

## Diocese of Florida Annual Convention 2016

The 173<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Florida, with the theme "We are Ambassadors of Christ" took place January 22-23, 2016 in Jacksonville, Florida. The Convention Delegates from St. Thomas were: Father Frank Hull, Karen Merrell, Don and Marilyn Gingles.

The Convention began with an Opening Eucharist at St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville. The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard presided. A copy of the Eucharist may be found on the bulletin board outside the Church Offices.

The Convention Guide may also be viewed on the bulletin area. Bishop Howard served as moderator for the business portion of the Conference. Nominations for Diocesan Council, Disciplinary Board, and Standing Committee as shown in the Guide were approved. The Canonical changes (noted in red) in the Guide, and the 2016 Common Ministry Budget were approved.

As to Other Business:

Bishop Howard is going to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission with the following Goals:

(Increase) Christian Giving

(Increase) Growth:

30% in five years

One new Church in each Region in ten years

Encourage young people to join the Church

Hispanic Ministry

Bishop Howard asked to Convention Attendees to:

..look into our communities for the needs of them to attend Church

..not be afraid to talk about Jesus Christ

..talk about evangelism and giving

..work on the Youth to go to Church

..pray for the return of the traditions on the Anglican Church

..live again in Jesus Christ

The Bishop announced:

Rev. Rich Clark is the Canon for Youth Development

John Baker is the new head of the Foundation

The retired Bishop of Peru Bill Godfrey gave a short speech, stating in his twenty years in Peru they have increased the missions from five to forty; he's asking for taking care of lay ministers in defining what they are to achieve, further stating his Christian philosophy is: learning how to live a Christian life, believe in Jesus Christ, you can't be a Christian alone and must go to Church, and to read the Holy Scriptures.

Rev. Charles Walter, Interim Director of the Ceverney Conference Center and Camp Weed, spoke to the programs being initiated, i.e. Bishop's Institute, and increasing programs to bring the youth to camp.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don & Marilyn Gingles