



April 9

Congregational Visit,
St. James, Clovis
Walk-About Session
St. Andrew's, Roswell

April 10

Ministerial Visit
Grace House, Carlsbad
Congregational Visit
Fort Stockton
Walk-About Session
St. Paul's, Marfa

April 11

Walk-About Session
TBA, El Paso

April 12

Congregational Visit
St. James, Mesilla Park
Tour Diocesan Archives
Ministerial Visit and Lunch
St. Paul's Soup Kitchen
Truth or Consequences
Congregational Visit
Epiphany, Socorro
Diocesan Youth—Pizza Party
Cathedral of St. John

April 13

Congregational Visit
Holy Spirit, Gallup
Walk-About Session
Cathedral of St. John,

April 14

Tour Taos Pueblo
Congregational Visit
St. James, Taos
Congregational Visit
St. Stephen's, Espanola
Walk-About Session
St. Bede's, Santa Fe

April 15

Depart

Bishop Nominees' Itinerary Announced – April 9-14

While the Walk About events will introduce the nominees to be the next Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, Visits will add texture to the nominees' experience of the Diocese and its people.

The final details have yet to be worked out by the Transition Committee, but the committee released the preliminary itinerary after the sites of the Walk About were announced. In addition to the Walk About events, the nominees also will be making congregational and ministry Visits with occasional Stops during the journey.

The Walk Abouts will provide the main interaction that candidates have with the members of the Diocese, and everyone who can possibly attend are encouraged to meet the nominees at the Walk Abouts. However, Congregational Visits will provide a short introduction to the nominees for those unable to attend the Walk Abouts. The nominees also will be making Ministerial Visits to tour active ministries in the Diocese, but these will provide no time for interaction with the nominees.

As announced previously, the Walk Abouts will occur at the following sites: at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Roswell on Friday April 9; at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa, Texas, on Saturday April 10; at a site still to be finalized in El Paso on Sunday April 11; at St. John's Cathedral in Albuquerque on Tuesday April 13; and at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Santa Fe, on Wednesday April 14. The times for the Walk About events will be announced when details are finalized, but are expected to be in the early evening.

The Walk About sessions will last approximately three hours, during which nominees will begin with a brief five-minute presentation to all those assembled. The attendees then will move to break-out rooms for question and answer sessions run by trained facilitators. Nominees will circulate from break-out room to break-out room to provide interaction with each candidate.

The Congregational Visits will provide an opportunity to meet the nominees during a small meal or snack time where nominees can move from table to table, share a snack or small meal, or talk informally. During these Visits, nominees will each give a short, two-minute introduction, but no time for question and answer sessions. These visits would last approximately one hour. The basic difference between the Walk Abouts and the Congregational and Ministerial Visits is that the Walk Abouts will introduce the nominees to the members of the Diocese, and the Visits introduce the Diocese and its members to the nominees.

On Friday, the preliminary itinerary provides for a Congregational Visit for lunch at approximately 11:30 a.m. with those gathered at St. James Episcopal Church, Clovis, on the way to the first Walk About in Roswell.

On Saturday, on the journey to the second Walk About in Marfa, a Ministerial Visit is planned at Grace House in Carlsbad at about 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The entourage then will travel to Fort Stockton for a Congregational Visit, where a late lunch will be provided at approximately 2 p.m. followed by a tour of the historic site.

On Monday, following the third Walk About in El Paso, a Congregational Visit is planned at approximately 9 a.m. Monday at St. James Episcopal Church, Mesilla Park, followed by a tour of the Diocesan Archives. The nominees will be served lunch during a Ministerial Visit at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen in Truth or Consequences. After lunch Monday, on the way to Albuquerque, the nominees also will make a Congregational Visit at about 3:30 p.m. to Epiphany Episcopal Church in Socorro. Later, at about 6 p.m. the nominees will share pizza with Diocesan Youth at the Cathedral.

On Tuesday, the nominees will travel west for a tour of Gallup, and a Stop at Holy Spirit at about 10:30 a.m. They will then return to Albuquerque for meetings prior to the evening Walk About at St. John's Cathedral.

On Wednesday, the final Walk About at St. Bede's will be preceded by a trip to Taos and a tour of Taos Pueblo. A Congregational Visit and lunch with the people of St. James Episcopal Church will begin at about 11:30 a.m. The return trip to Santa Fe will include a Stop at St. Stephen's in Espanola. The Walk About at St. Bede's Wednesday evening will conclude the introduction of nominees, who will return to their respective homes on Thursday April 15.

Further details of the arrangements will be announced as they are finalized. Those interested in attending the Congregational Visits should contact the respective churches to keep informed of last minute changes to the itinerary due to traffic or unforeseen circumstances.

Electing Convention—April 24th, Cathedral of St. John

From the President of the Standing Committee

The Reverend Canon Dr. Colin P. Kelly

One Sunday recently, as I was giving the Children's Sermon, I asked the children "What's the meaning of Lent?" One boy answered, "It means waiting." I thought "Wow, what a great answer!"

Of course, I told them that Lent meant "Spring" but I thought about waiting. Waiting is what we are doing right now in our Diocese. We are waiting because we know that there are five nominees that have been put forward by the Search Team. We are waiting because we know that there are those under consideration for nomination by petition. As soon as we receive the word back from the Oxford Background checks that all has been completed there, we'll be able to publish all of the names of those who have been nominated and their answers to the five questions. This will give a great deal more in the way of material for people to consider. Soon after that will come April with the Walkabouts, the opportunity to meet and greet each of the nominees and to discern who we believe God is calling to be our ninth Bishop of our Diocese.

But in the meantime, we are in a time of waiting, a time waiting with anticipation, a time of waiting perhaps, for some, with fear. Fear about who will actually become our Bishop. Will it be someone we discern that God has called? Will it be someone with whom we feel we can work? Will it be someone we believe is a servant of Christ?

All I can say at this point is that I am waiting with all of you. Each of them has portrayed themselves as having a strong faith in God through Jesus Christ and as being committed to working with the Diocese and within the Episcopal Church to bring about a time of healing, a time of growth, and time of new life.

New life also is what we look forward to in the season of Lent as we anticipate not just Christ's death and resurrection upon the cross, but his being raised by Almighty God, through the resurrection into new life. Our time of waiting in recent years within our Diocese has had its challenges, but now we can see ahead of us the fruit of our faithfulness, God to be at work, to bring about new opportunity and new life. My prayer is that this time of waiting has better prepared us to be faithful servants with the one whom God has called to be our spiritual leader.

We must be careful though not to place too much burden on this person, to believe that he is the Messiah, to solve all of our ills and our woes. For whoever our new Bishop will be, he will be human just like all of us. Someone we pray is especially gifted with the gifts of the spirit, to have the *charisma* as our bishop to lead us in a special way. But to each of us has also been given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to be people of God, to discern God at work in our lives and in our congregations and in our communities in which we live. We also have been called to minister and to bear witness to that special blessing of Christ's presence, that special blessing of the Holy Spirit that lives within us.

So as we wait, we wait with that sense of being alive, the sense of ministering that sense of witnessing now in our time of waiting. This is a time of preparing for the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and of preparing for the calling of our new bishop. And in that Resurrection to see that we too must die to old ways and be raised anew and alive through the gift of grace from God as He raised Christ Jesus as the first of all of us who shall follow.

May God richly bless you all this holy season of Lent as we prepare to rejoice in the great day of the Resurrection. Amen.

Colin+

February 2010 Standing Committee Meeting Summary

The February meeting of the Standing Committee and Board of Trustees was held at Diocesan House on Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

By Laws as they are received from the congregations are being reviewed. Fr. Perko will distribute a template to the area Deans so that congregations needing to develop bylaws will be able to utilize such a format.

The email vote taken to allow the Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson to celebrate and preach at St. Michael's and All Angels in Albuquerque was ratified.

Standing Committee approved the following additions of positions to be allowed on the floor of the Electing Convention: Assistant Secretary to Convention, Information Officer *pro tem*, and the Credentials Committee. Special Invitations will be made to the Chaplain of Convention (the Right Reverend William C. Frey), organist (Maxine Thevenot), photographer, sexton, DRG paid staff, and a Court Reporter.

The Transition Team reported that they visited the Hoffmantown Baptist Church facilities which are excellent, including a full child care center. These facilities will make a beautiful setting for the Service of Consecration for our new bishop. The locations and dates of the Question and Answer sessions of the Walk About will be published in the next Together.

There have been some changes in the Diocesan House staffing. Paul Ballmer is no longer the staff and his responsibilities have been redistributed. Current Diocesan staff will assume many of the Communication Specialist's duties and the Communications Committee will be responsible for the diocesan newspaper and website.

The Deployment Committee was pleased to announce that St. Mark's on the Mesa has asked the Ecclesiastic Authority to appoint the Reverend Connie Delzell as their Priest in Charge.

The Standing Committee is continuing to explore electronic meeting options for the Diocese. Frs. Winter and Kelly used Go To Meeting. They reported that the audio portion was good and that it was designed for presentations as opposed to meetings. Other programs need to be researched.

The Camp Stoney Board had a board retreat in early Feb. and is looking at designing retreats to be offered periodically. The board also looked at other priorities of ministries and ways to build the use of the camp year round. Future promotions of the camp will be as a Camp and Retreat center in lieu of "Conference Center."

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held at Diocesan House on March 8, 2010 at 10:30 am. The Board of Trustees meeting will begin prior to this.

Betsy Yost, Secretary, Standing Committee

Episcopal Relief & Development Reaches Out in Wake of Chilean Earthquake

On Saturday, February 27th at 2:34 am local time, Chile was hit by an 8.8-magnitude earthquake. The quake struck off the Pacific coast at a depth of nearly 22 miles. The epicenter was approximately 60 miles northwest of Chillan, Chile and 220 miles southeast of Chile's capital, Santiago.

The capital lost basic services such as water, electricity and telephones, but Chilean authorities are working closely with emergency crews to address local needs. While the current death toll stands at 147, that number is expected to rise.

At least 33 aftershocks have been reported, including a 6.3-magnitude event in Argentina. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center has issued a tsunami warning for the entire Pacific region that includes not only Hawaii, but also countries as far away as Russia and Japan. California and Alaska are both under a tsunami advisory as well.

In the wake of this disaster, Episcopal Relief & Development is reaching out to dioceses in the affected areas to determine the best course of action. Please continue to keep all those affected in your prayers.

Carolyn Waller
Diocesan Coordinator



OUR LADY OF LAS PALOMAS INTER-FAITH RETREAT CENTER PRESENTS

The Rt. Rev. Rustin and Gretchen Kimsey
March 23-24, 2010

The Assisting Bishop of Alaska and Mrs. Kimsey will present a teaching on receiving the gift of Celtic Christianity at compassion House, 707 Grant Street, Columbus, NM from Noon March 23 until noon March 24, 2010. For more information please go to <http://dioceserg.org—Events>



Mission of Hope – 2010

"We are a missionary people." This has been the mission statement for the Diocese of the Rio Grande for many years. However, until recently I never experienced it in the way that I did as part of the Mission of Hope Team, 2010, to the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home.

Preparation for this mission began in the spring of 2009, as a preliminary team went to Hoima, Uganda, to gather information and assess needs that a larger mission team would address in January, 2010. As the larger team formed with people from Pennsylvania, Louisiana and New Mexico there were several meetings for prayer, planning and inoculations. Fund raising was a big effort, and at St. Matthew's we had a pie auction that raised over \$1000.00. A grant request was also submitted to the Northwest Deanery and was awarded (many thanks!). A free will donation was made available at the last Convention in El Paso, Texas, and many other individuals helped support the mission team.

We arrived at the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home (BMSBH) after dark on January, 14th to cheering, screaming and the most excited children I have ever seen in my life. They had anxiously awaited us all day, and when we finally came through the gate they exploded in joy.

The next morning at about 8:34 am there was a Annular Solar Eclipse that passed immediately over the home. It cast an eerie reddish glow over the land and signaled for many of us that new beginnings were ahead. The team began to meet the children that we have been praying for and sponsoring for years. All of us were overwhelmed by the beauty and love that the children expressed in their actions, play, speech and

prayers.

Each morning as I would walk into the BMSBH children would run up to me to greet me and then take me to pray for whoever had recently fallen ill. The people there seem to call every sickness "malaria," whether is actually malaria or not. Immediate and dramatic recover followed our prayers for children and adults.

We were able to start a relationship between the orphanage and the hotel (The Crown) where the team stayed, enabling the children to be able to go swimming and even get lessons on a regular basis. This was a huge blessing and a great source of joy for everyone involved. Getting these kids in the pool (many of whom had never been in water like that before), was really something to experience.

Several of the Team were invited to meet His Majesty, King Solomon Igara. We were told how much we were appreciated for our work and love for the BMSBH. King Solomon has the title (among many others) as the Defender of Orphans, and it is his wish that in each the nine counties in his kingdom that a new orphanage would be built, modeled on the BMSBH. This meeting was one of the highlights for me as we also met with the Minister of Education, the Minister of the Environment, the Speaker of the House, and Rev. Isaiah (who was instrumental in the founding of the babies home and St. Luke's, the local Anglican Church).

Several of the team had medical training and were able to do great ministry with the children. They also helped many of the staff and even other adults not immediately associated with the orphanage. We learned that approximately 38% of women die in childbirth die and that 42% of babies do not survive their first year. This is a very serious matter; it will not be corrected over night, but it must continue to weigh on our hearts and in our prayers until we are able to see it corrected.

The team put together a Vacation Bible School based on St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, "The Whole Armor of God." The children were the best students and wow can they sing! A couple of us met with the Men's Group of St. Luke's and Bishop Wilson for a time of encouragement and prayer.

I want to encourage those of you who have never had a thought about doing short term missionary service to open your hearts and consider going (and of course to help support ongoing mission work). I can tell you from my own experience, you will not go alone, and in fact He has prepared the way for you already. Remember, "Here am I Lord, send me!"

In the Grace of Jesus, Robert L Mundy+ Kali Kali Bye

March 2010

Saturday, March 6

NW Deanery, St. Mark's on the Mesa,
SW Deanery, St. James, Mesilla Park

Monday, March 8

Standing Committee

Tuesday, March 9

Diocesan Council

Thursday—Sunday, March 11–14

School for Ministry Intensive Weekend, Ghost Ranch

Friday, March 12

Lord and Lady Carey at Cathedral of St. John

Saturday, March 13

Daughters of the King Quiet Day, Cathedral of St. John
12:00 Noon World Vision AID's Caregiver Kit Assembly, St. Thomas of Canterbury,
Albuquerque (Please make a reservation for lunch)
Daylight Savings Time Begins 2:00 AM

Sunday, March 14

Lord and Lady Carey at Cathedral of St. John

Monday, March 15

Electing Convention Registration Deadline

Tuesday, March 16

NW Deanery Clericus, Cathedral of St. John

Friday—Sunday, March 19-21

Third Annual Kelshaw Lectures, Lord and Lady Carey, St. James Clovis

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 23-24

Celtic Workshop, Our Lady of Palomas, Columbus, NM

Saturday, March 27

10:00 AM Mass of Collegiality, St. Bede's Santa Fe

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 29

10:00 AM Mass of Collegiality, Cathedral of St. John

Tuesday, March 30

Ordination, The Reverend Donald Heacox, St. Luke's, Deming

Wednesday, March 31

10:00 AM Mass of Collegiality, St. Andrews, Roswell

April 2010

Thursday, April 1

10:00 AM Mass of Collegiality, St. James, Mesilla Park

Friday, April 2

Good Friday, Diocesan House Office Closed

Sunday, April 4

EASTER!

Monday, April 5

Monday after Easter, Diocesan Office Closed

Thursday—Wednesday, April 9-14

Bishop Nominee Walk-About Sessions and Visits (See Front Page Article)

Saturday, April 10

Sexual Ethics Training, Holy Family, Santa Fe

Tuesday, April 20

SW Deanery Clericus, St. Luke's, La Union

Saturday, April 24

Electing Convention, Cathedral of St. John

The Right Reverend William Frey

Sunday, March 14

St. Francis, Rio Rancho

Friday—Wednesday, March 19-24

House of Bishops

Sunday, March 28

Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe

Friday, April 2, Good Friday

Noon, All Saints, El Paso; 6:00 PM, St. Alban's, El Paso

Saturday, April 3

St. Christopher's, El Paso

Sunday, April 4

St. Andrew's, Las Cruces

Sunday, April 25

Cathedral of St. John

PLAN AHEAD:

Saturday, May 8

Anti-Racism Training, All Saints', El Paso



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March 10, 2010
Deadline for April Together
March 15, 2010
Electing Convention Registration Deadline
April 24, 2010
Electing Convention

Lenten Reflection—Reconciliation

During this Lenten season, reconciliation is an important part of our spiritual work. Literally, the word “reconcile” means “to call (or gather) together again.” In its usual sense, its definition is to restore to friendship or harmony, as in restoring to harmony those parties that have been estranged or separated by misunderstanding or enmity. Reconciliation, then, is that purposeful action of bringing together or bringing into harmony. In the Church, it can have the more distinct meaning of restoring to communion.

In practical terms, the way in which reconciliation is effected depends upon the parties that are at odds. As the old saying goes, “it takes two to tango,” and while that is usually the case when circumstances arise where reconciliation is needed, it is not universally so.

Most often, it is when two individuals are estranged that reconciliation is needed. Perhaps I’ve had an argument with a friend or have taken particular offense at a slight, whether intended or not. There is a distance that develops, and as we know all too well, if that separation is not addressed quickly, the distance only increases, while communication becomes more and more difficult. Frequently, all that is needed is for one person to make the first move, to say “I’m sorry,” or to ask forgiveness, and then the barriers come down, communication is restored and reconciliation achieved. Sometimes, however, when the issues are larger or deeper, a third party might be needed to be a counselor and to facilitate the reconciliation.

Reconciliation is important for the spiritual health of the individual. It is for this reason that the General Confession is said before receiving Communion; we confess our sins, accept God’s forgiveness and so are reconciled to him, at least ritually. It is also the reason why the Exchange of the Peace precedes Communion. If there is anger or enmity, separation of any kind with another person, we should try to get that right before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. As the Offertory sentence (Matthew 5: 23-24) states, “If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

There are times when reconciliation is needed between a Christian and the Church. This category is a bit more complicated, for the lines of communication can become tangled and triangulated if we are not careful. Barriers between a church and one of its members can be caused by miscommunication, unrealistic or unspoken expectations, misconduct, hurtful words or honest mistakes. Most frequently, what is needed to reconcile a person with the church is for communication to take place between the parties, and for all to behave in a spirit of humility.

Perhaps the most difficult reconciliation is that between the person and some aspect of his inner self. Internal reconciliation, creating wholeness in our lives, can be very painful and difficult. This challenge results from the boxes into which we hide our hurts, our problems and, as psychologists might put it, our “baggage.” We wrap the unpleasant things we do not want to address in layers and layers of wrapping. The world outside us cannot see them, and we pretend we can’t either. The problem is that, inevitably, they have a deleterious effect on our lives, spiritual and otherwise. Indeed, so insidious can these effects be that they lead to a kind of spiritual death.

For me, this has been one of the most meaningful of interpretations of the account in John’s Gospel of the Raising of Lazarus (John 11). The center of the entire reading, in this respect, is Jesus’ final command to the people standing by who have witnessed this miracle: “Unbind him, and let him go!” To my ears, this command rings with echoes of Isaiah’s prophecy about the Messiah, “...he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...” (Isaiah 61: 1) The hope in this passage is not that Lazarus was brought back to life, for he would one day die again. The hope is in the message of resurrection that Jesus gives to Mary and Martha, and also this clarion message of freedom from the wrappings of spiritual death with which we so often bind ourselves. There is no gravecloth wound so tightly around our heart that Jesus cannot free us from it. We can use the tools that we have at hand, but it is Jesus himself who proclaims freedom and new life.

Lent is a time to take reconciliation seriously. Goodness knows there are plenty of opportunities around us in which we can devote our energies to this important spiritual practice! In the Diocese of the Rio Grande, for example, various leaders have expended much time, energy and prayer over the last two years to bring reconciliation into the midst of some of the hurts and conflicts that have existed here during past episcopates. The Standing Committee and Deans, supporting the New Life Team in the process that, we hope and pray, will be ongoing with the leadership of our new Bishop, have made reconciliation one of their primary efforts. Frankly, those efforts have met with mixed success, as will always be the case when true healing relies upon the desire of both parties to be brought together in the communion of the Church. Nevertheless, good work has been done, and as a result, I believe the Diocese is in a better position to choose healthy leadership for the future.

This same difficult work at reconciliation has been one of the tasks to which I have felt called here at the Cathedral. As a result of various leadership issues and changes, the way in which people treated one another at St. John’s had evolved, over time, into patterns that certainly did not encourage reconciliation and demonstrating healthy patterns of living together in communion into which our Anglican ethos of the *via media* invites us. As in the life of the Diocese, I believe that we have made a good start at creating a welcoming community of faith here that takes seriously its commitment to reconciliation.

As new life has expressed itself in the Diocese of the Rio Grande and the Cathedral of St. John, so it can with you. Each one will know of relationships in his or her life that are in need of reconciliation. All of us have an understanding of the places where our connection to God is in need of healing and repair. Lent is the invitation not to procrastinate any more about making an effort to bring health and wholeness to these places in our lives, to ask God to help us remove the grave clothes of spiritual oppression and bring light, life and freedom into the broken parts of our lives.

If you are one today who realizes your life is bound up in some way in darkness, Jesus’ words are meant for you. In Christ, we can be reconciled with any part of our selves, of our lives. Hear his words in your ears: “Lazarus, come out!” “Unbind him, and let him go!”

The Very Reverend J. Mark Goodman
Dean, Cathedral of St. John