

John Bonner  
February 11, 2007  
6 Epiphany

### **Councils of the Church**

“...Now you are called to work as a pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.”

Thanks To Ray Furnal, Alan Kettle and Don Macleod for going as Delegates and to Annette and Debbie for serving as Alternates...

Alan was elected to serve on the Executive Council for a three year term...

One Person + One Parish + One Diocese + One Church + One God

Listening ... Bill Wren

Mercy, Gratitude & Hope

Today's Lessons: Examine what it means to live in faithful witness to God

Episcopalians have always been big on “the councils of the Church”; it is our ‘faithful witness’ to God’s ways in life. We do this thing called Church as a community gathered.

This 124<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Diocese of East Carolina was a very collegial affair.

Conventions are truthfully not my favorite thing but I always come away feeling good about our church and its possibilities for the future. This year is not different.

Only one Resolution was potentially sticky, one on the ‘authority of Scripture’ and it was worked out by the two parties in a good compromise where we did affirm this Anglican mark as most significant in our faith. It was a positive work.

Christians are blessed most when we work together and find those compromises that allow us to feel the love of Christ in our midst.

The Bishop’s Address, a centerpiece of every convention, was actually a work in which all delegates participated as we interviewed one another on the positives of our parish and church experience. It was a healthy exercise and it was summed up as the final piece of this convention. We look forward to the future of our Church.

This diocese is pointing forward in faith.

Reconciling to be done always but Jesus calls us to examine the blessings of our lives and to choose His Way always. It is a constant examination, this thing called ‘church’. Let us do this work in love for Christ and each other.