



T O G E T H E R

A Communication of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande Oct 2009

The Right Reverend William Frey Presided at Diaconal Ordinations on September 19, 2009

The Cathedral of St. John welcomed people from across the diocese to celebrate the ordinations of five new deacons. Four will serve as transitional deacons and one as a permanent deacon.

Diane Figge, Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos: Trinity on the Hill has been her spiritual home since coming to New Mexico, and for the past three years she has served as a member of the Chili Line Ministry in an active rotation of preaching, assisting at the Altar, traveling to St. Jerome's and St. Stephen's, hospital visitations, and leading weekday services. She has an ardent love of Spiritual formation, and has completed a program for the formation of Spiritual Directors. She is currently involved in outreach, and teaching "Christian Caregiving a Way of Life". She is the local convener of the Order of St. Luke. As a deacon she hopes to focus a lot of energy on the Chili Line and Pastoral Care. She is thrilled to be serving the Lord, and looks forward to ministry, and sharing with the clergy and laity of this diocese.

Don Heacox, St. Luke's, Deming: Don has served as lay pastor of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Deming since the beginning of 2004. A native Hoosier and graduate of the fourth class of the Air Force Academy, Don retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1986. He has a masters degree in industrial engineering from Stanford University and is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Following his ordination to the priesthood, Don will become Vicar of St. Luke's in Deming.

Jan Hosea, St. Chad's, Albuquerque: Jan currently serves as the Regional Development Officer for Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation. She and husband Bruce have been in Albuquerque for 25 years and own J & B Ventures, Inc. and J & B Enterprises. In her over 35 years of non-profit management experience, she has worked in direct service programs, was an agency executive director, director of development at UNM for the School of Law, and an associate campaign director for a United Way in Texas. Jan holds a prestigious (less than 250 in the country!) Masters of Arts Degree in Philanthropy and Development from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and is a former faculty member of this program. Jan serves as a deacon at St. Chad's, Albuquerque.

Ruth Morgan, St. Francis, Rio Rancho: Ruth presently serves as Administrative Assistant at St. Francis Rio Rancho and plans to continue in that capacity for the time being. She reports, "I have been married to my husband for eleven years. Between the two of us we have six children and fourteen grandchildren. As a deacon I pray that I am able to continue to learn what it takes to be a rector of a parish, ministering to a congregation and helping them to continue to grow closer to God, as a congregation and as individual

Anne Turrie, St. James, Mesilla Park: In response to a request for some biographical information, Anne replied, "My husband, Steve,



The newly ordained deacons are pictured with Bishop Frey shortly after they were ordained. From left to right are Don Heacox, Jan Hosea, Bishop Frey, Anne Turrie, Ruth Morgan and Diane Figge. *Photo by the Rev. Brian Winter*

and I arrived in Las Cruces in 2000 as a result of our retirement and following a year of prayer. We were searching for a new congregation and a new vocation where we could help those in need. For the past two years, I have been applying what I have learned as a subdeacon at St. James'. Following my ordination, I envision expanding on those duties. Currently, I am leading two Bible studies, assisting in pastoral care, serving with my husband in Lay Eucharistic Ministry, assisting at the altar at Wednesday and Sunday services, preaching on occasion, and leading community outreach services to those in need. I feel blessed that God has chosen me to serve Him and I look forward to discovering the opportunities that lie ahead."

The Dean of the School for Ministry, the Rev. Canon Michael Perko reports that, "The Diocesan School for Ministry is gratified that five more of its alumni are to be ordained and take their place among the clergy of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. The School for Ministry offers a clergy formation program accredited through Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. Students take seminary courses via a combination of distance learning and face-to-face intensive instruction. Since its inception over ten years ago, the school has seen over 50 of its students ordained for ministry in our diocese, territorially the second largest in the Episcopal Church. Without the school and the generosity of women and men offering themselves for part-time service in the Church along with their other occupations, many of our small town and rural congregations would struggle to continue. School for Ministry alumni are key ingredients in the vibrant ministry that characterizes so many of this diocese's smaller congregations."

**A Message from the Rev. Canon Colin P. Kelly, III, D. Min
President of the Standing Committee**

"You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:32) When the Ecclesiastical Authority (Standing Committee) began the New Life Process over a year ago, we had three words at the core of this process which were inspired by these words of Jesus. Those three words were: "Honest, Open, and Transparent". The New Life Team worked countless hours seeking to develop within our diocese an atmosphere of openness within which all were encouraged to speak and listen openly and respectfully to each other. In this manner, we prayed we would be able to renew an atmosphere of trust within our diocese. We have continued to believe this is essential in a healthy Christian body. Where trust thrives, fear is abated, for fear is the opposite of trust.

In this spirit of building trust through open sharing of the truth, we include in this issue of *Together* the complete response of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to criticism of a particular part of her opening address to the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Because her original address has been so misinterpreted and misrepresented by many who were not there to hear it, I urge you to read her remarks in the spirit of seeking the truth of knowing what she actually said and her intentions. Whether you agree or disagree is your call. You see, trust built through open communication allows for the sharing of differing viewpoints. In this open, respectful sharing of our relationship with Christ Jesus, we grow as we better understand the place Jesus has in the lives of others and they better understand us. This is not a seeking of the lowest common denominator, but rather a learning to live together in the Body of Christ even where we are not all in total agreement on every issue. Write her with your thoughts on her remarks. Do not assume she is too busy or does not care about you. That's just an excuse for not taking the risk. Go ahead and send off your thoughts. She will "listen" respectfully.

Rumors are born of many things, but fear is chief among them. To attempt to dispel a few of them, I choose to share the truth as I know it about the departure of some clergy and laity from St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa Episcopal Church to form Christ the King Anglican Church in Albuquerque. Apparently a group of parishioners have been working for the past year to leave the Episcopal Church and find a location where they can worship as "Anglicans", but not in the Episcopal Church. In August, their Rector, Fr. David Luckenbach accepted a call to a church in Tyler, Texas. Rumors of this planned, organized movement out of the Diocese and The Episcopal Church began to surface to the Ecclesiastical Authority. We then asked Bishop Frey to be the temporary Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's for the month of October while we met with the Vestry to determine the veracity of the rumors and seek a

path forward. Unfortunately, before we could meet together, Fr. Roger Weber, on Sunday, September 27, announced the plans of a group, including the Webers to depart and start holding services in their newly rented facilities on October 4. We wish them well as we work in support of the continuing clergy and members of St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa Episcopal Church. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Please pray for all involved that there may be healing and reconciliation.

I look forward to being with you in El Paso later this month as we come together in our annual gathering to do the work of the Lord in the Body of Christ known as the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Colin+

**On Sunday, August 30, 2009 San Gabriel's Bid a Fond
Farewell to Vicar Emerita the Rev. Sandra S. Bess**



The Episcopal Mission of San Gabriel the Archangel in Corrales, New Mexico, celebrated the ministry of Mother Sandra, our founding vicar. We were joined by many members of St. Michael and All Angels, Albuquerque, our mother parish, and

friends from the Cathedral of St. John, St. Chad's, and St. Thomas of Canterbury. It was a day of laughter and tears.

We send her forth with gratitude, hope, and deep affection. She signs her e-mails "Vaya con Dios" and we say the same to her as she moves into well-earned retirement. Blessings on her writing, her travels, and the as-yet-undiscovered ways in which she will continue to minister to others.

Mother Sandra S. Bess is one of the senior clergy in the diocese and the senior woman clergy in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. She grew up in the diocese and was ordained here 31 years ago. She was one of the first women ordained in the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Editor's Note: Mother Sandra Bess continues to recover from a serious infection. She is currently at Kindred Hospital downtown and will be there for several more weeks. She thanks everyone for their continued and ongoing prayers for her complete healing. If you would care to receive email updates in the weeks ahead, contact Miranda Eastham at meastham@unm.edu.

Presiding Bishop's Response to Criticism of Her Opening Address to the 2009 General Convention

I always am delighted when people listen to what I say in a sermon or address. Sometimes I am surprised by what they hear.

In my opening address at General Convention, I spoke about the "great Western heresy" of individualism (see the full text [here](#)). There have been varied reactions from people who weren't there, who heard or read an isolated comment without the context. Apparently I wasn't clear!

Individualism (the understanding that the interests and independence of the individual necessarily trump the interests of others as well as principles of interdependence) is basically unbiblical and unchristian.

The spiritual journey, at least in the Judeo-Christian tradition, is about holy living in community. When Jesus was asked to summarize the Torah, he said, "love God and love your neighbor as yourself." That means our task is to be in relationship with God and with our neighbors. If salvation is understood only as "getting right with God" without considering "getting right with (all) our neighbors," then we've got a heresy (an unorthodox belief) on our hands.

The theme of our General Convention, ubuntu, was chosen intentionally to focus on this. Often translated from its original African dialects as "I am because we are," ubuntu has significant biblical connections and warrant. The Hebrew prophets save their strongest denunciation for those who claim to be worshipping correctly but ignore injustice done to their neighbors (e.g., Amos 5:21-24), and Jesus insists that those who will enter the kingdom are the ones who have cared for neighbor by feeding, watering, clothing, housing, healing and visiting "the least of these" (Matt 25:31-46).

In my address, I went on to say that sometimes this belief that salvation only depends on getting right with God is reduced to saying a simple formula about Jesus. Jesus is quite explicit in his rejection of simple formulas: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matt 7:21).

He is repeatedly insistent that right relationship depends on loving neighbors – for example, "those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (1John 4:20).

The Epistles repeatedly enjoin the followers of Jesus to "give evidence of the hope within you" (1Pet 3:15ff), that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:14-26), that our judgment depends on care for brother and sister (Rom 14:10-12) and that we eat our own destruction if we take Communion without having regard for the rest of the community (1Cor 11:27-34).

Salvation depends on love of God and our relationship with Jesus, and we give evidence of our relationship with God in how we treat our neighbors, nearby and far away. Salvation is a gift from God, not something we can earn by our works, but neither is salvation assured by words alone.

Salvation cannot be complete, in an eternal and eschatological sense, until the whole of creation is restored to right relationship.

That is what we mean when we proclaim in the catechism that "the mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" and that Christian hope is to "live with confidence in newness and fullness of life and to await the coming of Christ in glory and the completion of God's purpose for the world." We anticipate the restoration of all creation to right relationship, and we proclaim that Jesus' life, death and resurrection made that possible in a new way.

At the same time, salvation in the sense of cosmic reconciliation is a mystery. It's hard to pin down or talk about. It is ultimately the gift of a good and gracious God, not the product of our incessant striving. It is about healing and wholeness and holiness, the fruit of being more than doing. Just like another image we use to speak about restored relationship, the reign of God, salvation is happening all the time, all around us. Where do you see evidence?

-- The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori is Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Standing Committee Meeting Summary September 29, 2009

The Standing Committee held a special meeting with other members of the Trustees of the Property and also met as the Standing Committee with the Deans on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. The meetings focused on St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa and Church of Our Savior, both of which are located in Albuquerque.

On Sunday, September 27, 2009, it was announced at a special gathering of the congregation of St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa, following a combined service, that clergy and a number of parishioners would be leaving The Episcopal Church and forming a new church called Christ the King Anglican. This group was walking away from the buildings of St. Mark's and making no claim for them. They had apparently been working on this plan for at least a year and had rented a new worship space. This announcement came as a surprise even to members of St. Mark's. The Trustees and the Standing Committee met with Deacon Beth Noland of the continuing St. Mark's who had requested time to present detailed plans on behalf of those continuing at St. Mark's. She presented transition plans that are in place at this time as the regular service schedule and programs will be continued. The Deployment Committee will identify candidates for a Priest-in-Charge to be considered by a newly elected vestry. The election of the Vestry is expected in approximately two weeks. The plans presented were due to the resignation of most of the clergy, Vestry and paid staff on Sunday, September 27. We are deeply concerned about all the former and continuing parishioners of St. Mark's. The Rt. Rev. Bill Frey was appointed temporary Priest-in-Charge for the month of October. He will be assisted by Deacon Beth Noland. Further information is contained in a press release found on the diocesan website www.dioceserg.org.

Church of Our Savior: The Standing Committee has acted on the request made in a letter from Fr. Harold Trott as well as on the letter from the congregation indicating that they have left The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Beginning Sunday, October 4, 2009, regular services will be held at Our Savior. The Dean of the NW Deanery, Fr. Jan Davey, will help to coordinate the transition and the Deployment Committee will address the identification of Priest in Charge.

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Merrill Woodrow (Woody) Peabody Celebrates 40 years of Priesthood

On Saturday September 12th, members of Epiphany Episcopal Church in Socorro surprised Father Peabody with a celebration of his 40 years in



the priesthood. He has served as Vicar there for the last eight years. Fr. Peabody graduated from the Episcopal Seminary at Berkeley, California. On September 13th, 1969 he was ordained to the priesthood. He has served churches in California, Washington and New Mexico.

"We are a missionary people"

Diocesan Calendar
November

- 1st – Daylight Savings End
- 3rd – Election Day
- 4th – Commission on Ministry
- 5th – Commission on Ministry
- 6th – 8th – Cursillo
- 7th – Sexual Ethics Training, St. James', Mesilla Park
- 7th – NE Deanery Meeting, Holy Faith, Santa Fe
- 7th – Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe (5:00P)
- 8th – St. Stephen's, Espanola
- 9th – Standing Committee
- 10th – Diocesan Council
- 10th – Installation of the Rev. Guy Mackey, St. John's Church, Farmington
- 13th - 14th – Healing Mission, St. James', Clovis
- 14th – SW Deanery Meeting, St. James', Mesilla Park
- 16th – Budget and Audit Committee
- 17th – Investment Board
- 17th – NW Deanery Meeting, Cathedral, Albuquerque
- 21st – SE Deanery Fall Gathering
- 22nd – St. Paul's, Artesia
- 22nd – St. Andrew's, Roswell (early evening)
- 26th – Thanksgiving, Diocesan Office Closed (25th – 27th)
- 29th – First Sunday of Advent

December

- 6th – St. Bede's, Santa Fe
- 6th – Celebration of 50 years of Ordination, Wesley Smith, Holy Family, Santa Fe
- 8th – Standing Committee
- 10th – 13th - Intensive Weekend, School for Ministry, Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe
- 19th – Church of the Ascension, Cloudcroft (4:00P)
- 20th – St. John's, Alamogordo
- 24th – Christmas Eve, Diocesan Office Closed (23rd – Jan. 1st)
- 25th – Christmas Day
- 31st – New Year's Eve

Key

Diocesan Meetings (Diocesan House unless otherwise indicated)
 Major Episcopal Holidays
 Major Secular Holidays
 Diocesan/Deanery Events
 Official Bishop Visits

Deadline for TOGETHER articles is the 15th day of each month — pballmer@dioceserg.org