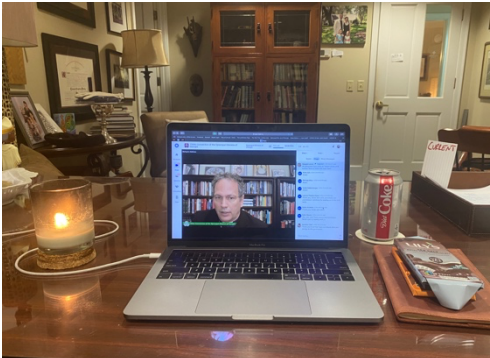


Thriving in the Vine

199th Annual Diocesan Convention



Several members of the Christ Church family attended (virtually) the 199th Annual Diocesan Convention, *Thriving in the Vine* this past weekend to discuss Diocesan business. There were more than 200 clergy, delegates and guests present. We were represented by our four clergy. Four delegates were also in attendance: Beth Smith, Alice Barlow, Paul Salter, and Te Turner.

Friday, we were honored to hear the Bishop's State of the Diocese address, in which he praised the creative work across the diocese in dealing with the COVID crisis. He spoke of the virus's impact on fellow parishioners, friends and family members. In addition, 3 in 10 churches report giving down significantly. 70% of our congregations report better or about the same or slightly less than in previous years. The bishop expressed deep concern for a quarter to a third or more of our parishioners who have not engaged with their church since mid-March. These are people who have "not been able to connect. Not all of our people have been thriving during this difficult season." There was a presentation regarding Racial Reconciliation and Healing Ministry, including funds that have been provided via a grant the Diocese received from an Episcopal Church, some of which are being used with an ecumenical effort with clergy in Glynn County. Honey Creek director Dade Brantley provided an update concerning Honey Creek. We ended the evening with a peaceful and serene Compline.

Saturday, began with Morning Prayer. We then were tasked with electing new representatives for many Diocesan positions: Disciplinary Board, Board of Corporation, Diocesan Council, Standing Committee and Trustee of University of South. We are very proud to announce our own Alice Barlow was elected to the Diocesan Council by the Southeast Convocation. We're also honored to announce Father Tom was elected as the Diocese of Georgia Clergy Trustee of the University of the South. We heard many reports on various aspects of the Diocese: Commission on Ministry, Companion Diocese, Cursillo Report, Education for Ministry and Episcopal Youth and Children's Services to name a few.



Bishop Frank Logue closed the convention with a timely and uplifting Holy Eucharist. His message was based on John 15:1-11, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." He gave an example of clearing brush on the Appalachian Trail and working hard all day without making a noticeable dent in the pile. His point was "working steadily without looking for immediate change can accomplish so much more." His message to us was to be patient and continue to strive to serve the lord and with God's help we can thrive on the vine. Through our faithfulness, we can bear much fruit.

Further information may be found in our handbook:

<https://gaepiscopal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Convention-Booklet-2020-1.pdf>