



T O G E T H E R

A Communication of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

Dec 2009

Advent Carries a Special Meaning in the Diocese of the Rio Grande This Year.

By the Rev. Raymond Raney

The season of Advent is always fraught with the tension of what was, what is and what is to come. We live in the in-between of celebrating the Nativity of our Lord and anticipating Christ's return in glory. We cycle through each church season and end up once again where we began – Advent.

We look to the Nativity as we light the succession of candles in the advent wreath, and, perhaps, hum "Away in a Manger," or listen to the ubiquitous carols played in stores.

But we also hear the refrains from the Advent carol:

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending,
Swell the triumph of His train:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

That carries the fear and triumph of the season of Advent. The expectation of Christmas with the anticipation of the Second Coming combine in living into the "not yet."

This year, in the Diocese of the Rio Grande, we experience a heightened sense of expectation because we also anticipate the culmination of two years of discernment in searching for our next Bishop. Next month the candidates will be announced. As we prepare to receive those names, and as we light the candles of Advent, let us pray fervently the prayer written by the Search Committee's Chaplin, Father Ads Lovekin.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, giver of every good gift, send forth your Holy Spirit and raise up for us a bishop of your own choosing: a shepherd to lead and guide us with personal holiness, wisdom, compassion and grace.

Father, we pray for a bishop with vision and the commitment to heal and unite your faithful people of the Diocese of the Rio Grande that we all may make known the love of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us and the whole world, in whose Name we pray. *Amen.*

Rev. Frederick B. "Ted" Howden Day Celebrated on December 11th

By The Rev. Canon Carole McGowan

If you have ever wondered how people are selected for inclusion in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, you can now have a bird's eye point of view and even be part of the process. In 2008, our Diocesan Convention resolved to present the name of the Rev. Frederick B. "Ted" Howden to the Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church so that his life and work could be commemorated annually on December 11 through the liturgical calendar of the Church. In 2000, the Diocesan Convention established a day commemorating Fr. Howden in the liturgical calendar of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Father Howden was the Rector of St. Andrew's parish in Roswell before he served in World War II. After enduring the Bataan Death March, he died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. His ministry to his fellow prisoners was remarkable.



Rev. Frederick B. "Ted" Howden

Father Howden's name is still under consideration by the Standing Liturgical Commission. The fact that we as a Diocese take the observance of his day seriously strengthens the case for his inclusion in the liturgical calendar of the entire Episcopal Church.

The Clergy of the Diocese recently received copies of the proposed prayers and readings to be used on Father Howden's day. Copies of the 2008 Convention Resolution pertaining to this commemoration; the collects; the readings and a brief biography will be posted on the diocesan website so that all can have access.

I encourage you to take part in your parish's observance of this day, so important to our Diocese. Besides, how often do you have a chance to reveal a saint to the wider Church?

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (BCP, p. 211)

This prayer is especially important not only because it is the first prayer of the Christian Year, but also, because according to The Rev. Dr. Peter Toon, since the 1662 BCP, it has been required to be repeated by devout Anglicans throughout the entire Advent season. I commend it to you, because it speaks to me of the opportunity a loving God offers us, yet again, to turn away from or "cast away" the works of darkness and to "put on the armor of light" now in this lifetime. Salvation is not only an experience offered at the time of our deaths as we are propelled into eternal life, but it is a blessedness that we may know now, through the grace of Jesus. This is Good News! Jesus has come and offered us hope, and he will come again.

The timing of this Holy Season of Advent, places it in the weekend of Thanksgiving and, of course, a month before Christmas. This can be a beautiful time of year as we give thanks for the blessings of our lives and anticipate sharing our gifts of love with each other, because God has first shared the gift of love with us through coming to literally "pitch a tent in our midst". No God to be looked for on the other side of the former planet Pluto, the God whom we worship and adore is in our midst.

Yet, for many, including believers, this can be a time of feeling lonely, overlooked, depressed, overwhelmed, and in despair. Instead of joy and love, they see their lives as meaningless and isolated. All of us, at one time or another, may have experienced those moments in our lives when all looks dark and hopeless. It is in those times that people may take precipitous action by trying to take the course of their lives into their own hands, instead of trusting in the Lord. We have a horse who used to bolt at the slightest sign of danger, real or imagined. Gradually, as I have learned to approach him slowly, with arms outstretched, (It doesn't hurt for me to have a little treat in my hand!) trust has been built and he has allowed me to clean around him and brush him, yes, and ride him. In that same way, Jesus has come to us and will come again, to offer forgiveness through his grace and to bring the light of his love into the darkness of our lives. Trust him.

I invite you to join with me in daily praying this collect of the First Sunday of Advent throughout this season that we may all be daily reminded of the grace of God which comes to us even (or should I say especially) in the darkest moments of our lives. May Christ richly bless you and those you love and those for whom you pray this Holy Season,
Colin+

**Update from the Standing Committee
November 9, 2009**

The meeting of the Standing Committee was held with the Deans on Monday, November 9, 2009 at the Diocesan House in Albuquerque.

Consent to Election: Diocese of the Rio Grande has consented to the election and consecration of the Rev. Scott Benhase as the Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia.

Ordination to Priesthood: The Standing Committee acting as the Ecclesiastic Authority has agreed to the ordination to Priesthood for the Rev. Deacon Don Heacox.

Appointments by the Ecclesiastic Authority: The following appointments were made.

Commission on Ministry-Nancy Worthen from the Cathedral for a four year term (2010-2013), the Rev. Beth Noland for a one year term as the Vocational Deacon, Bob Stice for a one year term as Psychologist, and the Rev. Kay Anders for a one year term as recent seminary graduate.

Camp Stoney Board – the Rev. Rodney Hurst, the Rev. Nick Funk and Sarah Van Vliet have been appointed for 3 year terms (2010-2012)

Communication Chair – Diane Butler for a one year term.

Associate Canonist – Jack Burton appointed for a one year term
Chairs for the Nominating Committee for the 2010 Convention and the Women's Ministry will be appointed at the December meeting.

Transition Team Report: The Election Convention will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Cathedral in Albuquerque.

-A Coordinating Committee with the DRG staff has been established. The Rev Brian Winter will serve as the DRG staff liaison from the Standing Committee.

-The area Deans will be involved in educating the electors in their deaneries.

-A prayer vigil at every church in the Diocese on the day of the election is encouraged.

Procedures for the certification of Lay and Clergy Delegates will be distributed to all churches and clergy by mid-December. The Ecclesiastical Authority will appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of 2 clergy and 3 lay people to handle all matters concerning credentials.

Nomination by Petition Process: The Standing Committee met with the Search/Transition Teams Consultant, Suzanne Foucault to begin to define the petition process. This process will be distributed on January 4, 2010.

Search Team Candidates will be announced on January 18, 2010.

Parochial Reports will be due on the canonical due date of March 1, 2010. It is important to file reports on time because the number of lay delegates from each church for the electing convention will be determined based on 2009 Parochial Reports.

Resolution of Appreciation: The Diocese expresses its thanks and appreciation for the service of Mr. Donald and Mrs. Lou Anne Giese at St. Matthew's in Los Lunas.

House of Hope Women Return Safely from Juarez, Mexico

Columbus Day weekend in October 2009 marked the fifth successful house building mission trip for the House of Hope women from Los Alamos, New Mexico. Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church is the catalyst of this women-only mission trip that partners with Gateway Mission Training Center in El Paso, Texas. As in years past, the women, ranging in age from 14 to 68, and hailing from as far away as Arizona and Nevada, participated in an expedited build and completed the home in three days.

The 2009 House of Hope Team raised more money and found the trip more spiritually motivating than ever before. Normal safety precautions were taken and there were no feelings of unease or threats of violence. The gratitude of the Mexican people, who have felt the sting of rejection in the wake of U.S. fears, was overwhelming. The opportunity to minister to the poor of Juarez and be at Los Manos de Dios was felt most keenly and intimately.

The women of the House of Hope invite you, as we enter the Advent season and reflect on the hope of the Christ-child in our world, to join us in spreading God's hope and love to the people of Juarez. We will be returning to Juarez in October 2010 and are exploring the possibility of building more than one house next year. Additionally, our mission partner, Gateway Mission Training Center, hopes to raise the funds to build six additional Juarez homes by early next year. For information about the House of Hope team, contact Lynn Finnegan, finnegan@los-alamos.net, 412-0506, or Cathy Walters, cathwalter@aol.com, 662-5266. To make a donation to Gateway, go to www.GatewayMissionTraining.com.

Gala & Silent Auction

The Choirs of the Cathedral of St. John cordially invite you to a *Gala Twelfth Night Dinner & Silent Auction*, on Saturday, January 9, 2010.

Doors open at 5:00 pm for silent auction bidding. Wine bar available. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Reservations are required. \$35.00 per person tickets may be purchased between services or by calling Cindy Davis (247-1581). The menu for the evening is: roast beef or roast pork, Yorkshire pudding, curried vegetables, salad and trifle. All proceeds go to the choir 2010 England Tour Fund.

Name the Diocesan Newsletter

We are changing the format of the Diocesan *Together*. Our newsletter will become a newspaper in January, and will expand from its small size to a tabloid size.

The Communications Committee has been working for the past year to improve communications. The redesign of the diocesan webpage in the spring was the first step in that process. The next step in improving communications will be the redesign of *Together*. In addition to improved appearance, we expect the redesign to result in significant savings each month.

This will be a new effort, so we want a new name to match the freshness of the newspaper. So here's your chance to exercise your creative abilities: What should we call the new Diocesan Newspaper?

Send your ideas via email to diocom@dioceserg.org. Or mail them to:

Diocesan Communications Committee
c/o Diocesan House
4304 Carlisle Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107.

The entries will be reviewed and Diocesan Council will select the final three to five candidates for the name. Then, we'll publish the names and you, the readers, will vote on the name. Please send you names as soon as possible. Deadline for entries will be December 31, 2009.

November Transition Report

The Transition Committee continues to meet to develop plans for the election of the ninth bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande

The committee developed a vision statement for the election process that would incorporate the election into the context of a worship service to maintain the atmosphere of discernment of the search process. The election vision statement will be presented to the Standing Committee for approval.

The committee previously drafted vision statements for the Walk-Abouts and the Consecration. The Walk-About vision incorporated travel through as much of the Diocese as possible that included visitations and stops at as many congregations as possible. The Consecration statement expresses a vision to include all those who wish to attend.

The committee continues to craft the itinerary and the format for the Walk-About events scheduled for April prior to the election. Facilitators will be selected and trained to conduct the question and answer sessions at various locations in the Diocese.

In preparation for the Walk-Abouts, an informational component is being assembled to educate the people of the Diocese and delegates to the electing convention about the nature of discernment.

Planning for the Election and for the Consecration are continuing, and the transition committee will be meeting monthly to further hone details of the steps that will lead us to the election of the next bishop.

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You are invited
 to attend the 3rd Annual
 Bishop Kelshaw Lecture Series
Friday, March 19
 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 20, 2010
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 St. James' Church, 1117 N.
 Main, Clovis, New Mexico



Guest Presenter: Lord Carey of
 Clifton, Archbishop of Canterbury
 1991-2002

Lecture Topic: Christian Discipleship
Registration Fee: \$60.00 per person (includes dinner on
 Friday evening and lunch on Saturday). Active Duty mili-
 tary and their spouses: \$45.00 per person
 Registration forms will be available on St. James' website
 in December: <http://www.stjameschurchclovis.org>
 Come and enjoy a time of fellowship while learning more
 about our Anglican heritage and how we are called to be
 Our Lord's disciples.

"We are a missionary people"



Scenes from Our Saviour Miracle Day

Our Saviour Miracle Day

Our Saviour in the South Valley of Albuquerque hosted a Miracle Day on Saturday, November 14. Folks arrived from Epiphany in Socorro, San Gabriel in Corrales, Canterbury and St. Michael's in Albuquerque, and someone from St. Paul's Lutheran in Albuquerque. Kitchens and bathrooms were cleaned, walls were scrubbed, trash collected and hauled away, vacuums were busy everywhere, leaves were raked, surfaces swept, and a vast quantity of weeds were gathered and burned. An overwhelming array of food was offered for lunch and leftovers were shared with the fire fighters next door. In the midst of it all we gathered for a quiet time of Bible study, reflection and discussion, and prayer around mission and ministry and God's abundant goodness. Churches in the area have donated tables, chairs, and prayer books, and donations have come both locally and from four other states, all accompanied by prayer. There is a new sign out front announcing in English and Spanish that "The Episcopal Church welcomes you." Thanks to such prayer and generosity the Episcopal Church begins a new ministry in the South Valley. Services are held Sundays at 11 am. and English classes for Spanish-speakers are Tuesdays 7-9 p.m.

Diocesan Calendar 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
- 20th – St. John's, Alamogordo
- 24th – Christmas Eve, Diocesan Office Closed (23rd – Jan. 1st)
- 25th – Christmas Day
- 31st – New Year's Eve

Deadline for TOGETHER articles is the 10th day of each month — diocom@dioceserg.org