



**Southern
Shenandoah Valley
Region**

Diocese of Virginia

*Shared Ministry
Collaborating
Together*



**Grace Memorial,
Port Republic**

**St. Stephen & the
Good Shepherd,
Rocky Bar**

**St. Paul's,
Ingham,
Shenandoah**

**St. George's,
Pine Grove,
Stanley**

**Christ Church,
Luray**

**Emmanuel,
Harrisonburg**

**Canterbury
Campus Ministry,
James Madison
University**

**St. Andrew's,
Mt. Jackson**

**Emmanuel,
Woodstock**

**Cathedral Shrine of
the
Transfiguration,
Orkney Springs**

October 2026 Report for the 232nd Annual Convention

To the People of God of Diocese of Virginia, Greetings!

The Southern Shenandoah Valley Region is a tapestry of faithful communities, small in size, mighty in spirit. From valley towns to mountain hollows, from infants and K-12th graders to college students, from young adults and families, to seniors in retirement residences, our churches embody what it means to be the Church in place: gathering at tables, walking with neighbors, serving those in need, keeping sacred presence alive in places the world too easily forgets. Together we are a living, breathing witness to the Gospel in the heart of the Valley.

Our Region Council met every quarter, in person with Zoom option. Every church contributed to our shared ministry. We welcomed the Very Rev. Peter Fraser-Morris as new Dean. We welcome Rev. Valerie Hayes, newly serving St. George's in our Region. We welcomed Alan Spear from St. Andrew's Mt. Jackson, who now serves as our representative to Executive Board. We are blessed to have Youth Delegate Rachel Morton, Emmanuel Harrisonburg, and Alternate Youth Delegate Patrick Ryan, Christ Church Luray, for Annual Convention.

Our church families are thriving. Our food pantry ministries continue to address food insecurity in our communities. Our youth are nurtured through participation in our worship services, fellowship activities, service projects, and involvement with Diocesan Convention. Our parishes have expanded their ecumenical community presence, participating in Valley Interfaith Action network, and hosting Earth Day and Pride Worship services. Our clergy and parishioners are active within the Diocese, serving in Province III and General Convention, and regularly sponsoring resolutions for consideration at Annual Convention. We continually discern trending issues within our society and hosted in January a region-wide workshop "Responding to Christian Nationalism" led by Professor Daryn Henry of University of Virginia. And our smallest mountain mission church, St. George's Pine Grove, which was on the brink of closing last year, has grown to calling a long-term supply priest to celebrate Holy Eucharist twice a month.

The churches in our Region enjoy fellowship together. Shrine Mont hosted our annual Region Eucharist in August, with Bishop Bourlakas celebrating. There were 175 in attendance, with one baptism and ten confirmations or receptions.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Region Council looks forward to a new year of shared ministry, collaborating together, and serving in the Diocese.

Sincerely,

Helen Penrod, Regional Council President

Very Rev. Peter Fraser-Morris, PhD, Dean