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Day Dodson

† *In a changing church  
and world, EES serves as  
a catalyst and resource  
for innovative witness to  
Jesus Christ.*

## Seminarians Report on Evangelism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Work

The Rev. Steve Smith, a former doctoral student at General Theological Seminary, reports on a profound experience of teaching, studying and living in community at Leonard Kamungu Theological College in Malawi. Kamungu is the only Anglican seminary in Malawi, with 28 students from the four dioceses in Malawi and four permanent lecturers. Smith's final report to EES affirms the importance of being with others in the Anglican Communion, despite physical hardship and the difficulty of mutual understanding. In teaching a seminar course on Anglicanism in the U.S., he notes that "the students and lecturers and I did not *disagree* so much as we *did not comprehend* each other. We had different approaches to Biblical interpretation, to the role of women in the church, the home and society and to the life and leadership of homosexuals in the church. In my classes and in private conversations, we reached across our miscomprehensions to talk about these and other topics in a deep way, so that we could try to understand each other... The most important thing that I learned ... is that we cannot end the dialogue in our Anglican Communion, no matter how slighted and disrespected we might feel. Our brothers and sisters in Africa have deeply different conceptions about gender roles, marriage, children and sexuality, and I came away from my six weeks at Kamungu recommitted to trying to grow together through mutual challenge and appreciation."



*Steve Smith (seated) with members of the seminary community at Kamungu Theological College in Malawi.*



*The Rev. Smith with children from All Saints, Manyamba, Malawi.*

## From the Executive Director

2008 marked the fifth year that EES supported the Seminarian Leadership Conference, an annual gathering of students from each of the eleven Episcopal Seminaries. Meeting at the General Theological Seminary, participants enjoyed four days of worship, community-building, sight-seeing and program.

I was able to be present for a portion of the conference, and wish to commend Jered Weber-Johnson, MDiv. '09 from the Diocese of Olympia, for organizing an outstanding event.

Being present for parts of the conference allowed me to experience the hospitality of the GTS community and the Tutu Center, to strengthen individual contacts with students, and, most importantly, to experience the benefits of the conference. Four weeks later, my visit to EDS happened to coincide with the presentation to the EDS community by the two students who had attended the conference. I was particularly impressed with their story of confronting and responding to the reputation of their own seminary, and how they challenged the EDS community as a result. Their insightful questions provoked a lively discussion among deans, students, staff and faculty. The commitment of EES to conversation, shared experience, and greater mutuality within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion is well-served through the Seminarian Leadership Conference.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dodson".



Participants in the 2008 Seminarian Leadership Conference enjoy dinner in the historic Refectory of the Desmond Tutu Center. From left: Sandy Webb (VTS), Brian Rebholdz (CDSP), Heather Tyner (Sewanee), the Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson (conference presenter), Gates Elliott (VTS), the Rev. Winnie Varghese (conference chaplain), and Roxanne Ruggles (SSW).

## Morgan Directors' Awards Named

Meeting at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, the EES Board approved two Morgan Directors' Awards to the Rev. Shelley Booth Denney of San Bernardino, CA and Ms. Jane C. E. Jeuland of New Haven, CT. Named for the Rev. Michael Morgan, former Chair of the Board of EES, the Morgan Awards recognize the grantees whose work best exemplifies the objectives of EES. Recipients are selected for the scope, quality and particularly for the evangelical impact of the project. The Rev. Denney, a 2008 graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, traveled to El Salvador on an EES grant for language immersion and to develop Christian Education curricula. While there, she established ongoing relationships with the Anglican community at La Divina Providencia and held the first-ever training workshop for church school teachers throughout the diocese. Denney also established an ongoing companion relationship with the Church of the Epiphany, San Carlos, CA. Her work is an outstanding model of effective mission and



The Rev. Shelley Denney, center, with the Rt. Rev. Martin Barahona and Padre Mario Nunez, Anglican Church of El Salvador.

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## EES Board News

At the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors, two new members were elected. Mrs. Linda Curtiss, former Executive Vice President of the Church Pension Fund, brings decades of experience in finance and in the national Episcopal Church to EES. She also serves as a finance faculty member for CREDO. The Rev. Jerry Shigaki serves as Canon for Multicultural Ministry for the Diocese of Olympia, bringing parochial and diocesan experience along with administrative experience in the fields of social work and higher education. He received an EES grant as a seminarian at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. The Board wishes departing member the Rev. Rosemari Sullivan every good blessing in ministry.



*EES Board meets at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX. Front Row: Linda Curtiss, Ann Coburn, Cynthia Kittredge, Day Dodson, Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows. Middle Row: Martha Horne, Robert Two Bulls, Jim Papile, John Harrison, Ariel Miller. Back Row: Ken McDonald, Jerry Shigaki.*

### Come Visit EES In booth 622 At General Convention

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evangelism because of the degree of enculturation she achieved and the steps she has taken to ensure the continuation of her work.

Jane Jeuland (M.Div. 2009, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale) has served as Director of Long-Range Planning at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New Haven, CT. Her grant work has included the planning, capacity-building, grant-writing and implementation of a successful pilot program for neighborhood children and youth. Working with the rector, the Rev. Tracy Johnson, Jane has developed extensive partnerships in the city, diocese and community to provide youth an alternative to street life and violence. Her work at St. Andrew's is a model for church development and growth in the inner city.



*Jane Jeuland (photo credit: Harold Shapiro)*

## From the EES Board Chair

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from a two-day meeting of our Board which was held at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. It was part of our effort to visit all of the Episcopal seminaries over the next several years. These visits give us a good opportunity to meet with a large number of potential grantees for our Evangelism for the 21st Century program. We have found these visits to be very helpful.

The grants that EES has made in recent years to seminarians and members of seminary communities as part of the *Evangelism for the 21st Century* program have produced some wonderful results in terms of ministry and Christian service in this troubled world. Your generosity, which will directly support our grants program, will help EES significantly in its mission of continuing to encourage innovative and useful work on the part of members of the seminary communities.

This is the only appeal that we will be sending to you on behalf of EES this year. With all the uncertainty in the economy and with changing times in the Church your support is more important than ever. Please use the envelope included in this mailing, or visit our newly revised website ([www.ees1862.org](http://www.ees1862.org)) to make your annual contribution to the grants program of EES.

Thank you for your support,

John Harrison

# Creating Communion: A Seminarian's Reflections

By Stephanie M. Johnson, MDiv. 09, *Berkeley Divinity School at Yale*

As we disembarked from the plane onto the tarmac after a long 12 hour flight, it was the hot, moist air and the strong smell of burning brush that reminded me of my previous visit to Ghana many years ago. But it was the warm greetings, friendly smiles and deeply faithful people whom I met in Ghana that made me remember why this country and its people stay in my heart.

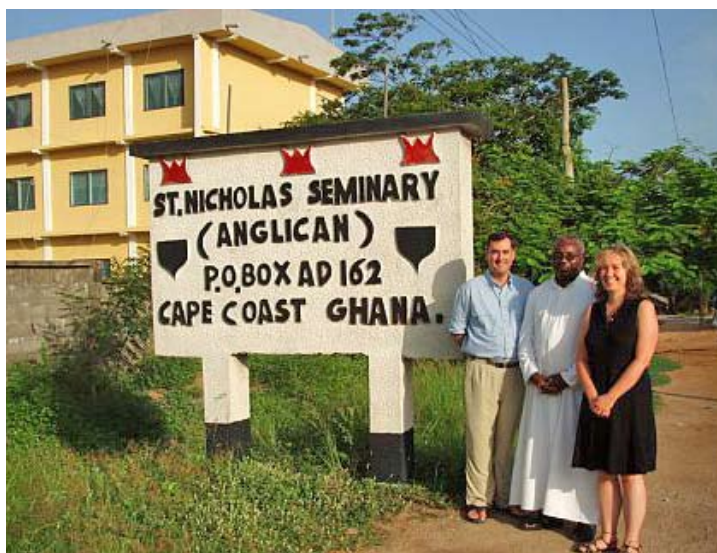
Traveling with fellow seminarian Peter Crumlish, our time in Ghana was spent at St. Nicholas Seminary to foster an exchange program between the seminary and Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. The weeks at the seminary, with the warm hospitality of St. Nicholas' Dean Victor Atta-Baffoe, were characterized by genuine affection and a willingness to engage our mutual faith in the witness of Jesus Christ. We had countless opportunities to explore seminary life, liturgy and worship. In a vastly different culture and a world thousands of miles away, there was great comfort in participating in the Daily Office with the familiar words and rhythm. It was a powerful reminder that throughout the world on any given day, members of the Anglican Communion raise their voices in many different languages but with the singular purpose of praising and worshipping God.

It became clear that many challenges facing Episcopal Churches, including making the service and music accessible to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century world and declining membership, will also challenge the future clergy in West Africa.

Job placement and the demands on family life trickled into our conversations in the same way they do in chats with our fellow Berkeley seminarians.

With the beginning of Lambeth only weeks away, there was much interest in the Anglican Communion. In a student forum, which Peter and I co-facilitated, we had a lively discussion about women's ordination, human sexuality, and scriptural authority. The conversation was

understand our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The overwhelming conclusion of the gathering was that we have many ties that bind us together as a Communion. Toward this end, we concluded, continued conversation both within the formal instruments of the Anglican Church and informally, such as future exchanges, were key to the future of the Church.



*Peter Crumlish and Stephanie Johnson with the Very Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe, Dean of St. Nicholas Anglican Seminary.*

respectful, though sometimes heated. Peter and I took great effort to express not just our views but also, to the best of our ability, the many differing views of Episcopalians throughout the United States. I related the story about my own father being consistently opposed to women's ordination throughout the debates in the 1960's and the 1970's. Over time, I noted, my Dad's views of toward women's ordination had softened but he is still not totally convinced. We wanted to let the St. Nicholas Seminar-ians know that Episcopalians, also, continue to wrestle with many issues facing the church. While no one walked away with a different opinion from where they started, it was a welcome opportunity to

This August, Father Joseph Ayea, a professor of Old Testament at St. Nicholas Seminary, arrived in New Haven to begin a two-year study of Old Testament at Berkeley and Yale Divinity School. In 2008, the exchange program between our two seminaries has gotten off to a wonderful start.

As I reflected on my experiences, I began to think about ways in which Episcopalians could become engaged in the church in Ghana. At my internship church at Zion Episcopal in North Branford,

Connecticut, I offered a two week Christian education class on the West African Church. I showed pictures and spoke about Sunday Schools, and Sunday worship. I talked about a funeral, wake and a baptism which I had attended. As I passed around the Ghanaian Book of Common Prayer, some people were visibly effected as they thumbed through the Ghanaian BCP holding in their hands tangible proof of our shared Anglican roots. One Zion parishioner told me that the Ghanaian celebration of a good death which I had witnessed at the wake and funeral influenced how he

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viewed his own father's upcoming memorial service.

We explored the challenges to the Communion as experienced in West Africa. I told the people of Zion first about my father's struggle with women's ordination. I explained of the ongoing progress in the Ghanaian Church toward ordaining women. Nearly 14 years ago the province of West Africa agreed, in principle, to ordain women to the priesthood. Just last year, two women, Hannah Dwomoh and Lovia Priscilla Owus-Asiedu, began studying at St. Nicholas. When I talked about their faith and dedication to their callings to the priesthood, the people at Zion were greatly moved by these pioneering women's witness in faith. The congregation has added these women to their regular prayers and will begin an email prayer chain on their behalf. The prayer chain will reach out to as many people as possible to lift these two women up in prayer in their studies and preparation for ordination. I recently spoke to Lovia about Zion's commitment to praying them through ordination. She was incredibly appreciative that parishioners in small Connecticut church whom she had never met are so committed to her and Hannah's path toward ordination.

As we discussed the West African opposition to the consecration of Gene Robinson and the blessing of same sex unions, we also worked to uncover the scriptural views of the Ghanaian Church. The response, at one level, practically mirrored the response Peter and I had at St. Nicholas. No one changed his or her mind but people understood how the West Africa Church came to its position. The congregation at Zion is committed to continued learning and understanding about the Anglican Communion.

Perhaps equally exciting is the partnership that Zion Church is establishing with Holy Innocents Church, outside of the capital city Accra. Reverend Samuel Tornye de-Golo Ocansey, a St. Nicholas graduate, recently began planting this small mission church. In an exchange of emails, Reverend Samuel and I began exploring how the people of Zion and Holy Innocents can work together to witness Jesus Christ. Both churches now pray for each other weekly. The children of Zion Church, after watching a slide show about Ghana during Sunday School, have collected gently worn clothes to be sent to the children of Holy Innocents. Photographs of two congregations and the church buildings are being exchanged. Suddenly on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, the Anglican Communion feels smaller yet more alive for those at Zion Church and Holy Innocents.

With the daily morning response of "And make thy chosen people joyful" (BCP) as a clear reminder of the people of Ghana, I look back on my visit in Ghana as a



*Hannah Dwomoh, Stephanie Johnson and Lovia Priscilla Owus-Asiedu.*



*Stephanie at Sunday School at Christ Church Cathedral, Cape Coast*

joyful, blessed time. Here in Connecticut, I have been blessed by the incredible willingness of the Zion community to embrace wholeheartedly the Anglican Communion just as I was greatly embraced by the people of Ghana who also cherish our Communion.

## Lantern Goes Green

Our long-time publisher, Quality Graphics and Printing, Inc. has moved to a new, larger, eco-friendly headquarters. All paper waste is recycled, as well as aluminum plates and ink. The use of recycled paper stocks and vegetable or soy inks is encouraged of all clients.



*The Rev. Liz Magill (right, Episcopal Divinity School staff) prepares to lead outdoor worship in Worcester, MA with colleagues. Magill's EES grant provides funding for developing the homeless congregation via community meetings, Bible Study and music.*



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*Joanna Hollis (center front) with chaplains at Rikkyo University in Japan, a nominally Christian university in a predominately secular culture. She interned with the chaplains for two weeks and conducted surveys of both students and chaplains, identifying the challenges to campus evangelism and making recommendations to enhance the campus-wide understanding of the role of the chaplains. Hollis (M.Div. '09, Church Divinity School of the Pacific) first learned of the challenges faced by the chaplains at Rikkyo when she attended the Asia American Theological Exchange Forum at CDSP and met the Rev. Ajuko Ueda (left front).*



▲ *Mission to Belarus: Lisa Mason (right) with members of a family who run extensive rehabilitative and outreach programs in Belarus. Although evangelism is prohibited by the government, Mason (M.Div. '09, SSW) found Belarusians very quick to express their appreciation of missionary efforts including the religious education that accompanies this work. While all work must be done under the title of "humanitarian aid," recipients of this aid recognize the presence of Christ in those involved and encourage further efforts. Relations between the US and Belarus were especially tense during her visit, and those who chose to spend countless hours with her discussing religious freedom and their life experiences, and offering hospitality, knowingly placed themselves under increased government scrutiny.*

