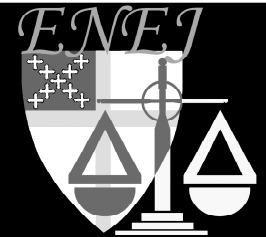


EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE



NUMBER 6

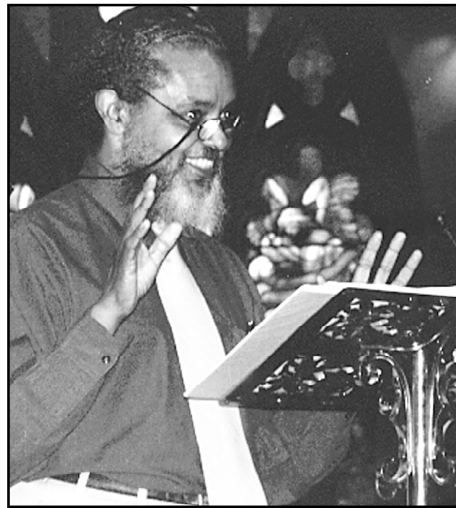
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2005

Justice is Orthodox Theology Group Gathers in Atlanta

Days before the Lambeth Commission issued its report in October, a diverse group of Episcopalians met in Atlanta to focus on a wide range of justice issues. With speakers that ranged from The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, Byron Rushing of ENEJ, The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson and The Rev. Winnie Varghese, the assembly was challenged to broaden the justice conversation and deepen the church's commitment to people in need.

The conference also presented 21 different workshops including A Response to Poverty: Asset Building in Communities of Need by three



Byron Rushing of ENEJ speaks to Justice is Orthodox Theology Group

ENEJ participants, Vicky Partin, Verna Fausey and Michael Bryant. Other workshops included Looking Ahead to the General Convention 2006, the Anglican Malaria Project, A Primer on the Separation Wall in Israel/Palestine, The Church's Commitment to Anti-Racism, Election 2004: Ecumenical Approaches to Peace and Justice and Creative Peacemaking. For anyone interested in justice work, the variety of successful models presented was very encouraging.

Attendees came from across the U.S. and met in plenary session to

THEOLOGY GROUP *Continued on page 2*

Urban Caucus Addresses Cities in an Age of Globalization

The 25th National Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus met in Newark, New Jersey the last week of February and the theme of the conference was Returning to Our Roots: American Cities in an Age of Globalization. Meeting in Newark is particularly significant as one of the urban hearings which led to the foundation of the Caucus in 1980 occurred in Newark. Historian Clement Price delivered the keynote address on Newark Since the Riots.

Learning tracks addressed such issues as immigration, jobs, health care, education, housing, economic

justice, labor and environment. The caucus featured a special Youth Track with 25 high school age Caucus members attending and included visits to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The caucus also featured the Episcopal Peace Fellowship luncheon and Rutgers University Provost addressed a special plenary from the perspective of government and the economy. Next year's caucus was scheduled for Seattle.

The annual meeting of the Episcopal Network for Economic

URBAN CAUCUS *Continued on page 2*



Michael Bryant accepts the Gloria Brown Award for the Good Samaritan Center of San Antonio at the ENEJ breakfast.

ENEJ Committees & Chairpersons

Executive Committee

Michael Kendall, President
Telephone: 212-316-7432
email: mkendall@dioceseny.org

Education Committee

John Hooper, co-chair
Telephone: 313-864-9562
email: hoopington2@sbcglobal.net

Sue Lloyd, co-chair

Telephone: 608-256-7250
email: aslloyd@mailbag.com

Advocacy Committee

Diane Aid

Telephone: 206-244-6488
email: sanmateo921@yahoo.com

The Rev. Dick Gillett

Telephone: 626-398-4146
email: dgillpas@mindspring.com

Capacity Building

Art Lloyd

Telephone: 608-256-7250
email: aslloyd@mailbag.com

Organizing and Empowerment

Michael Bryant

Telephone: 904-854-4444
email: freshmin4@aol.com

ECONOMIC JUSTICE RESOURCES

**Resources available through
ENEJ include training
modules on various aspects
of economic justice, a video,
and a booklet entitled
Community Investing:
An Alternative for Religious
Congregations Seeking a
Social as well as a Financial
Return.**

**For further information,
contact Michael Maloney at
meamon@aol.com**



Clergy participating in Justice is Orthodox Theology

Theology Group

Continued from page 1

suggest possible candidates for the next presiding bishop. A variety of issue groups including ENEJ had displays to share information about their activities. The group was welcomed by the Bishop of Atlanta and hosted at All Saints Episcopal Church of Atlanta.

Another feature of the conference was awards to the Giants of Justice and one recipient was ENEJ member, Verna Fausey, of Nashville, Tennessee (see related article on page 3). Many vowed to see one another again at the meeting of the Urban Caucus in February, 2005 in Newark.



The Rev. Winnie Varghese addresses Atlanta Conference

Urban Caucus

Continued from page 1

Justice occurred at the same time beginning with a breakfast featuring the Gloria Brown Award to an economic justice initiative. The 2005 Award went to the Good Samaritan Center in San Antonio, Texas. This 53 year old agency of the Diocese of West Texas has a variety of programs for youth and adults with the award focusing on the Get 2 Work job and educational program for more than 1000 at risk youth between the ages of 14-18 years of age.

ENEJ also elected Michael Kendall of New York as its new president and Aina Guttierrez of Chicago as the new vice president of the organization while creating strategies for the coming year for each of its four committees.



Rep. Byron Rushing, Michael Maloney, Diane Aid converse during a break at the EUC Assembly.



ENEJ president Mike Kendall, Maggie Alston Claude and Michael Maloney at annual meeting.

EGR Plans Third World Aid Strategy

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation met in December at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge to plan increased aid from Episcopalians to reduce human suffering. The group decided to focus on two 2003 General Convention resolutions calling for all dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their income to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In September, 2000, the United Nations, non governmental organizations, the World Bank and member states pledged to accomplish these eight goals to reduce human suffering around the globe, in both developed and developing countries by 2015.

A key 2005 event will be a week long visit by Archbishop Ndungane of South Africa in March when he will visit St. Louis, Washington, Atlanta and Birmingham to develop additional support for the initiative which would raise \$314 million if all Episcopalians commit. Archbishop Ndungane was one of the key speakers at the

2003 General Convention calling for the adoption of the resolutions. The website for the organization is www.episcopalglobalreconciliation.org which contains details of the initiative. The email address is info@episcopalglobalreconciliation.org. Printed materials are also available for use in congregations and at diocesan conventions.

Already more than 30 dioceses have pledged the 0.7% and EGR is developing a relationship with the Micah Challenge which is planning a major function with similar goals this fall in New York City. A template has been created for any diocese or province developing an event to increase awareness of these initiatives.

Among the delegates to the Cambridge meeting were representatives from the Every Voice Network, 5 Talents, Episcopal Relief and Development, FreshMinistries and the Massachusetts Jubilee Committee. Key leaders of EGR have included The Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas, Dr. Richard Park, Bp. Jeffrey Rowthorn and Bp. Arthur Walmsley.

A Salute to Verna Fausey

As we all know, there are many people whose work in the cause of justice and peace is done primarily behind the scenes -- quietly and tirelessly, behind the visible faces of the leaders of those movements.

I believe that Ella Baker coined the phrase: "We need movement-based leadership rather than leader-based movements." These people are often quiet sources of strength who make all of our work possible.

The woman we honor with this fourth "Giants of Justice" award told me that her consciousness as a social activist began in 7th grade when she saw a film about World War II, not long after the war ended. Some years later, in the early 1960s, when she was in journalism school in Syracuse, New York -- a place that means a great deal to me, as I lived there as a young child -- she marched against racism. While most people's eyes were focused on racism in the U.S. South, she was one of those who had come to recognize that racism was just as present in our nation's North.

But, indeed, it has been in the South that most of this woman's ministry has been lived out. And it is appropriate for us to honor one of our church's justice voices from the South, since we are here today in Atlanta. Many of us would argue that justice work is hardest in this part of our church, so we are especially pleased to raise up one of the advocates who work in this geographic region.

It was in the mid-1990s that I first came to meet this woman. I was a new, young member of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's (EPF) National Executive Council. She was the secretary of that body -- a person who not only did peace work in her own place, but quietly took the minutes of our meetings to help us get the work done. She served

in that low-profile capacity for almost a decade.

Since those EPF days, I've come to think of her as the "Ultimate Justice Volunteer," since she always does the hard work that needs to be done to move forward our justice agenda. She is now one of the small group of people who do most of the grunt work for the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice (ENEJ).

I was looking through my email inbox the other day and found a message posted by this woman to that group's listserve back in the summer. Someone needed to find some economic justice resolution from last year's General Convention. In response, our awardee volunteered to compile and send out a whole list of related resolutions from the General Convention and Executive Council of the Church!

Someone once said something to the effect of "half of life is just showing up." This person SHOWS UP. You will find her at every event, gathering, conference where justice and peace are being addressed. We are so glad she is here with us today. This quiet "Giant of Justice" is Verna Fausey.

Ethan Vesely-Flad -- Editor, "The Witness" -- NEW PHONE 212-426-9881. Since 1917, organizing the church's progressive movement for gospel justice <http://www.thewitness.org/>, 510-701-5267 (cell), ethan@thewitness.org.



Witness Editor Ethan Vesely-Flad congratulates Verna Fausey on her award

Growing Our Economic Justice Network

The catch-22 of organizations, like ENEJ, which seek to implement their vision of justice, comes down to this: How can the mission be carried out without adequate funding and how can that funding be secured without the mission being implemented?

Since the work of the Network is primarily local - but scattered across the country, in many dioceses and congregations, our challenge is to make this work visible throughout the Church so that our people, most of whom are privileged, see why economic justice is central to the Gospel and why economic justice funding is a high priority. To do so requires that economic justice work - whether advocacy for workers' rights in our communities, or building community financial institutions like diocesan credit unions to support working and low-income communities, or creating educational resources for parishes and individuals around issues of faith and economics, or investment opportunities in so-called alternative investments - be made visible and appealing.

For groups like ENEJ, comprised of volunteers scattered around the country and with only one half-time paid staff person, this constitutes a challenge. The Capacity Building Committee, whose purpose is to expand our membership and funding for ENEJ's program, has worked at this challenge in various ways. We continue to build membership by our appeal letters - which outline the work of the Network - to individual church members, dioceses and parishes, as well as related networks such as Jubilee Ministries and the Urban Caucus. Currently we have about 260 individual members, 26 Diocesan memberships and 50 plus parishes and church

organizations.

We have also prepared a template for developing proposals to foundations but, constrained by a small committee and very limited staff time, have put foundation grant-seeking on hold while we focus on building the Network through expanding memberships at all levels.

Recently we have identified the need to tell and share the economic justice stories of those engaged in

the work, whether the church-related organizations - credit unions, community development corporations or parishes engaged in housing efforts - such as groups which have been honored with ENEJ's Gloria Brown award (named for the National Church's first economic justice staff person) - or church members, lay and ordained, who have been leaders in advocacy for working and poor people, some of whom we have honored with the

ECONOMIC JUSTICE *Continued on page 5*

Wealth Building in Communities of Need

One persistent problem in breaking the cycle of poverty has always been the challenge of low income people accumulating wealth. FreshMinistries in Jacksonville, Florida discovered two underutilized federal programs that can help people begin to build wealth.

One program encourages people to use the earned income tax credit (EITC) which provides a refund for people with low wage jobs. A parent with more than one child can earn up to \$34,000 a year and qualify for an EITC credit up to \$4300. Fresh Ministries joined numerous other Jacksonville community organizations to create free tax preparation sites where residents can apply for the credit and have their tax return prepared at no cost by trained volunteers. At the same time, people are given information about financial literacy training and encouraged to place a part of their refund into a matched savings program. The federal government provides a federal matching dollar for every dollar saved

in an individual development account (IDA) and FreshMinistries agreed to raise an additional dollar of local funds so the participants receive a two for one match of every dollar saved.

As a result, a person who saves \$2000 over two years would receive an additional \$4000 toward one of three major life goals, buying a home, post-secondary education or starting a business. FreshMinistries has enlisted more than 20 community organizations as IDA partners to increase financial literacy training and expand the use of these matched savings accounts in Jacksonville. Each person in the program has a counselor who helps them work toward their dream.

By combining the EITC with an IDA, a person of limited means can begin saving toward a major change in their circumstances with federal and local matching funds to help. Community groups in other cities are encouraged to establish a similar program to help break the cycle of poverty.

Economic Justice Workshop Series Available

The ENEJ is making available its workshop series produced with the non-profit organization United For A Fair Economy. Currently, 5 workshops are available free from our website or for a small cost in hard copy or on disk which can be ordered from Mike Maloney, (meanmon@aol.com). The materials include how-to information for trainers/facilitators as well as participant packets. Much content is provided with talking points for the leaders and also suggested methods for presentation and discussion. The workshops are flexible for use in various time periods and in parish or diocesan/other settings. A sixth workshop is currently being prepared on The Church and Its Money, which notes that every budget is a moral document that illustrates the values and ethics of the institution adopting it. The workshop will be applicable to church budgets at the national, diocesan and parish levels.

The five available workshops can be

briefly described as follows:

1) A Christian Response to Economic Inequality identifies and compares Christian values and signs of the economy around us. This workshop looks at key features and trends in our economy such as prosperity and inequality and the group spends time responding to a set of Christian principles for Economic Life.

2) The Real Threat To Family Values focuses on what a family-friendly economy would look like by identifying family-oriented economic indicators and the real roots of family insecurity as related to job availability, earnings, health insurance, pensions and dual-worker families.

3) Why the Economy Isn't Working For Workers explores how values and principles from faith inform our understanding of and response to our economic life and how income trends affect working people, especially low income

workers.

4) The Global Economy introduces basic concepts of the global economy, connecting global issues to US issues, including why we should care about the global economy. The workshop looks at how corporate power affects the establishment of the rules and agreements affecting international trade, and how decisions of the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO affect our lives. It explores how congregations can oppose free trade agreements by looking at where the clothes we wear were made and the "race to the bottom."

5) Making Sense of Recession is a learning vehicle about business cycles, downturn and recovery in the areas of jobs/employment, spending and investment. It looks at how stimulation policies affect economic equality and workers and whether actions dealing with recession can increase economic equality.

Economic Justice

Continued from page 4

Hugh White Trumpet of Justice award.

How you can help: Send us stories of economic justice work that you or your parish are engaged in. Recruit your diocese and parish to join the Network, if they have not already done so. If you have contact with foundations that might fund our work or if you have grant-writing experience that you can volunteer, please let us know. If you can help in any of these areas or would like to strengthen ENEJ by joining our Capacity-Building Committee, please contact our staff person, Mike Maloney, at meamon@aol.com.

ENEJ NOW HAS ITS OWN WEBSITE

For detailed information about the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice, visit our newly revised website at www.enej.org. You will find news, events and resources about economic justice work in the Episcopal Church and beyond!

RESOURCES

- **Community Investing: An Alternative for Religious Congregations Seeking a Social as well as a Financial Return** © The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice, September 1999.
- **Resources for loan funds**, Episcopal Network for Economic Justice, Sue Lloyd, Co-Chair, 1104A Mound Street, Madison, WI 53715. Telephone 608-256-7250, Fax: 608-256-9991 email: aslloyd@mailbag.com
- **Various resources** available through our president, Michael Kendall, and other ENEJ Steering Committee Members listed on our website under Steering Committee. Telephone 212-316-7432, email: mkendall@dioceseny.org
- **Jubilee Ministry** : Has your parish ministry been designated as a Jubilee Center by the National Church?
Jubilee Centers are eligible for grants through the Episcopal Relief and Development fund and other valuable support through participation in a national network.
For more information, contact your diocesan Jubilee Ministry officer or The Rev. Canon Carmen Guerrero, Office of Jubilee Ministries, Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Telephone 800-334-7626, email: cguerrero@episcopalchurch.org
- **Economic Justice Loan Committee**: The committee is given stewardship of \$7 million to make loans to projects to benefit poor and marginalized people, for such purposes as low cost housing or establishing credit unions. Contact: Harry Van Buren, 504 Orchard Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613, Telephone 319-266-4088, email: HarryVB@aol.com
- **Episcopal Relief and Development Fund**: Episcopal Church Center, Mary Becchi, Deputy Director of Program and Program Planning, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017, Telephone 800-334-7626 #6121, e-mail: erdid5@er-d.org www.er-d.org Grant deadlines are March 15 and August 15.
- **Related Web Sites**: Worker Justice www.interfaithworkerjustice.org
- **The Witness**: www.thewitness.org
- **Wage Campaigns**: www.livingwagecampaign.org
- **Education Committee**: now have available five alternative economic justice training modules. John Hooper, 17424 Quincy, Detroit, MI 48221. Telephone 313-864-9562, email: hoopington@sbcglobal.net or download at www.enej.org.

ENEJ Board Member Recognized for Community Credit Union Work

LOS ANGELES LAY LEADER URLA ABRIGO, chief executive officer of the Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union serving the Diocese of Los ANGELES, was recognized June 25 by the Los ANGELES City Council on the occasion of the credit union's 10th year of service. A formal proclamation was presented at City Hall by council members who praised Abrigo, her leadership, and the credit union for the support it provides, especially to low-income residents of Southern California. Urla is a longtime member of ENEJ and currently serves as its treasurer.

With nearly \$5 million in assets, the credit union she leads was formed in response to the 1992 civil disturbances in Los ANGELES. The late Gloria Brown, a former staff member of the Episcopal Church Center in New York, was among founders who built the credit union using a \$100,000 initial grant from the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, known today as Episcopal Relief and Development. Further information about the credit union may be obtained by phoning 213-482-2040, ext. 256. Community credit unions across the nation have become an important source of capital and loans for low to moderate income neighborhoods that are often not being served by traditional banks.

ENEJ

1131 North Laura Street
Jacksonville, Florida
32206

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 3037