Chanco Chatter

A Message from Bishop Susan

"As another summer season begins at Chanco on the James, Bishop Susan Haynes shares a word of welcome and gratitude for campers, families, staff, and all who help make this ministry possible."

Dear Chanco Families,

As summer approaches and campers prepare to arrive at Chanco on the James, I want to take a moment to welcome you and thank you for being part of this special community.

For generations, Chanco has been a place where young people experience adventure, friendship, growth, and belonging. Nestled along the James River, it offers opportunities to unplug from daily routines, connect with nature, build confidence, and create memories that often last a lifetime.

As the camp and retreat center of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, Chanco is rooted in the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition of welcoming all people. Here, campers are invited to explore questions of faith, purpose, compassion, and community. Whether your family is deeply involved in a church, connected to another faith tradition, or simply seeking a meaningful summer experience, you are welcome here.

Throughout the week, campers will participate in worship, reflection, and conversations that invite them to consider how they can connect with God, care for one another, appreciate the beauty of creation, and discover their own gifts. Most importantly, Chanco is a place where young people are reminded that they are valued, loved, and capable of making a difference in the world around them.

Thank you for entrusting your children to the dedicated staff, counselors, chaplains, and volunteers who make Chanco possible. We pray for a safe, joyful, and transformative summer season for every camper who enters through the tree-lined drive.

I look forward to hearing the stories, seeing the smiles, and celebrating all that God will do through this ministry in the weeks ahead.

With every blessing,

+Susan

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes
Bishop Diocesan