

## Board of Missions Annual Report to 223<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention

**Board of Missions membership:** During the year 2006, the Board of Missions worked with the Convocations and Diocesan Council to establish a rotation of members so that about one-third of the Board is appointed each year. This enabled us to fill some vacant positions, and reset the schedule so that the rotation was restored.

We give thanks for the faithful ministry of the following Board members who completed their terms in 2006: Mr. Charles Perfater (Diocesan Council, reappointed), Mr. Richard Baitzel (Burlington Convocation, reappointed), Ms. Mona Andrews and the Rev. Derrick Wedderburn (Camden Convocation), the Rev. Gretchen Zimmerman (Monmouth Convocation), Ms. Glenda Simmons and the Rev. Servio Moscoso (Northern Convocation, Fr. Moscoso was reappointed), the Rev. Francisco Pozo (Trenton Convocation), the Rev. John Cerrato III (Watchung Convocation), Ms. Rebecca Purchase and the Rev. Raewynne Whiteley (Woodbury Convocation).

We welcome the following new people who have been appointed to serve on the Board of Missions: Mr. Rudolph Meyer (Atlantic Convocation), Mr. Paul Wolfgang and the Rev. Pedro Guzman (Camden Convocation), the Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor (Monmouth Convocation), the Rev. Karin Mitchell (Trenton Convocation), Mr. Waring Webb and the Rev. Ann Holt (Watchung Convocation), Ms. Linda Macklin and the Rev. Valerie Balling (Woodbury Convocation). We are also pleased to welcome Ms. Debbie Crall, Diocesan staff liaison, to the work of the Board of Missions.

**Changes in clergy serving in Mission congregations:** During 2006, we were saddened by the deaths of two fine clergy: the Rev. Walter Duvall, who was serving the Church of the Annunciation, Lawnside, and the Rev. J Wesley Vanaman, who was serving Christ Church, Millville. "*May their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*" During 2006 the following clergy completed their ministry at the churches listed: the Rev. E. Roland Clemons (All Saints', Highland Park), the Rev. Ellen Rutherford (Christ Church, Palmyra), The Rev. Raewynne Whiteley (Trinity, Swedesboro), the Rev. Richard Garrison (St. Barnabas, Villas), and the Rev. Sunil Chandy (Trinity, Vineland). We are pleased to welcome the following clergy who began serving a mission church in 2006: the Rev. John Powell (St. Francis, Dunellen), the Rev. Jefferson Hulet (Christ Church, Palmyra), the Rev. Paul Rimassa (Trinity, Rocky Hill), the Rev. Barry Harte (St. Michael's, Trenton), and the Rev. Ann Wrede (Interim Vicar, Trinity, Vineland).

**Events and developments:** Perhaps the most exciting event to be completed in 2006 was the sale of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Tuckerton's 3,500 square foot building and the purchase of a 12,000+ square foot building. Through the use of Trust funds from the sale of two previous mission churches and the proceeds from the sale of Holy Spirit's building and rectory, we were able to complete this move, which enables that congregation to meet the needs of the rapidly growing region of southern Ocean County.

Also, during 2006, St. Clement's Church, Belford and St. Mary's, Church, Keyport discontinued their relationship of sharing a Pastor. Likewise, the Timbercreek Episcopal Area Ministry, a joint ministry venture of Church of the Ascension, Gloucester; Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellmawr; and St. Luke's, Westville disbanded. The Rev. Mantelle Bradley continues to serve as the Vicar of the two churches in Bellmawr and Westville, and the Vestries of these two churches have begun exploring the possibility of merger.

**Vicar and Lay Leaders Dinner:** On November 17, 2006, the Church of Christ the King in Willingboro served a delicious dinner and hosted Bishop Cuncell and about seventy Vicar's and lay leaders of our mission churches for an evening of mutual support, sharing, and learning. We had a presentation from the Loan and Grant Committee that explained that mission churches can have a professional building inspection completed and paid for by a special grant of the Loan and Grant Committee. During 2006, the following churches had such inspections completed: St. Clement's Church, Belford, St. Andrew's Church, Camden, St. Wilfrid's Church, Camden, St. Mary's Church, Clementon, Church of the Holy Communion, Fair Haven and Christ Church, Palmyra. We also had presentations from members and clergy of St. Mark and All Saints' Church, Galloway, Grace-St. Paul's Church, Mercerville, and Holy Trinity Church, Wenonah. We heard how these churches faced up to hard realities in the communities they were serving in past years and reached the difficult decision that the time was right to merge, and build new church facilities. Our goal is to provide encouragement and support to many of our mission churches that may have to consider this course of action in the future. Everyone seemed encouraged by how these churches overcame their initial resistance and the struggles of the early years of merger to grow into thriving congregations today.

**Visitations:** Board of Missions members visited the following mission churches in 2006 to help us further understand their particular ministry situations, and how we can be of help: St. Clement's, Belford; Holy Spirit, Bellmawr; St. Andrew's, Camden; Grace Church, Elizabeth; St. John's Church, Fords; Church of the Annunciation, Lawnside; Christ Church, Magnolia; Christ Church, Millville; Christ Church, Palmyra; Christ Church, South Vineland; St. Luke and All Saints' Church, Union; St. Barnabas' Church, Villas; St. Luke's Church, Westville; St. Mark's Church, Williamstown; and Christ-the-King Church, Willingboro.

**Looking ahead:** The Board of Missions issued a Special Report to the 223<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey in which we reviewed the past and present state of our missionary strategy, and offered thoughts on how we can partner with the Convention and Council in reviving mission strategy in the future. One of our main goals is to enable our Hispanic congregations to have stewardship training and resources in the Spanish language, with the goal of being able to greatly increase our Hispanic ministry in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of all the members of the Board of Missions, by,

The Rev. Lee Powers, Chairman  
Canon to the Ordinary

March, 2007