ecsetera

enhancing communication among area episcopalians

A publication of the Episcopal Commission of Southeast Tennessee (ECSET)

Summer 2007

ECSET Proposes a New Vision

A proposed new vision for ECSET will be outlined at the ECSET quarterly meeting on Monday, Aug. 27, at St. Timothy's.

The proposals to be presented for approval by the general membership include:

*The creation of a cooperative mission coordinator and the elimination of the position of metropolitan minister;

*The establishment of a new relationship between ECSET and the Metropolitan Ministry;

*The restructuring of the mission fund.

"The ECSET board realizes that the parishes want to participate in relevant, vital mission work," said Holt Westbrook, board president and a communicant of Good Shepherd. "The proposed changes are intended to achieve that goal."

The cooperative mission coordinator, which could be either a clergy or lay person, would help revitalize ECSET's parish relationships and expand the role of ECSET beyond its current focus on the Metropolitan Ministry.

"The vision is to discern, plan and implement mission initiatives that are in response to the needs identified by the representative ECSET parishes and communicants to reach beyond current ECSET mission programs to carry out the reconciling work of Christ," the proposal states.

Under the proposed change, the Metropolitan Ministry would be among the ministries with origins in the ECSET community that would be upheld. It would be headed by its executive director, Rebecca Whelchel, and have its own board of directors.

The third proposal involves combining the Mission and the Special Projects Funds and calling the combined fund the Mission Fund. The current uses of the

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Golf Tournament a Winner for Metropolitan Ministry

The Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry scored a hole in one at the State Farm Collegiate/Amateur Scramble held July 23 at Bear Trace.

Al Carrico

The ministry received $25,000, which represents proceeds from the event that paired foursomes of amateur golfers with a collegiate player. The scramble was followed by the 54-hole, two-day State Farm Collegiate Players Tour that attracted collegiate golfers from eight states.

"The tournament was a huge success," said Al Carrico, State Farm field executive and a communicant at St. Paul's Chattanooga. "State Farm, partnering with their national sponsors Enterprise Rent-A-Car, ServiceMaster Clean, Quest Diagnostics and other local sponsors were able to donate $25,000 to the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry."

The team of Rt. Rev. Charles VonRosenberg, the Rev. Canon Stephen Askew, Randy Nichols and Sam Bounds was paired with J. P. Putnam and won third place. "I was impressed with the whole tournament and the care in which it was run,"

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In cooperation with its member churches, elected representatives, and the Bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee, ECSET seeks to strengthen the ministry of the Episcopal Church by promoting fellowship and communication among member congregations and by providing financial and/or spiritual support for initiatives in the ECSET area. Those initiatives include the Metropolitan and Campus Ministries, St. Barnabas Apartments & Nursing Home, ECSET Youth Ministries, new worshipping communities, parishes with extraordinary needs, and other projects as approaved by the general members and the Board of Directors.

www.ecset.org

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funds are land acquisition, capital expenses and grants and loans for unspecified purposes recommended by the grants committee and approved by the board.

The purposes will be retained but tightened up and refocused, Mr. Westbrook said. ECSET will no longer be a grants-making organization but will focus on funding projects that are part of a larger Episcopal collaboration with ECSET providing seed money limited to a portion of the total cost.

The ECSET board also wants to remind member parishes that ECSET serves to communicate and collaborate, not just provide funding.

ECSET's mission is "Uniting Episcopalians to Serve God's People." To carry out that mission the board proposes it will:

1. Encourage and promote Episcopal collaboration on mission projects within the ECSET region.

2. Provide seed money for new mission projects within the Mission Fund guidelines.

3. Provide funding on a short-term basis within Mission Fund guidelines to mission projects which have begun but are not yet established. It is not intended that ECSET funds be used for operating or capital support for established or mature organizations.

The meeting will begin with Eucharist at 6 p.m. and will be followed by the dinner and the meeting.

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Bishop vonRosenberg said. "In my limited experience, it was second-to-none, but others with more experience made the same observation.

"The course itself, the college players, the supporting volunteers and the format in general all made for a very enjoyable event," he said. "And, of course, the Metropolitan Ministry is certainly a worthy recipient of the funding."

"There are not words to express my gratitude to Al Carrico," said Rebecca Whelchel, the ministry's executive direcctor. "He has shown what 'faith in action' can mean, using his influence not only to bring a windfall to Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry, but also to bring greater visibility to the agency. He and all the supporters of the tournament have made hard times a little less defeating for those who come to EMM for help.

"It is on their behalf that I thank Al, the players, the sponsors and all the EMM volunteers who pitched in to make it a great event," she said.

Ministry volunteers did such things as serve on the tournament committee, prepare box lunches for golfers, unload and load vans and serve a barbecue dinner.

Rectors of ECSET parishes are being asked to provide the Campus Ministry with the names of young people in their congregations who are attending UT at Chattanooga or Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

Operating in a building adjacent to Christ Church Chattanooga, it provides opportunities for worship, fellowship and food. The Rev. Jocelyn Bell, rector of Christ Church, is the contact and may be reached at 266-4263 or belljocelyn@aol.com.

ECSET Honors Lou Garcia

Helping the Rev. Lou Garcia and his wife, Sue, right, celebrate are Stevie Keown, Shelley Armstrong and Martha Westbrook.

The Rev. Lou Garcia's years of service to the hungry, the homeless, the desperate and those needy in other ways were recognized with a celebration of his ministry held at Bessie Smith Hall on May 17.

Rev. Garcia retired earlier this year as Episcopal metropolitan minister.

"Lou, this is your night," said the Rev. John Talbird, interim metropolitan minister, in beginning the evening of tributes that was presented by ECSET. "Lou loves all sorts and conditions of individuals."

Brother Ron Fender of the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, outreach case manager at the Community Kitchen, was introduced as someone who could speak on behalf of the many organizations that have worked with Rev. Garcia.

"Simply put, Lou Garcia is a holy man and to sit in his presence is to sit in holiness," Brother Fender said. "This is not for what he does, although Lou's work is a holy vocation. But rather holiness comes from who he is."

ECSET board president Holt Westbrook presented a plaque to the Rev. Garcia that indicated the ministry building had been "named forever" the Lou Garcia Ministry Center.

Alexis Sims, the 13-year-old daughter of ministry volunteer Martha Sims, said she wanted to pay tribute to Rev. Garcia because "he has always been like a father to me. Lou, you have always been a blessing to me and my mother," she said.

Rev. Garcia said the evening was not his but belonged to the "people I have worked with through the years." He thanked them for what they had done to date and expressed the hope that the ministry would grow and expand.

The program ended with a performance by the youth choir from Lamont Solomon Transfiguration Church and group singing of the Rev. Garcia's favorite hymn, "All Things Bright and Beautiful." The Dismembered Tennesseans also performed during the evening.

Worship Leaders Needed for New Nursing Home

Beginning a new and unique partnership with Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation, St. Barnabas has completed the construction of a new state-of-the-art, $10 million nursing home located on the Siskin campus. Patients and staff began transitioning into the new facilities mid July. Also, planning is in the works for major renovations for elder housing options and impressive expanded services at the original Sixth and Pine Streets location.

The St. Barnabas management team and board of directors welcome efforts by the Episcopal Church community to maintain a significant and conspicuous presence within their operation. The Rev. Kuulei Green is the chaplain for both campuses Monday through Friday (and on weekends for pastoral emergencies). She also serves as assistant rector at St. Alban's.

Among the many spiritual opportunities planned for the St. Barnabas campuses, the intent is to continue to offer a Sunday 11 a.m. Morning Prayer service in the new nursing home facility's Bonner Chapel, which was funded by the endowment of St. Paul's Chattanooga in memory of the Rev. John H. Bonner Jr., who was instrumental in the establishment of St. Barnabas.

Members of parishes throughout the ECSET community are invited and encouraged to participate in this ministry outreach opportunity. No license is required to lead Morning Prayer for this occasion. Rev. Green will provide training, if desired.

Worship leaders will no longer be needed to transport patients from their rooms to the service.

Also, there are several additional opportunities for volunteers at both of the St. Barnabas campuses. If you are interested in any of these offerings, please contact Rev. Green at: kgreen@st-barnabas.com or 991-9650 or evenings at 267-7122, or speak with a member of your parish clergy.

Rick Govan
Diocesan Ministry Development Facilitator

ECSET Goes Online

ECSET has launched a website. The site, www.ecset.org, is a showcase for what's happening in the 18-parish ECSET region and provides information about ECSET's history and a list of member churches.

Photographs of activities and services are included as well as links to outreach opportunities such as the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry and to mission and retreat sites, among them Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center.

Also featured is the ECSET mission statement, "Uniting Episcopalians to serve God's people."

The site was constructed by Jim Fisher, an ECSET board member and a communicant at St. Timothy's. He said the site is designed to strengthen connections among parishes through the sharing of information.

Fisher also serves as web master and may be reached by calling 870-5604 or online at fisher4403@bellsouth.net.

Support Our Metropolitan Ministry

Area Episcopalians can band together to help those less fortunate than ourselves through the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry's Human Needs Fund. This vital resource helps people who need assistance with food, utilities, prescriptions for the elderly and other critical necessities. Donations are tax-deductible and go directly to those in need, as all administrative expenses for the Metropolitan Ministry are funded through ECSET's budget. Please send your donation to:

Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry
1112 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

To make your contribution in memory of or in honor of someone special, please indicate on a separate sheet of paper (1) their name (2) "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" and (3) the name and address of anyone whom you would like us to notify regarding your gift.

Help Needed for Ministry Purse, Pantry

A day at the Lou Garcia Ministry Center generally begins something like this:

"Welcome to the Metropolitan Ministry. We always start here with prayer. Will everyone stand up and join hands? Now, who wants to pray for us today?"

Thirty-five clients can be seen at the ministry, Monday through Wednesday, and people start lining up outside as early as 5 A.M. Each person is interviewed by one of our trained volunteers who listens carefully to every person's story, looks at the individual's history on the community-wide computer system that tracks every client and tries to help with rent, utilities, prescriptions or--the best deal of all--a voucher from the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

On Thursdays Becky Whelchel, our executive director, and I meet to plan for training and meetings with other agencies with whom we often partner because none of us can do it by ourselves. Becky writes checks to the agencies to whom we have made pledges for that week.

We are now tracking those whom we cannot see because of limited funds and volunteer time. We are turning away about 20 to 25 people a day whom we cannot help.

We need your help. One hundred percent of donations to the Human Needs Fund goes to help clients. We also need canned goods, beans, rice, etc., to give people who do not qualify for food vouchers.

Each day as we pray I am reminded as we help these, our brothers and sisters, we are helping our Lord.

The Rev. John Talbird
Interim Metropolitan Minister

EPISCOPAL COMMISSION OF SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE (ECSET)
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