

Union of Black Episcopalians, Earl B. Scott Chapter
Report to the 225th Annual Diocesan Convention
January-December 2008

January 2008 – Annual Business Dinner Meeting was very well attended. The guest speaker was a young black seminarian from VTS, Charles Fischer III. He spoke to our hearts on The Work of God. We were able to reach out to St. Augustine, Atlantic City and gain new members.

February 2008 – The annual Absalom Jones Service of Witness was held on Feb. 17th. This is a combined service of all the black churches of the Diocese. U.B.E., along with The Black Clergy Caucus plans this service each year. It was well attended.

For Black History Month, Annette Buchanan spoke to the congregation of St. Augustine, Atlantic City. She told the U.B.E. story and the importance of The Union's history among the world-wide church. We were able to gain eight new dedicated members.

Diocesan Convention – Feb. 29th and March 1st

U. B. E. was in attendance and visible during the convention. U. B. E. encouraged people of color to run for various offices and was successful with numerous individuals getting elected.

March – April 2008 – We focused on the final plans for The Mid Atlantic Conference, being held on April 18th and 19th at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, N.J. On Friday evening, Rev. Renee McKenzie Hayward led a Bible Study. Two dynamic speakers, Rev. Canon James Wynn and Charles Wynder (Washington D.C.) presented workshops on Saturday on leadership with the focus on youth and young adults. The theme of the conference was "Leadership: Repositioning for Growth". We experienced an uplifting weekend, filled with worship and fellowship.

May 2008 – Our meeting was held at St. Augustine, Camden where we discussed the meaning and goals of Urban Ministry within the Diocese of New Jersey and planned a workshop for September 20th to put concrete initiatives in place for the upcoming year.

June - July 2008 – Our final meeting was held at St. Mary's Pleasantville where we had a picnic at the church's gazebo and rededicated ourselves to the service of U. B. E. and paid homage to The Rev. Earl B. Scott, our founding father of this chapter.

Several members attended The National Conference in Philadelphia from June 29th through July 3rd. Bishop Cancell was in attendance at the opening service. This was our 40th anniversary year and at the banquet, we honored Rev. Tom Logan Sr. and the late Rev. Paul Washington. The highlight of the conference for many was a church tour of St. Thomas, St. George, Christ Church and Mother Bethel. The 2009 National Conference will be held in Washington D.C.

August 2008 – Our meeting was held at St. Augustine, Atlantic City. We had discussion on the Urban Ministry Workshop and all we encouraged to attend. Rev. Haroldean Ashton, St. Albans has retired. Several members attended her celebration and Rev. Terrence Roshevel celebrated forty years in the priesthood this month.

September 2008 – The Urban Ministry Workshop, held on Sept. 20th at Trinity Cathedral was well attended. The leader was Mrs. Nell Baxter Gibson, Coordinator of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. We had to define Urban Ministry and how we go forward with this ministry. We plan to meet on a quarterly basis to move forward with our goals.

October 2008 – The meeting was held at Christ the King, Willingboro. Several members attended The Service of Repentance, held at St. Thomas, Philadelphia, PA. The Presiding Bishop apologized

on behalf of The Episcopal Church for the slavery trade in this country and expressed hope for the future in eradicating racism.

November 2008 – The meeting was held at St. Mark's, Plainfield. All were encouraged to attend the next Urban Ministry meeting on December 6th at Trinity Cathedral.

December 2008 – Two representatives from the State of New Jersey was in attendance to offer their expertise on urban issues. We plan to begin the process with education and hunger. It is critical that we connect urban and suburban areas. We need sensitivity training, community organization and an advocate at The Diocese.

Our final meeting was held at St. Augustine, Asbury Park, with our annual AIDS Project. We were able to gift wrap fifty boxes (men and women) with toiletries (of all kinds), candy, cookies, and reading material. They were given to a local AIDS Outreach Center at the shore area. We have sponsored this project for over eighteen years.

Humbly Submitted,

Linda Shomo
Recording Secretary