

Reports of Institutions



225th Annual Convention

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina



www.yorkplace.org

www.thompsoncff.org

You helped Tim believe in himself again!

“In only a short time I have seen so much improvement,” Jenn says of her son Tim who has been seeing a Thompson therapist for a few weeks now. “I know that does not mean we are where we need to be, but I am so happy to see that he is already making such progress!”

Jenn was beginning to feel that her precious 9-year-old boy was slipping away from her. She could tell that he was down on himself a lot of the time. He withdrew from his friends and began spending hours on end shut away in his bedroom. Jenn said that she felt Tim had “lost his confidence.” Feeling just as lost as her son, she did not know where to turn for help. Then Jenn reached out to Thompson’s Community Counseling Center to see if they could help get her boy back to himself again. In less than a month, Jenn has seen Tim smiling more often and he even asked to join the basketball team with his friends! When she asked Tim what he felt was different, he said he “believes in himself again”. Jenn is so grateful to Tim’s therapist for helping him to see what an awesome kid he is!

Thompson is the most comprehensive provider of clinical and prevention services for children and families across the Carolinas. Our mission is to serve children and families through healing, teaching, worship and play.

We are blessed to have had a relationship with the Episcopal Churches of both North and South Carolina since our very beginnings as Thompson Orphanage (Charlotte, NC) and the Episcopal Church Home for Children (York, SC). Our legacy is deeply rooted in humble beginnings by the Episcopal Church and fortified by continued partnerships from parishes giving of their time, talent and means.

Last year, your support enabled Thompson to provide outpatient therapy services, psychiatric assessments and medication management to almost 900 children, adults and families in South Carolina.

We continue to be grateful for the loving outreach of so many who support the Thompson mission in so many caring ways by:

- Participating in the historic annual Thanksgiving church offering.
- Visiting our website (www.thompsoncff.org) to get involved by volunteering your time or linking your shopping reward cards to benefit our work.
- Collecting school supplies, hygiene items and clothing for our children.
- Supporting us with your prayers, financial offerings and service.

For more information on how your caring support is making a difference, please contact Shannon Hinson, Chief Development Officer, at 704-644-4392 or shinson@thompsoncff.org.

Thank you for joining Thompson and helping change a child’s life forever!

BISHOP GADSDEN



Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community is located on James Island, across the Ashley River from the peninsula of Charleston. It is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, serving residents in independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care. We

trace our beginning to Bishop Christopher Gadsden, who, in 1850 during a service of Evening Prayer in St. Stephen's Church, Charleston, announced the creation of a home for widows and orphans. Bishop Gadsden is in a lineage of homes for children and the elderly, and in 1987 established and built an assisting living facility at its new location on James Island. Since its inception at its present location, the community has expanded to provide skilled nursing in 1992, and independent living apartments and cottages in 1999. In 2013 the residents, staff and trustees celebrated the 25th year anniversary of ministry on James Island with its 450 residents.

Bishop Gadsden is now the tenth largest employer in the City of Charleston. Our staff, particularly those serve in healthcare areas, view their duties as more than a job; they see their contributions as a ministry.

At present, construction of three new buildings, consisting of 45 additional independent living flats, is being completed, creating a new neighborhood known as the Quay (pronounced "key"). This project will increase our resident population to 520. Our campus now encompasses 110 acres. Strategic planning is now underway focusing on a variety of future developments, including an expansion of our healthcare facilities.

In keeping with its historic foundation, Bishop Gadsden maintains its loyal connection to the Episcopal Church of the United States and to the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Our chaplain is an Episcopal priest, who is assisted by a team of retired Episcopal priests. Together, they provide spiritual support and occasions of worship and prayer for our residents and staff.

Upon approaching our campus, one encounters the Chapel, giving the appearance that the entire community grew from this spiritual center of Bishop Gadsden. The Georgian building is fashioned after chapels-of-ease, which were prevalent in the colonial Low Country. The Chapel is the recipient of the Design for Aging Award from the American Institute of Architects and LeadingAGE. It is also a venue for music concerts and other cultural events. During services of public worship, the clergy are assisted by a dedicated team of residents, without whom our worship services would not be possible. In addition, worship opportunities are provided for Roman Catholic and Jewish residents.

An important aspect of community life is the support of area charitable organizations. However, at the heart of our mission is our Resident Assistance Fund which was created to provide financial support to residents whose finances have been depleted, or to individuals who have made significant contributions to the larger community who otherwise would be unable to live at Bishop Gadsden.

The Bishop Gadsden Community is the home of vibrant and active residents, served by a devoted staff of employees. In fact, in a recent resident satisfaction survey, the vast majority of our residents responded that the presence of a caring and friendly staff is one of the greatest strengths of our community. Our purpose and ministry is appropriately expressed in the following mission statement: "Bishop Gadsden, a life care retirement community embraces God's call to ministry. We affirm positive living for all who live and work here. We serve with integrity. We exercise wise stewardship. We reach out with a generous spirit."

Faithfully submitted,
The Reverend Frank D. Russ, Jr.
Chaplain



**Annual Report:
The Diocese of South Carolina
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina
Porter-Gaud Board of Trustees**

November, 2015

LEADERSHIP

Hank Cheves '87' is the currently elected Chair of the Board of Trustees. He began a 3-year term this July. Luther Cochrane is chair of the Porter-Gaud Foundation which oversees the philanthropic efforts for the school. There are three clergy representatives on the board in addition to 18 other members. Rev. John Zahl began his term in 2012. The other clergy positions are held by Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence and Rev. Haden McCormick. Dr. John McCardell, Vice Chancellor of Sewanee is also serving on the Board of Trustees. DuBose Egleston is in his 7th year as Head of School.

HISTORY

Porter-Gaud has a long history of living out its spiritual identity as an independent Episcopal school rooted in the rich heritage of Anglicanism. For much of its history, Porter-Gaud had one chaplain who taught all the religion classes, conducted chapel services, and provided pastoral care for the school community. As the School has grown and the needs for ministry have increased, the Board of Trustees has bolstered the chaplaincy so that there are now three full-time chaplains on campus: the Rev. Brian McGreevy serves as Head Chaplain, Mr. N. Hutson Dodds is Associate Chaplain for the Middle School, and the Rev. Dr. Jennie Olbrych is Associate Chaplain for the Lower School. The School has a Board Chair (Hank Cheves '87), Head of School (DuBose Egleston '93), and Chaplain (Brian McGreevy '74) who are Porter-Gaud alumni and have long experience with the School's mission and values. Mr. Egleston serves on the Governing Board of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES).

WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

In addition to the traditional celebration of Holy Communion each Thursday morning in St. Timothy's Chapel and special services offered on major Holy Days, there is weekly chapel on a divisional basis for the Lower, Middle, and Upper School students and faculty. The School also has a divisional Christmas Eucharist for the Middle and Upper School, as well as divisional services on Ash Wednesday and divisional Eucharist during Holy Week. The School's service of Lessons and Carols, held at the Church of the Holy Communion, is a tradition that dates back over 30 years and is a highlight of the Christmas season for the school community.

Voluntary lunchtime Bible studies offered for Middle and Upper School students continue to attract 70-120 students respectively each week. The Upper School Vestry, selected by a nomination and interview process, serve as spiritual and moral leaders on the campus; some 120 Upper School students serve on Vestry and participate in weekly discipleship groups as well as two retreats each year. In addition, 60 freshmen serve on the Chaplains' Advisory Council (CAC), a discipleship group for 9th graders who work with the chaplains. Vestry members assist with chapel programs at all levels of the School and help the chaplains coordinate various service and fellowship opportunities. Vestry and CAC are the largest voluntary student organizations in the Upper School.

ACADEMICS

Porter-Gaud offers a religion and character education curriculum in the Lower School that focuses on the major stories of the Bible in tandem with selected virtues each month. In Middle School there is a required course on the Old Testament, and in Upper School a required course on New Testament, along with an elective on C.S. Lewis. In Middle and Upper School, the character education thread is woven through Advisory, Chapel, and other programming for students that follows the virtues framework established in

the Lower School.

This year, the School is also offering a study tour/pilgrimage to England focused around the works of C.S. Lewis where students will have the opportunity to meet with renowned Lewis scholars.

SERVICE

Porter-Gaud has an active community service program through which students volunteer thousands of hours annually to assisting various agencies throughout the Lowcountry. Porter-Gaud has entered a strategic partnership with Water Missions International, and regularly offers mission trip opportunities abroad, some in conjunction with Water Missions.

The Upper School will also offer a service trip to Ghana this year. The Rev. Dr. Olbrych will serve this year as the keynote speaker at the 2016 Leadership Conference of the LAMB Institute to be held at San Buenaventura, Honduras. Porter-Gaud may explore the opportunity to partner with an Episcopal school in Honduras in the next few years under the leadership of Steve Robinson, former President of SAIS, who is now overseeing schools there.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Egleston will Chair the visiting team this year for Holy Innocents Episcopal School in Atlanta as they complete their 5-year accreditation self-study under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Southern Association of Independent Schools. Holy Innocents' is the largest parish day school in the United States.

Mr. Egleston visited Breck School in Minneapolis, MN this fall for a meeting of the NAES board. The board had a chance to participate in chapel with the upper school and meet with the local diocese. The board will meet in New York in January and in New Orleans in the Spring to plan for the 2016 Fall Biennial Conference.

As part of the School's co-curricular programming on diversity issues, the Traces of the Trade program developed by Gaud School alumnus Dain Perry was presented on campus in September.

Porter-Gaud celebrated the life and work of Ben Hutto at its annual Founders Day concert. Ben began the choral and fine arts program at Porter-Gaud in 1969 and is a Gaud School alum. After leaving Porter-Gaud in the 1980's, he continued his ministry at St. Albans and the National Cathedral School in Washington DC. Ben died in September and is missed by the thousands of alumni who he blessed with his passion for music. Porter-Gaud is launching the public phase of its RENEWAL campaign this week. The campaign will raise funds for a new upper school academic building, a performing arts center, and a dedicated chapel that will seat a full division of the school. The chapel design is based on the original St. Timothy's chapel on the Porter Military Campus. Built by Dr. Porter from the old U.S. Armory, it remains as St. Luke's chapel on the MUSC campus.



2014-2015 REPORT TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

College of Arts & Sciences

Enrollment from the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina: 51 students total (23 report Episcopal heritage)

Financial aid awarded to all college students from the diocese: \$972,132.00

The School of Theology

Seminary

Enrollment from the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina: 1 student total (1 in the summer Advanced Degrees Program)

The Beecken Center

Education for Ministry (EfM) Groups: 4

EfM Diocesan Coordinator: No Coordinator

Support Received from the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina: \$2,000

Support Received from the Diocesan churches: \$500

About Sewanee

The University of the South is home to an outstanding liberal arts college, a School of Letters, and a School of Theology. Located atop the Cumberland Plateau between Nashville and Chattanooga, Tenn., Sewanee's 13,000-acre campus, the second largest campus in the United States, provides vast opportunities for research, recreation, and reflection. Within the traditionally strong curriculum of humanities, sciences, and graduate theological studies, Sewanee faculty members promote intellectual growth, critical thinking, and hands-on research.

The University's Board of Trustees is composed of the bishops of the 28 owning dioceses, together with clerical and lay representatives elected by each diocese and representatives of other University constituencies. The Board of Regents, to which the Board of Trustees delegates some of its responsibilities for governance, is composed of Episcopal bishops, priests, and lay people, and may include a limited number of members of other Christian bodies. The chancellor of the University, elected by the Board of Trustees, is a bishop from one of the 28 owning dioceses.

An Episcopal Center of Learning

The University of the South is an institution of the Episcopal Church dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in close community and in full freedom of inquiry, and enlightened by Christian faith in the Anglican tradition, welcoming individuals from all backgrounds, to the end that students be prepared to search for truth, seek justice, preserve liberty under law, and serve God and humanity.

The University was founded by church leaders from the southeastern United States in 1857 and is the only university in the nation that is owned and governed by dioceses of The Episcopal Church, specifically the 28 dioceses that are successors to the original founding dioceses. The historic ownership and governance of the University by these Episcopal dioceses has produced a living synergy of leadership, resource, and mutual support, enriching the Church and advancing the University's role in American higher education.

2014–2015 Statistics for the University of the South

College of Arts and Sciences total students: 1631 (full-time and part-time)

Class of 2018: 466

SAT combined: 1740-2020 ACT: 26-30

High School GPA: 3.69/4.0

Female: 56.9 % Male: 43.1 %

Percentage of all college students declaring Episcopal heritage: 25.1%

College tuition and fees: \$ 37100

College faculty: 148 (Full-Time) and 72 (Part-Time)

Student/faculty ratio: 10.2 to 1

School of Theology students: 157 (includes summer students)

School of Theology full-time tuition and fees: \$ 16748
School of Theology faculty: Full-Time: 12 Part-Time: 9
Student/faculty ratio: 7/1

University Fiscal Year July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015 (unaudited)
Unrestricted operating revenue: \$66 million
Endowment: \$350 million

2014–2015 Highlights from the University of the South

Details may be found at <http://news.sewanee.edu/> and theology.sewanee.edu/news.

- Heyboer Receives the Woods Leadership Award; October 27, 2014
 - Stephens Receives Freeman Award; October 8, 2014
 - MacSwain Contributes to Discussion on Art and Theological Education; November 13, 2014
 - The School of Theology Makes Fourth Trip to Cuba; January 21, 2015
 - Vice Chancellor McCardell Appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of NAICU; February 4, 2015
 - CRE Adds New Position; February 12, 2015
 - School of Theology Named to Seminaries that Change the World; February 24, 2015
 - New Sewanee Inn Ranks #1 in Tennessee (Trip Advisor); March 11, 2015
 - Tree Ring Data Sheds Light on History of Rebel's Rest and Local Forest; April 1, 2015
 - The School of Theology Confers Degrees; May 11, 2015
 - Gift to University Supports School of Theology's Vision; June 8, 2015
 - Board of Regents Approves School of Theology Move Back to Central Campus; June 18, 2015
 - Owing Diocesan Bishop Elected to be 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; June 27, 2015
 - Education for Ministry Celebrates 40th Anniversary; June 30, 2015
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2014 Report to the Episcopal Church in South Carolina

Serving the Episcopal Church since 1928, Kanuga is located six miles from Hendersonville, NC on 1,400 mountain acres with scenic Kanuga Lake at its center. We welcome more than 25,000 guests annually to our year-round conference & retreat center, Camp Kanuga, Camp Bob and the Mountain Trail Outdoor School. Kanuga is embracing the future and its boards and staff are exploring ways to speed accomplishment of long-range plans, completed in 2010. The long-range plan provides a clear roadmap for phased enhancements of Kanuga's campus, facilities, programs, funding basis and overall capacity for ministry from now until Kanuga's centennial in 2028.

Kanuga recently underwent a campus-wide conversion from propane to natural gas to provide efficient heat for buildings and a consistent supply of hot water. The project was completed in the spring of 2014 and incorporated all three campuses, including both camps, Historic Cottages, Guest Houses, program buildings, kitchens and staff housing. The Kanuga Lake Inn and 10 other buildings will continue to utilize solar-thermal heating for hot water. Seventy locations will receive brand new, high-efficiency furnaces and ninety will receive "on-demand" water heaters, meaning fewer repairs needed and reliable heat and hot water across the campus.

This project aligns with Kanuga's long-range plan and goals of continued environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility and an improved guest experience. Kanuga will save thousands annually on heating costs through purchasing natural gas rather than propane; an estimated \$7.5 million over the next 20 years. Dozens of large propane tanks around the campus have been removed (submarines with blue lids). A wireless energy management system installed has allowed staff to remotely monitor and control the climate in most buildings.

Under the leadership of Kanuga President Stan Hubbard, Kanuga is set to commence a historic renovation of the Kanuga Lake Inn on December 1. The Inn is scheduled to reopen at the end of May 2016. Kanuga will not close during this time, but will remain open with full use of the dining rooms and utilizing the lodging of the historic cottages and guest houses.

The \$6.5 million renovations will include the installation of a new covered entry with easy access to the Inn, an elevator connected to the new entrance, and extensive renovation of rooms to provide accessible accommodations. In addition, rooms will be equipped with air conditioning and a more efficient heating system. Most rooms will be unfitted with covered porches, and all rooms will receive a complete overhaul with new furniture, queen beds, lighting, and bathroom fixtures. A critical improvement will be the replacement of electrical and plumbing systems. If you have questions about the renovation or wish to make a contribution to the capital campaign, contact Gary Giniat at 828.233.2816 or gary.giniat@kanuga.org. More information can also be found online at www.kanuga.org/restoreandrenew.

Historic Cottage preservation is an ongoing project and its guidelines are to improve consistency as we renovate, use longer-term solutions, preserve historical elements and feel, and meet the needs of more

constituents. Generous support in 2014 enabled the total remodel of Cottages 27, 28, & 14 with over 12 other cottages receiving improvements to roofs, floors, steps and paint.

Kanuga continues to be a change agent for the environment, providing leadership in environmental stewardship among institutional peers through consultations with sister nonprofits regarding programs in environmental stewardship education. The Mountain Trail Outdoor School staff worked with the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife, NC Natural Heritage Program, and various other state and federal agencies to remove invasive species from the bog and other management efforts to protect the bog and its endangered inhabitants. The program was also one of 18 organizations nationwide to be awarded the BEETLES grant through the Lawrence School of Science at UC Berkley that provided staff training to help build on our outdoor science curriculum.

Camp Kanuga and the Kanuga Trailblazers welcomed and embraced 650 campers during the summer of 2014, increasing to 670 this past summer. With the support of grants and increased scholarship funds, these programs hope to

increase the number of children served and ministered to in 2016. Kanuga's youth programs department continues to serve both Episcopal youth groups and other youth organizations through hosting retreats at both of Kanuga's youth campuses throughout the year.

Partnering once again with the National Military Family Association, based in Arlington, VA, Kanuga's outreach camp, Camp Bob, hosted two sessions of Operation Purple Camp in July. The session provided to 200 children a comprehensive camping experience staffed by Camp Bob counselors and offered at no cost to children with parents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. A unique group, Kids4Peace, gathered at Camp Bob in July of 2015. Kids4Peace is a community of Jewish, Christian and Muslim children, age 12 or in the sixth grade, from the United States, Palestine and Israel. The organizations two-week camp is part of a six-year, year-round program of interfaith dialogue, leadership development and nonviolent action.

Outreach is a common theme at Kanuga. For instance, none of the chapel offerings gathered here stay here. They are divided and sent out 1/3 globally to Episcopal Relief & Development, 1/3 nationally to the Armed Services and Federal Chaplains of The Episcopal Church, and 1/3 locally to Henderson County outreach.

The Outreach Camp at Saint Columba's Conference & Retreat Center in Memphis, TN was named this year's recipient of the Patricia Minkler Howell Endowment for Children's Outreach grant, a sub fund of Kanuga Endowment, Inc. The grant assists community-based efforts by parishes, dioceses and nonprofits that focus on children's ministry and emphasize children serving other children. The fund enabled 45 children to attend the weeklong overnight camp this past summer. Applications for the grant are reviewed each year between November 1 and April 15. If your group would like to apply for next year's grant, visit giving.kanuga.org.

In 2014 and into 2015 Kanuga was the site chosen by many Episcopal groups from the national, provincial, diocesan and parish levels, confirming the important role it plays in the many ministries of the Church. Nationally we hosted the spring meeting of the House of Bishops, CPG Benefits Partner Conference, Federal Chaplains for both TEC, the General Board of Examining Chaplains, Integrity, New Community Lay & Clergy Retreat and Nuevo Amanecer. From Province IV were the Altar Guild, Daughters of the King, HIV/AIDS Ministry, Synod and Women's Conferences. On the diocesan level we hosted clergy retreats, executive councils, standing committees, youth retreats and the Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. At the parish level there were over 35 parish retreats, 25 vestries, several choirs and retreats for men, women and youth.

Kanuga welcomes all types of associations, churches and organizations for events such as training, education, retreats, workshops, conferences, and more. With its quiet setting and accessible location, Kanuga offers a unique venue with a variety of spaces and services to accommodate many groups' needs. Over 70 organizations such as the Diocese of Charleston (RC) Priests Retreat, the Haden Institute, Medicine & Ministry Conference and the SC/NC Planned Giving Conference enable Kanuga to succeed as a viable business and further its own programming and mission.

In 2014 and into 2015 Kanuga had a terrific lineup of its own conferences. Subjects sounded comfortably familiar but the speakers and formats were fresh and innovative. For example, the Lansing Lee Conference experienced eternity with keynoter Dr. Eben Alexander. Nuevo Amanecer, a bi-annual conference to better equip for ministry those working within the Latino/Hispanic community, was co-sponsored by TEC & ELCA. The Christian Formation Conference, the largest event of its kind in the Church, learned about "Hope in the Midst of Crisis" with keynote speaker Lyndon Harris. Kanuga's youth conferences served 300 participants over the year at Winterlight and the summer Youth Week conferences.

We look forward to seeing you soon. All of us at Kanuga continue to be grateful to friends, supporters, conference and Guest Period participants, campers and partners in ministry from the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Please join us with your wonderful presence and your amazing Kanuga Spirit as we head onward through the year!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Haden", written in a cursive style.

James L. Haden
Vice President of Hospitality & Sales



STILL HOPES

Episcopal Retirement Community

2015 Annual Report

More than just a great place to live, Still Hopes is a place to thrive...

As I reflect on 2014 the words that reverberate in my mind include victory, triumph, and success. The long awaited Main Street re-invention began construction in January and is now nearly completed. With it came the realization of the final piece of a plan laid by Still Hopes' Board of Trustees of 2001. That plan was to achieve a community where residents lived a rich full life with opportunities to live better, healthier, happier lives than they could have lived by staying home. As I write this, I can see that vision being accomplished in grand style.

If you visit our campus, you will find a newly created main entrance with a newly created space for meeting with prospective residents; A place that is welcoming and speaks to the vibrancy of life at Still Hopes. You would be able to walk into the gateway to the Main Street Venue that is so warm and inviting that residents are now spending lots of time in social gathering with one another. You could order your favorite espresso, café latte, or cappuccino made by Still Hopes' own Barista, along with some hand dipped ice cream or a wonderful hand-made pastry. You would find a brand new space for the library with an amazing assortment of books, music and movies and you would notice that the light and the airiness of the room is wonderful and alive. You would discover two new dining venues, along with a totally revitalized main dining venue and you would discover many other social elements of Main Street that would beckon you to slow down and spend some time with friends. In short you would find a life worth living.

All the new spaces and places you would discover build on the foundation to create a wellness focused campus begun in 2001. What the Shearouse Center for Wellness did to rocket Still Hopes physical fitness program for residents into the new century, Main Street does for the social and mental aspects of wellness. Just like the bringing forth of our Sanders Guignard Rehabilitation Suites to provide state-of-the-art short term rehabilitation, Main Street brings forth a quality to those who choose to live at Still Hopes for the long term.

I would be remiss to forego the opportunity to reflect on how wonderful the residents of Still Hopes have been during this extended time of re-invention and corresponding renovation work. We have totally transformed in excess of 35,000 square feet of existing living space, all while we continue to live and work here every day. Each resident has taken this in stride and even taken opportunities to bring fun into the misery of construction renewal.

So, finally, please know that Still Hopes will not rest on its laurels. The Board of Trustees recognizes that Still Hopes is the premier community in the Midlands of SC and knows that in order to continue to be that for a second 38 year time span, we will continue to renew and improve the campus to provide the kinds of services and amenities that the next several generations of people will want to enjoy. Still Hopes is on a continuing voyage into a future for services for high quality aging and lifelong growth and the journey will never end; the destination will never be absolutely reached.

Danny Sanford



VOORHEES COLLEGE
REPORT TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA
November 5, 2015

VOORHEES COLLEGE is pleased to submit this report to the Annual Convention of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina. We continue to be blessed by our partnership with TEC in SC as we are truly *“Partners in Mission.”* Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers, Jr. began his administrative role as President in June of 2008. For the past seven years, The College has encountered some struggles but at the same time, achieved some significant accomplishments.

Voorhees College like all other Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation have been impacted by external pressures including a decline in federal funding along with the Sequestration of federal grant dollars and changes in the policy of Parent Plus Loans which our students and parents were impacted. Additionally, the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy has impacted student’s eligibility to receive financial aid and impacted our enrollment of returning students. These and a number of other external pressures from the federal government have and will have an adverse impact on the viability of Voorhees College now and in the future.

The College remains proactive, vigilant and resilient in managing its resources efficiently and effectively and are poised to continue the legacy of our founder, Ms. Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Menafee. We are proud to report the following accomplishments:

- We met our budgeted enrollment for Fall 2015 and proudly state that our numbers reflect a positive stance over last year’s enrollment. The Admissions Staff is staffed with new and energetic recruiters that are working hard to ensure our Enrollment projections are met in the future.
- Work has already begun to construct a new Living and Learning Center on the campus and is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2016.
- We were successful in the refinancing of a 15 million bond which has improved our cash position and management of debt.
- We have recently launched a new website which will improve our marketing and communications as well as user interface and design.
- In May, 2015 we graduated the first Emergency Management graduate in the State of South Carolina and the program is growing as it begins to attract first responders and law enforcement personnel.
- Our consortium with the U. S. Department of Energy continues to prepare our students for careers in Cyber Security with our students conducting internships at DOE sites especially Lawrence Livermore in California. The College has also continued summer and Saturday academies for cyber education with middle and high school students.
- Finally, the College was recently nationally ranked in the **Best Bang for Your Buck** category by *Washington Monthly* magazine.

The major emphasis for the college’s strategic planning is the successful completion of the Fifth Year Review by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Leadership Team has begun work on the Compliance Certification and the Quality Enhancement

Program steering committee is preparing the QEP Impact Report. Our submission is due in September, 2017.

We want to invite the diocese to join us in our 5th annual President's Scholarship Gala in Charleston, South Carolina on **Saturday, April 9, 2016** and also to join us for our annual **Absalom Jones Feast Celebration** in February 2016. Additional details and invitations will come from our College Chaplain, Fr. James Yarsiah, who continues to lead our spiritual development program on campus.

While the College continues to shine and deal with external pressures, it is with deep regret that I notify the diocese of my decision to step down as president and retire effective at the end of the 2015-2016 academic year. Serious health challenges make this decision necessary at this time. I want to thank the Bishop, Priests, and Clergy in The Episcopal Church in South Carolina for your unwavering support of the College during my tenure. We have created a community of scholars who lives have been changed as a result of the quality education and nurturing environment provided by the administrators, faculty, and staff. The merging of Faith and Intellect on our campus makes our work as an HBCU relevant.

Dr. Cleveland Sellers
President, Voorhees College