-opening facts, visual stories and meaningful symbols. Each post will share the “heart-prints” of the people involved in making and supporting the ideas on the post. (*For more information go to “postsforpeaceandjustice.org”*)

Our Province IV Posts will be displayed in Washington, DC, at the United Nations, New York and traveling to communities throughout the United States to raise awareness of Justice, Compassion, Support and Hope. Thank you, Easton Davis, Diocese of Atlanta's Youth Coordinator, and The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, for hosting this incredible PYE 2018 experience!

So where do these fabulous ideas and opportunities generate? Each year Province IV Youth Ministries hosts the Province IV Youth Ministries Leadership and Network Meeting. On Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 2018 all dioceses within Province IV are encouraged to attend this year's gathering that will be held at the Cathedral Domain, Diocese of Lexington. Last year we had 15 of our 20 dioceses represented and this year we hope for all 20 dioceses to be come.

Our time together is a time of sharing, education, visioning, dreaming, planning, learning, worshipping and fellowship. It is a time and a place where we share our strengths with one another and where we can also ask for ideas that will strengthen areas within our ministries where we might grow. We need one another! We are the Body of Christ and the “Body” is at its best when

all parts of the community are there! Contact Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org for information.

As a part of Province IV continue to heal from storms, changes, obstacles and challenges, may we continue to pray for one another and to help one another. Province IV Youth Ministries is looking forward to the next part of our journey together as young people and the adults who accompany our youth embrace God's Grace and Love and our Call to Service, Justice, Learning, Peace, and Love.

— **Cookie Cantwell**
Chair, Province IV Youth Ministries



Painting posts for peace and justice



Welcoming Diocese of Cuba to TEC

For the last three years I have had the privilege of serving on the Task Force on The Episcopal Church in Cuba. This year I served as Lay Deputy 2 from the Diocese of North Carolina to the 79th General Convention. I had the opportunity of serving on Legislative Committee No. 6, The Episcopal Church in Cuba. During the committee hearings I listened and learned, was moved and excited, about the restoring of a broken relationship.

Among the testimony heard in our committee, there was one word that stood out for me, isolation. Isolation was not only heard but felt: for example, the isolation from the family, those of us in The Episcopal Church, who gave the Diocese of Cuba its birth.

And yet the Diocese of Cuba has survived; and, not only survived for more than 50 years but, even with very little resources, the outreach of the Diocese of Cuba has continued ministering to others. The Episcopal Church in Cuba is growing in membership, providing clean water, planting crops, reaching out to youth, and continuing to be a witness of God's love for all of His people. We have so much to learn from them.



Alexander

It was an historic moment and one filled with joy and tears in the House of Deputies when Resolution A238 was passed unanimously. The deputation came forward and was seated in the House of Deputies. (Even though I was not in the House of Bishops the day before, I understand the mood was similar and after a unanimous vote, Bishop Griselda was seated.) Not only was it an historic moment, the Holy Spirit was indeed present and people were overcome with this exciting and important moment in the life of The

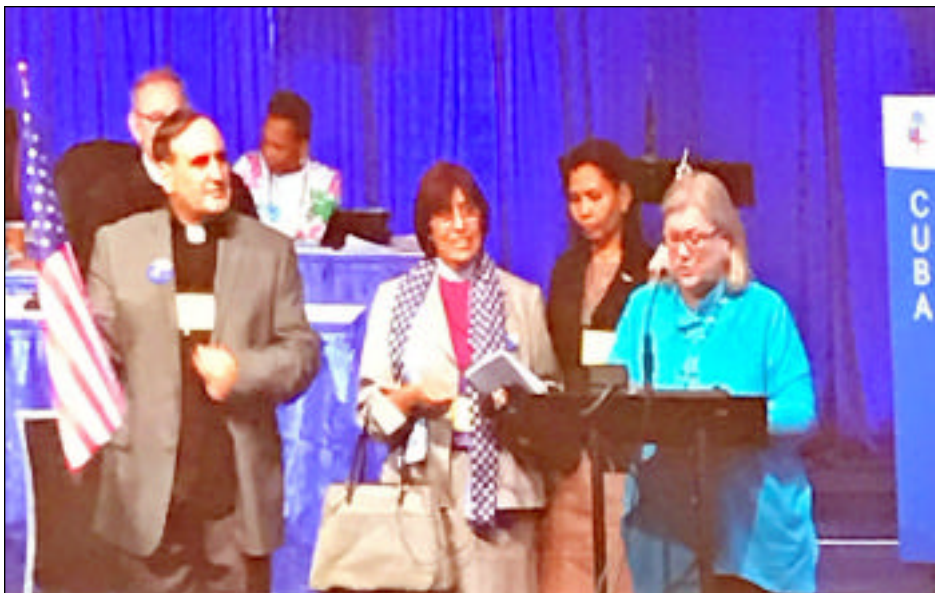


Photo by Martha Alexander

Cuba delegation welcomed to the House of Deputies

Episcopal Church.

In acknowledging the work that has been done as stated in the resolution, there is work that needs to be completed. The Working Group on Readmission of Cuba has been established and will address the details. This is the link to Resolution A238: <https://www.vbinder.net/resolutions/A238?house=hd&lang=en>

During the General Convention there were three specific issues that were addressed: reconciliation, evangelism and the care of creation. May we work together, along with The Episcopal Church in Cuba, to focus on these important issues.

Let us welcome our brothers and sisters in Cuba.

And, let us go together with hope, peace and love as part of The Jesus Movement.

— **Martha Alexander**

Chair, PIV Compaion Dioceses Network

(Please contact me if I can be of service to you and your diocese: Tel. 704-558-4670; email:

Provincial Calendar

- **November 15** — Province IV Executive Committee meeting, Hilton Garden Inn Airport North, Atlanta, GA
- **Nov. 29 - Dec. 2** — Province IV Youth Ministries Leadership and Network gathering, Cathedral Domain, Diocese of Lexington
- **December 5-6** — Provincial Leadership Conference, Newark, N.J.

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Anti-racism representative named to Executive Council committee

Province IV President Kathryn McCormick has appointed the Rev. Dr. Angela F. Shepherd as Province IV's representative to the Executive Council's Anti-Racism Committee.

Shepherd previously served on the committee as the representative from Province III (Mid-Atlantic states), but moved to Province IV earlier this year to become the seventh rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. St. Bartholomew's is a congregation deeply committed to radical hospitality, social justice, Christian formation, worship, and music. Her tenure began in March of 2018 and she is the first woman and African American to be called as rector.

Shepherd is a contemplative Gospel-based strategist who loves cradle to glory ministry, helping bring people closer to God, and working with others to make the world a better place. Before her move to Atlanta, her ministry in the Diocese of Maryland included serving on



Shepherd

the bishop's staff as canon for mission for eight years; she led and supported several initiatives. Her portfolio included leadership positions of chief operating officer for the Sutton Scholars High School Enrichment Program, and chair/co-chair and staff support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which focused on dismantling racism.

She was rector of St. Philip's, Annapolis for nearly 11 years. She looks forward to getting acclimated to Province IV and continuing the work on anti-racism on behalf of Province IV.

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