



Youth Ministry Report
by Kendall Bierer

at the 37th Diocesan Convention

November 17, 2006
St. Benedict's, Plantation

Good morning, my name is Kendall Bierer, and I am the secretary of the Youth Commission from St. David's in the Pines in Wellington. I have been asked to touch on a few points today by my President Douglas Dozier from Christ Church in Coconut Grove and my Vice President Christopher Kit Faiella from St. Stephen's of Coconut Grove who are both representing our diocese at the Province IV Youth Planning Network Meeting. I am supported also by the Administrative Assistant Keion Jones from St. Patrick's in West Palm Beach, and also the Diocesan Youth Coordinator Mary Cobiella.

As you may know, there have been many changes to our youth organization, and we would like to emphasize our dedication to the youth ministry of the diocese.

A variety of events have taken place in the last year. All of these events have provided the youth ministry with many voices and a chance to have them heard. Along with this privilege, we have also been given wonderful opportunities to have fun and get to know one another on a personal level.

Several of these events included peer ministry training for the youth, where teenagers were encouraged to listen to one another and grow from their experiences, Happening 22 which many of my friends are still talking about, and also the Acolyte Festival, which attracted more youth than ever before.

More than anything, the youth ministry has always placed a strong focus on service and helping others. This year we united with the Diocese of South West Florida and the Lutheran Church to participate in a mutual effort for the Mission Serve Project in Key West. Volunteers joined together to clean up the excess debris from previous hurricanes. Another service that the youth provided was participating in the Summer Camp at Day Spring with the Diocese of South West Florida.

One of the most important qualities of the youth involvement has been making ourselves heard. Delegates attended E3 at General Convention where David Pringle represented Province IV in the official youth delegation and addressed the House of Bishops regarding the youth ministry. Even further, some of the issues discussed at the General Convention were carried over for further inquiry at the 2006 Youth Convention. We had an opportunity to have open discussions with very knowledgeable and charismatic leaders such as Father Chip Stokes, Bishop Ottley, and Reverend Christina Encinosa. These discussions allowed everyone to participate actively and think openly.

Our upcoming events include the Christmas Ball, at the Chapel of St. Andrew in Boca Raton, the Acolyte Festival at St. Margaret's in Miami Lakes, and the 2007 Province IV Youth Event hosted by the Diocese of Mississippi, which will be a mission project to help the Hurricane Katrina victims. The Happening 23 that was initially scheduled for October of this year has been rescheduled for March, 2007, at St. Mark the Evangelist in Ft. Lauderdale.

The Youth Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank the Reverend Terrence Taylor for his ministry to the youth in our diocese. We would also like to thank all clergy, parishes, youth ministers, and volunteers, who have helped support the youth ministry this past year. We look forward to continued adult participation in the years ahead.

At General Convention, Millennium Goals were set. One of those goals was to have a strong emphasis on the youth in our church. We ask that you, as clergy and youth ministers, support the Youth Commission and nurture our youth and their goals. We are not only the future of the Episcopal Church, but also the present.

Thank you.