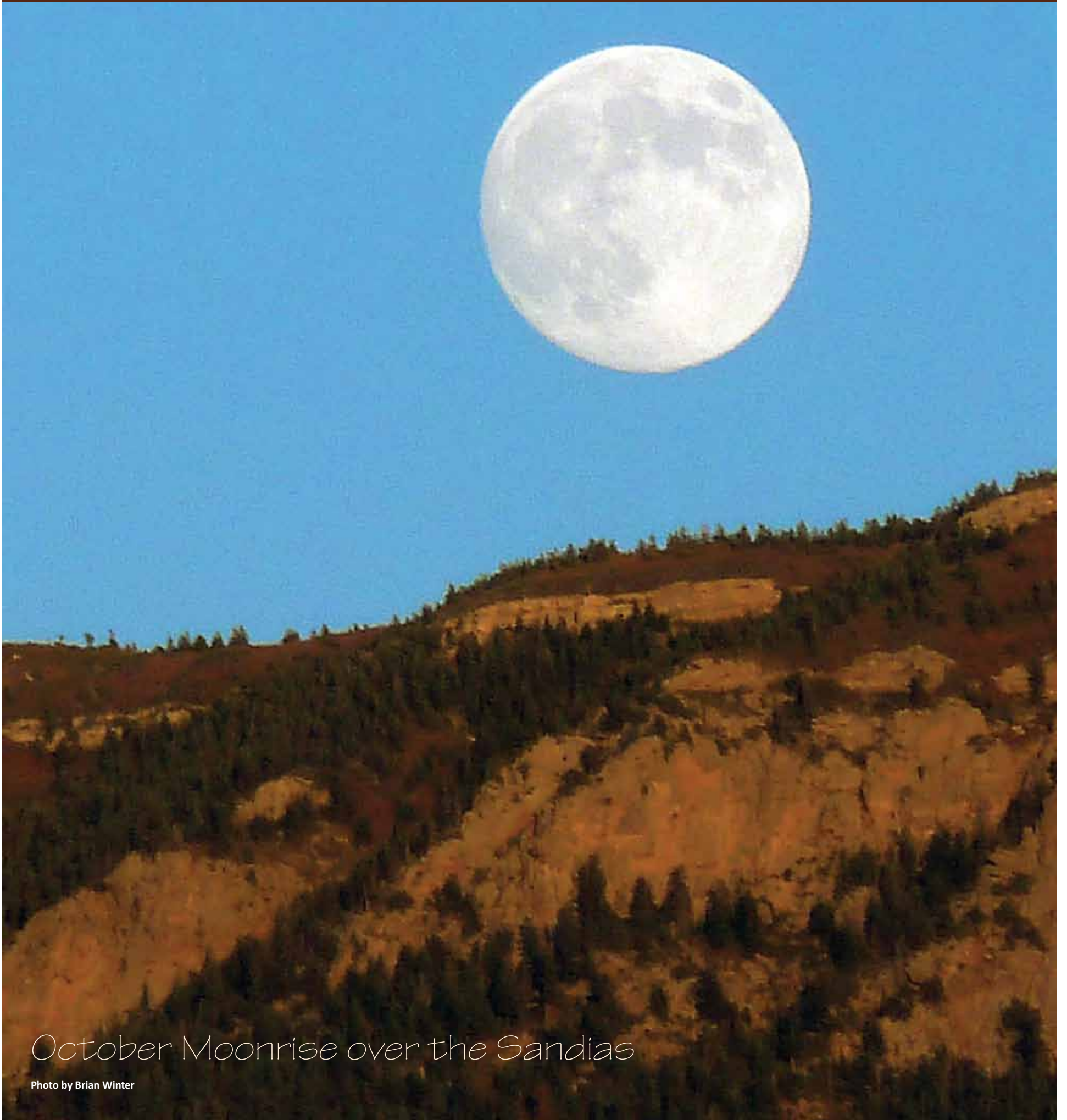




Together

IN THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER, 2011



October Moonrise over the Sandias

Photo by Brian Winter



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

Hope means to keep living amid desperation, and to keep humming in the darkness.

Hoping is knowing that there is love; it is to trust in tomorrow.

As long as there is still hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in his hands.

- Henry Nouwen

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have been blessed to have a few days off after our wonderful

Convention. While spending some time doing spiritual reading, I came across the above quote from Henry Nouwen and immediately felt that its wisdom certainly spoke to me, as a year-old Bishop, of a dynamic hope-filled Christian community in the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Our diocese is made up of a marvelously diverse group of people from a variety of cultures, who not only have a strong and visible prayer-life, evidenced in myriad signs of hopefulness, but also who are willing to share in the challenging labors of love and reconciliation in building up Christ's Kingdom.

My personal blessings as a new Bishop truly have outnumbered the numerous learning curves and challenges I have experienced this past year. This I attribute to God's loving-kindness in gathering together such a large number of unique "pilgrim-people," who realize that they are dependent upon both trust and hope in God's grace and mercy. The Diocese of the Rio Grande is truly a community of faithful and generous people, sojourners, exiles, travelers, seekers and expatriates, all of whom rely upon God's divine providence.

The Spirit of Jesus, God's lover of souls, hovers over all our spiritual labors, and our daily works of ministry, especially to those in critical need. Our ministries are carried out with joy, love, anticipation, and deep satisfaction. My sense is that the things we yet hope to accomplish in this Diocese, within its ever changing and transient cultural shifts and new horizons, remain firmly rooted in a dynamic living faith that embraces all and excludes no one.

St. Paul once encouraged and instructed the Christians in Rome writing: "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we

do not see, we wait for it with patience" (Romans 8; 24-25).

Our hope originates in our Lord Jesus, God's lover of souls and the hope of our salvation. I felt that our Convention was full of Hope! Thank you for a wonderful Convention.

Our first Convention together was held during a time in which many peoples in New Mexico and Far West Texas and the world not only are anxious about the future but also showing signs of hopelessness. It is a time in which many people are searching for God and searching for meaning and truth. For many years now, particularly in the most recent global conflicts of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those being waged between Palestinians and Israelis, along with so many conflicts in several countries of Africa, hopelessness is looming large over the international community. Sadly, at this present time in history, war is considered still seriously by some international leaders as a solution to international problems. The well-being of the entire international community is more and more at great risk.

Global violence and indiscriminate terrorists' acts continuously threaten innocent bystanders, as well as the weak and the poor. Along with this imminent threat of war and daily violence is the present state of a fragile global economy damaged by the corruption of greed and criminal corporate financial leaders. This also has contributed to a despairing international spirit of ill trust, anger and sense of dread. These realities not only surround us today, but also have a luring and nagging tendency to distract us from carrying out the mandate of Christ's Gospel. Desperation often leads to despondency.

Yet, because Christ's Gospel is God's "Good News" to all those who are "poor in spirit," and open to saving grace through faith, we in the Diocese of the Rio Grande will keep striving to realize God's Kingdom, and remain committed to being living examples of the compassionate love of Jesus for all people. We will continue the work of the Gospel and "hope for what we do not see." Our communal witness in New Mexico

and Far West Texas is to Christ's work of reconciliation and peace among diverse peoples from different cultures and religious traditions.

Our arms are open to welcome everyone. Our communal life, in our congregations of prayer and worship of God through Christ, acknowledges with a keen sense of consciousness and deepening spirituality an inclusive faith embracing the very integrity of ecumenical and interfaith traditions, and the journeys of a variety of people seeking God's truth. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is One God, and we are one people created in God's Divine Image.

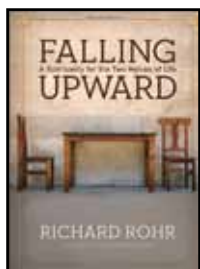
Our spiritual household, whose head is Christ, is open to every soul who seeks a deeper knowledge and love of Him in whom all things come into being. Our congregational communities are more than buildings, but rather are important meeting and resting places for those whose faith journey both seeks and cherishes the nourishment found in a Christ-centered worshipping community that respects the dignity of every person and which exercises unconditional love and Christian hospitality.

I pray our diocese will strive to be such a community and will seek to be such a witness of living-prayer in a world drawn into hopelessness and desperation. As Henry Nouwen says: "As long as there is still hope, there will also be prayer." I believe our diocese at Convention has shown itself to be a church full of hope, and because of this, our emerging mission and variety of ministries prayerfully will witness to the God of all hope!

By the Grace of God, the DRG will make a difference in people's lives and encourage hope as we build up the Body of Christ and seek the Kingdom of God. "Hope means to trust in tomorrow. As long as there is still Hope, there will also be Prayer." Again, "Thank You!" for a wonderfully productive Convention. During this season of Thanksgiving, pray for each other and the Diocese.

Many Blessings, Your Bishop
+ Michael

BISHOP'S PICKS FOR WINTER READING



Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

By Richard Rohr, Published by Jossey-Bass

In *Falling Upward*, Father Richard Rohr – the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque – offers a new paradigm for understanding one of the most profound of life's mysteries: how our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. Drawing on the wisdom from time-honored myths, heroic poems, great thinkers, and sacred religious texts, the author explores the two halves of life to show that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." We grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right.

With rare insight, Rohr take us on a journey to give us an understanding of how the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves of life are actually stepping stones to the spiritual joys that the second half of life has in store for us.



Augustine and the Fundamentalist's Daughter

By Margaret R. Miles, Published by Wipf and Stock

In *Augustine and the Fundamentalist's Daughter*, Dr. Margaret Miles weaves her memoirs together with reflections

on Augustine's Confessions. Having read and reread Augustine's Confessions, in admiration as well as frustration, over the past thirty-five years, Dr.

Miles brings her memories of childhood and youth in a fundamentalist home into conversation with Augustine's effort to understand his life. The result is a fascinating work of autobiographical and theological reflection. Moreover, this project brings together a rare combination of insights on fundamentalists' convictions and habits of mind. Such reflections are especially urgent at a time when fundamentalism is prominent in political and social discourse.

The author is Emerita Professor of Historical Theology, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. She was Bussey Professor of Theology at the Harvard University Divinity School from 1978 -1996, and Dean of the Graduate Theological Union from 1996 until her retirement in 2002.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

BISHOP'S CONVENTION HOMILY

The Rt. Rev Dr. Michael L. Vono

How Good It Is When Brethren Live Together in Unity
- Psalm 133, vs.1

I have been looking forward to this Convention of our Diocese for some time now, and what has come to mind recently, among a myriad of thoughts, are the words from Psalm 133 Verse 1: "Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity." Now for us Anglican/Episcopalians unity does not mean sameness, but wholeness – diversity. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Ignatius of Loyola believed that this view of the universe is the essence of unity.

Yes, I am fully aware after 35 years of ministry that this biblical "ideal" does not always happen at church conventions, and we've all been there! And to be completely honest, perhaps like some of you here today – although I can't imagine it – often in my younger days I literally dreaded and dragged my feet in going to diocesan convention, that is, until I decided I wanted to help design and plan our convention gatherings in Europe. I truly believe that diocesan conventions are important church gatherings in the life of a diocese, because, in fact, it is the one place when the representative family can come together, when we can live in community, pray, plan and strengthen our baptismal bonds of unity. We convene as baptized ministers of the church; lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons charged with carrying out the church's mission, which is God's mission carried out through the church. We do this through the ministry of all its members. And the mission of the church, as our catechism teaches, is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

How good and pleasant it is when people live together, called to together to live in Christ – in one body – in an exemplary unity.

For the full text, please visit the Bishop's Page at the Diocesan Website, www.dioceserg.org

ROWAN'S SONG



Miss Rowan Roberts sings her song as Fr. Bob Gross holds a microphone and Bishop Michael Vono leads the Convention in singing her words. Rowan was acclaimed by two standing ovations, and awarded a full scholarship to Camp Stoney. (Photo by Brian Winter)

Grow in the Love of Christ

By Rowan Roberts

The Lyrics:

*What have you asked us to do?
Bring all our neighbors to you.
The seeds of your kingdom, we'll sow,
Helping the Diocese grow.
Refrain: Defy the odds, Defy the doubt
Accept the challenge, Work it out
Grow in the faith
Grow in the light
Grow in the love of Christ
How will they know it is you
That cares for them through and through?
To them we will be your light
In the darkness of their night.*

Refrain:

*How will we help one another,
Our wonderful sisters, our brothers?
Encourage them, help them to cope,
growing in faith, trust and hope.*

Refrain:

BISHOP MICHAEL'S CONVENTION 2011 ADDRESS

A Diocese Imagining, Envisioning, Moving, Building

Let us pray:

Most gracious, loving and holy God, we pray that placing ourselves in the presence of your Holy Spirit you might embrace us as your diocesan family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on a cross before you raised him up in new life for our sake. Be our guiding presence as we take counsel at this convention for the renewal and mission of your Holy Church in Far West Texas and New Mexico. We pray, teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory, as well as your Kingdom among us and within us. Amen!

First, I would like to say a warm word of welcome to each one of you: lay delegates, alternates, visitors, clergy, visiting bishops: the Rt. Rev. David Bailey, our beloved friend in the Diocese of Navajoland and his wife, Anne; also, our beloved friend the Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb and his wife, Jane, retired in Las Cruces and now our blessing in the DRG in assisting me/us in various ministries;

And to our very beloved former interim bishop and his wife – I refer to them as this diocese's 'patriarch and matriarch' like Sarah and Abraham – but not so advanced in age! – the Rt. Rev. William Frye and his wife, Barbara ... Let us observe a moment of silent prayer for Barbara's healing, guidance and strength.

Bienvenidos/benidas todos hermanos/as; "ya' at' eeh"; Welcome, beloved people and friends of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is my first convention address, and what I would like to say to you is based on a fundamental presupposition. I would like you to embrace your creative imagination and powers of visioning as you

For the full text, please visit the Bishop's Page at the Diocesan Website, www.dioceserg.org

DIOCESAN CONVENTION CELEBRATES CLOVIS

Clergy and Delegates from the congregations of the Diocese of the Rio Grande gathered in Clovis October 20-22 for the 59th Diocesan Convention.

The Convention opened with a Eucharist at the Living Stones Community Church where the Bishop invited all clergy to con-celebrate. The business continued Thursday in the Clovis Convention Center with elections, approvals, and presentations of the ministries of the Diocese. The day concluded with a buffet, a Country & Western band and dancing. Business continued Friday, and concluded with the Convention banquet and a presentation on the plans for the Bosque Center. Convention adjourned Saturday morning.

Elected to:

Standing Committee:

- Lay: Mr. Tom Graf, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marfa, Texas
- Clergy: The Rev. Kenneth J.G. Semon, Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Diocesan Council:

- Lay: Mrs. Lisa Perko, Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, New Mexico



Diocesan Clergy con-celebrate with Bishop Vono.

- Clergy: The Rev. Judith Burgess, Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso, New Mexico

Commission on Ministry:

Clergy: The Rev. Brian C. Taylor, St. Michael and All Angels, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Disciplinary Board:

- Lay: The Hon. A. Joseph Alarid, St. Michael and All Angels, Albuquerque, New Mexico, who was elected President of the Disciplinary Board.
- Mr. Aric G. Eisenheimer, St. James Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, New Mexico

- Mr. John H. Sloane, Hope in the Desert Episcopal Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Mr. Terrence L. Steigely, St. James Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Clergy: The Rev. Ruth Morgan, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- The Rev. Robert L. Mundy, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Los Lunas, New Mexico.
- The Rev. Canon Raymond Raney, Church of the Holy Cross, Edgewood, New Mexico

Approved:

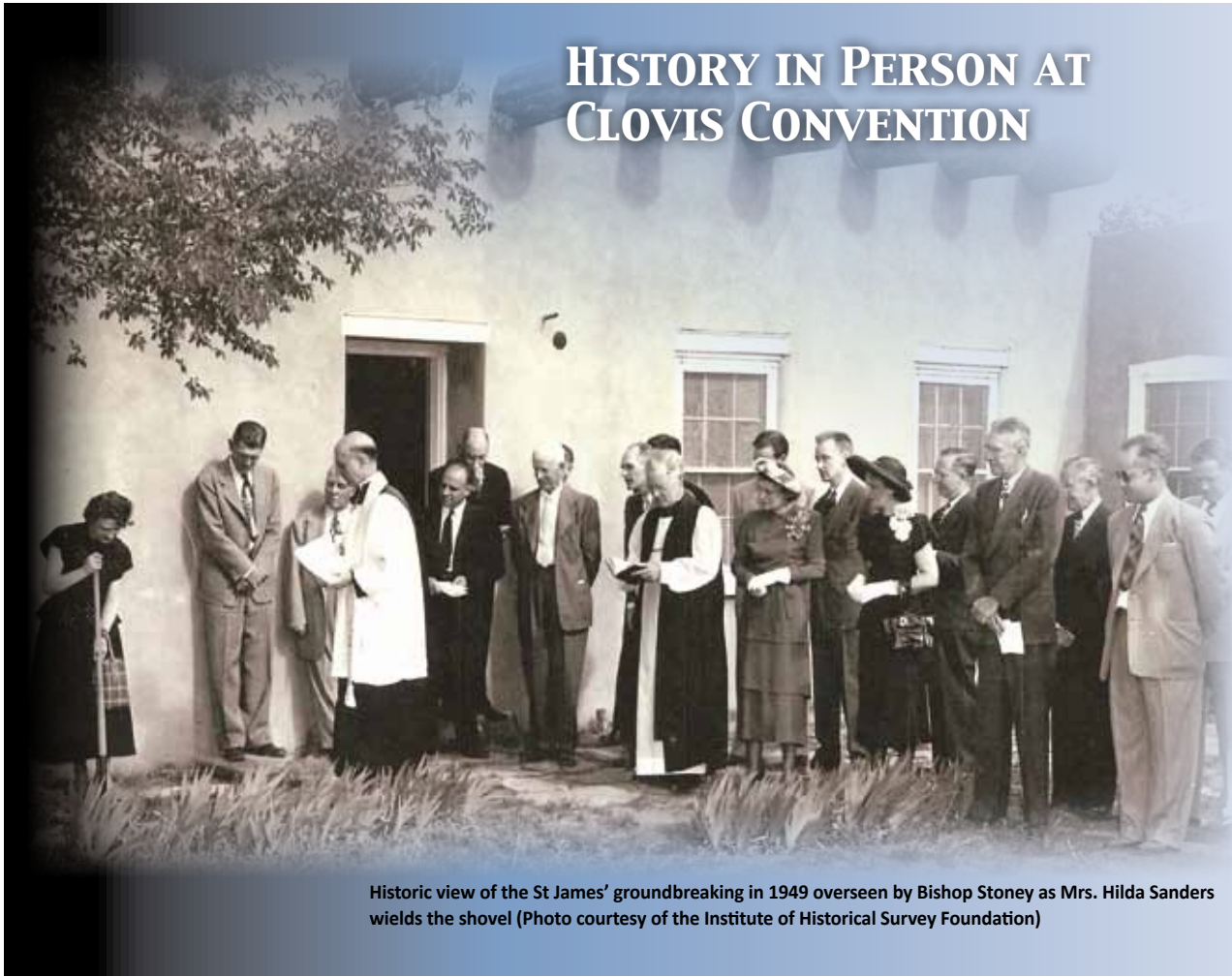
Canonical changes printed in the September/October 2011 issue of Together; amended to allow for "cleaning up" of Canons for changes not provided in the text.

Resolution to affirm the Ministry of All Baptized Persons as stated in Title III, Canon 1 of the 2009 Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. The full text was printed in the September/October 2011 issue of Together.

The Budgets presented to Convention as printed in the September/October 2011 issue of Together.

CONVENTION NEWS

HISTORY IN PERSON AT CLOVIS CONVENTION



Historic view of the St James' groundbreaking in 1949 overseen by Bishop Stoney as Mrs. Hilda Sanders wields the shovel (Photo courtesy of the Institute of Historical Survey Foundation)

"My Lord Bishop, I call upon the Sgt. at Arms to present unto you, from Yorkshire, England, one who, at 92, has served under six bishops of this Diocese, and had the distinct honor of being chosen by Bishop Stoney to turn the first spade of soil - as depicted in this dedication photograph from 62 years ago - for the new structure of St. James our host Parish Church, Mrs. Hilda Sanders."

With those words, Diocesan Archivist Dr. Evan Davies introduced the woman who broke ground for the building of St. James' Episcopal Church in Clovis. Mrs. Sanders was given a standing ovation, and presented with a framed reproduction of the photograph.

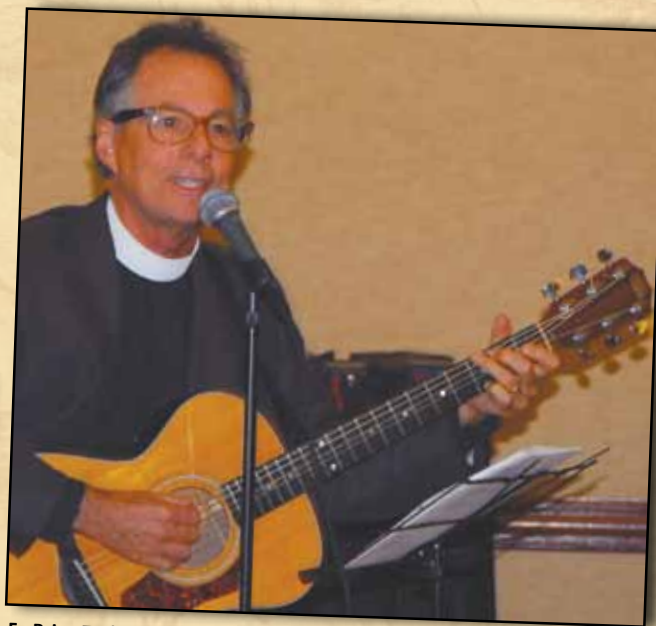


Mrs. Hilda Sanders is a bit overwhelmed by the accolades.

Images of 2011 Convention



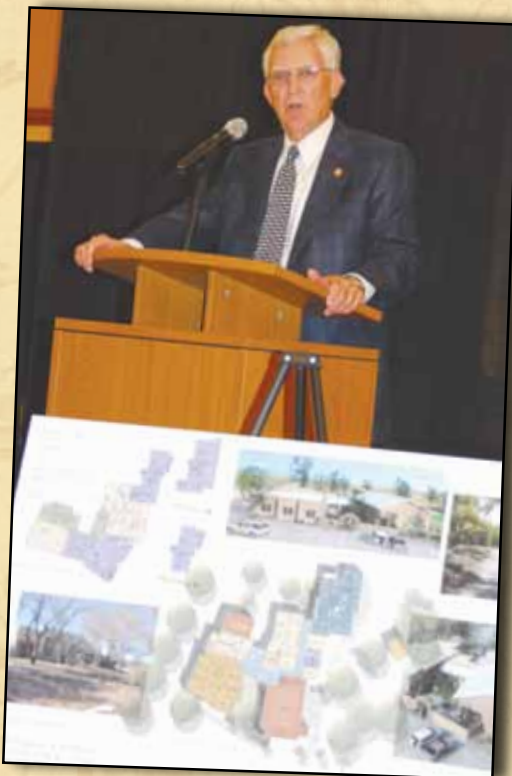
Mrs. Rickie Sherrill accepts the UTO ingathering at the opening Eucharist.



Fr. Brian Taylor provided musical interludes from Convention business.



Beryl Zimmerman and Dennis Prichard talk up Camp Stoney.



Diocesan Architect Bill Fanning presents the plans for the renovation of the Bosque Center following the Convention Banquet on Friday.



Dancing was the order of the evening on Thursday.



Nets for Life contribution containers were provided to each congregation for support of Episcopal Relief & Development's project to eliminate malaria in Africa.

NEW MINISTRIES REPORTS

“HOUSE OF HOPE” WOMEN COMPLETE 7TH JUAREZ BUILD

By Ms. Lynn Finnegan, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

Columbus Day weekend means one thing to a group of women from Los Alamos: it is the weekend they will be going on a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, to build a home for an impoverished family. The “House of Hope” women, an outreach ministry of Trinity on the Hill in Los Alamos, have been traveling to Juarez every year since 2005. The all-women team attracts all ages (from 13 to 73), many churches (11 different churches have been represented), and several states (team members have come from California, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, and Washington, in addition to New Mexico).

Columbus Day weekend 2011 marked the team’s seventh successful mission. The House of Hope partners with Gateway Mission Training Center in El Paso, Texas, for the trip. Gateway, a non-profit Christian agency dedicated to facilitating short-term mission trips, has built 209 houses in Juarez. For this 209th house, the House of Hope women raised the \$7500.00 needed for housing materials, and to pay the Mexican work crew, with fundraising events held during the year and through generous donations from church members, family, and friends. Each team member also contributes for her housing, food, and trip expenses.

The House of Hope team has plans for its 8th mission trip Columbus Day weekend in October 2012. Another intergenerational, family mission team will be leaving Trinity on the Hill for a house build November 10-14. St. Bede’s Episcopal Church in Santa Fe, now approaching its 19th mission trip to Juarez, will depart January 13. If you are interested in making a donation

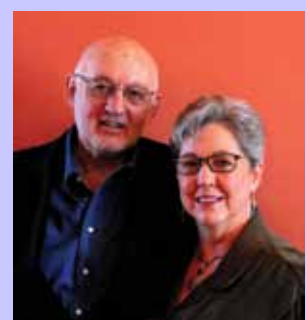
or becoming a team member, please contact Trinity on the Hill, (505) 662-5107 or St. Bede’s, (505) 982-1133. The Diocese of the Rio Grande is a missionary people on both sides of the Border!

The 2011 mission trip was typical of the many preceding it. The trip begins with prayer in the church parking lot, as the vans are loaded with their noses pointed south. Upon arriving in Mexico, the team settles into the dormitory-like housing and is greeted by the enticing aroma of traditional Mexican cuisine, all courtesy of Gateway and the hospitality of the congregation of San Matias in Juarez. We are fueled physically and spiritually as we gather the first evening to be reminded to have a “servant’s heart and a learner’s mind.” Arriving at the worksite in Colonia Anapra the next day, we are greeted with a 450 sq. ft. concrete slab and the warm smiles of the family that has waited, some for many years, for the miracle of a new home. Over the course of three days, the house is framed, roofing is completed, particle board and chicken wire are hammered into place, windows, door, insulation, electrical wiring, ceiling fans, and drywall are installed, and stucco is applied to the exterior. The spacious, well-constructed three room house stands in stark contrast to the norm of tar-papered and crumbling particle board shacks.

Something more occurs over the course of three days, however. We are often asked, especially in the last few years, why we continue to go to Juarez. We

believe that each one of us has answered a divine call and that our ministry to the impoverished people of Juarez is far more than building a house. For the poor of Colonia Anapra, the threat of violence and the persistence of poverty is not an option to be weighed. Our presence in Juarez radiates compassion, courage, and love. The staccato of nails being driven by a group of predominantly pale, smiling, Anglo-American women carries the Gospel of the Hope of Christ to a people with little reason to hope.

The final morning before leaving Juarez, a dedication ceremony is held at the house and the family is given keys and a Bible signed by the team members. “Housewarming” gifts are presented: this year the mission team purchased a new dining table and chairs and brought dishes, linens, clothing, and kitchen supplies. Team members, the Mexican work crew, the Gateway team leader, and the Mexican family and their sponsoring pastor all join in a time of prayer, sharing, song, and thanksgiving. No one needs to translate the powerful words of the Holy Spirit during this emotional conclusion of the build!



Jim and Melissa Leehan

ENRICHING CLERGY MARRIAGES

By the Rev. Dr. James Leehan

The recent Clergy Conference had many moments of shared hilarity but probably none so boisterous as that which occurred during Morning Prayer on Tuesday. The New Testament reading assigned

for the day was St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians (Chapter 7:32-40). For those who don’t have the Scriptures memorized by chapter and verse numbers this is the section where St. Paul admonishes people to consider the unmarried state so they don’t have to be “anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please his wife ... (or for) the married woman ... how to please her husband.” The passage was read with great drama, and a few editorial comments by Fr. Woody Peabody. He ended by firmly pointing out that St. Paul says this is only his opinion. It was clear that most present (Bishop Michael pointed out that he was an exception) had not chosen St. Paul’s “better way.”

Fun and good humor aside as well as profound disagreements with St. Paul about the value and sacredness

of marriage, he does make a good point. Married life demands time, attention and commitment. Too often we have conflicting commitments whether they are priestly ministry or a secular profession and they can produce stress and conflict. Achieving what St. Paul calls “good order” is not always easy.

Fr. Jim Leehan, a retired Episcopal priest and Marriage and Family Therapist, and his wife, Melissa, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, who live in Santa Fe are keenly aware of the difficulties related to maintaining good order in clergy marriages. Besides struggling themselves for a good order, they have both counseled clergy and their spouses and families on many occasions and have conducted Clergy Marriage Enrichment Retreats, which focus on the unique needs of clergy marriages.

A Clergy Marriage Enrichment Retreat will be offered at the Mandala Center in Des Moines, NM from April 20-22, 2012. It will begin with 6:00 dinner on Friday evening and conclude with lunch on Sunday. The total cost will be \$680. For information and details: www.mandalacenter.org or www.clergycareservices.org.

Participation in Survey Requested

Fr. Jim and Melissa Leehan have developed a Clergy Marriage Satisfaction Survey to help both parties in the marriage identify points of stress and aids to resolving that stress. The survey will aid therapists and retreat leaders working with clergy families, and the data will help denominational leaders concerned with clergy wellness address that critical dimension of the overall life and ministry of clergy and their families. To participate in the anonymous survey go to the Leehan website, www.clergycareservices.com, and click on the Clergy Marriage Satisfaction Survey link. It will take about 15 minutes to complete.

REV. LILLEY TO STEER MINISTRY TO BAPTIZED

The Rev. Lin Lilley was elected as chair of the Commission on Ministry of the Baptized (COMB), when the commission met on Nov. 2nd and 3rd, 2011, at St. Michael and All Angels, Albuquerque. The Hon. Joseph Alarid was appointed by Bishop Vono as vice-chair. During the coming year, the COMB will focus on strengthening the formation and training of individuals on the ordination track, and on extending training to clergy and laity. The COMB took these initial steps:

- Formed COMB sub-committees, including the Committee on the Transitional Diaconate (CTD), the Committee on the Vocational Diaconate (CVD), the Committee on the Priesthood (CP), the Committee on Licensed Lay Ministries (CLLM), and the Committee on the Continuing Education of Clergy (CEOC);
- Set as a goal the development of ways to increase support for lay ministry within the diocese; and
- Discussed ways to improve communication between the COMB and individuals in the ordination process, and also to improve communication between the COMB and the people of the Diocese



SUN SHINES ON CLOUDCROFT

Smiles brighten the Church of the Ascension in Cloudcroft following Bishop Vono's celebration of the Eucharist in September. Pictured are (from left) Mr. Tim Kruse, Bishop's Warden Ms. Rhonda Stewart, the Bishop and Priest in Charge the Rev. Cynthia Lewis.

7 GREAT GRANDCHILDREN BAPTIZED AT ALL SAINTS

By Mr. Bob Clark, All Saints Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Martin E. Bayang, Vicar of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Grants/Milan, New Mexico, proudly baptized seven members of one family, all grandchildren, on Sunday, August 14, 2011. It was the largest number of candidates to be baptized at any one service in All Saints' fifty-five year history.

The newly baptized are all great grandchildren of Janet and Robert Albertson, both of whom are communicants of All Saints. The Albertsons moved to Grants in 2009. They immediately became active members of the Church and have been planning this event for some time. According to Mrs. Albertson, "our children live in Texas, Washington and New Mexico, so getting everyone together at one time was no small achievement."

"But it certainly was worth the effort. We are so thankful for our family and so grateful that these precious children are now 'sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever,'" she concluded.

The candidates and their sponsors filled a large part of the small church sanctuary. Regular communicants, family members and other guests attending the service quickly brought the church to capacity. Those who were baptized include: Brandan Adam Dobbs, Jacob Mason Dobbs, Zachary David Dobbs and Grace Addison Michelle Dobbs. Also included are Michael Joseph Porter, McKaylah Jasmine Riley and Payton Neveah Riley.

"This is truly a joyous occasion for all of us", commented Fr. Martin. "Our congregation is known as a 'family of believers'. What could possibly reinforce that reputation more than this service in which our church family embraced the Albertson family in Christ's love."

Following the Services of Holy Baptism & Holy Communion, a Reception was held in the Church Parlor, hosted by the Albertsons and prepared by two active members, John Martinez and Bob Clark.



BLESSING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS

The Rev. Judith Burgess blesses one of the fire engines during a Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving for Lincoln County Firefighters on Sunday, September 11, at Church of the Holy Mount in Ruidoso. More than 100 grateful Lincoln County residents and friends thanked local firefighters for their tireless work on our behalf and commemorated the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Singers from several local choirs joined forces under the leadership of Danny Flores to sing anthems commemorating 9/11 and inviting world peace. More than \$700 dollars was raised for the benefit of Lincoln County firefighters.



LADIES TEA RAISES HOPE

The third annual Ladies Tea and Silent Auction raised funds for Hope+in+the+Desert Episcopal Church in Albuquerque. Begun in 2009, the annual Ladies' Tea and Silent Auction draws more than ninety women for a formal tea that features scones, sweets, and delicacies of all types. Shown at last year's event, Coordinator Ms. Carol Sloane talks with Ms. Becky Beardsley as Nancy Lanzilla listens. For information on the annual event, check out the church website at www.hopeepiscopal.org. (Photo by Ms. Carol Cox Smith)

ORDER OF ST. LUKE BUSY IN BIG BEND

By Ms. Nancy Mae Antrim and Ms. Virginia Knab

On September 24, Dr. James Luecke, recently honored with the 2011 Rural Health Champion Award, spoke on "Miracles and Medicine." Nurse Barbara Miller joined him. In addition to Dr. Luecke's testimony, they provided the group insight into the work they do in Candelaria, Texas. This year, they also are heading up the preparations for the Alpine Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Alpine High School on November 16. Last year 880 meals served.

The October meeting featured Ms. Sara Bow, R.N. and Ms. Ann Schaeffler, R.N., speaking on "Nursing and the Healing Ministry." The group will be singing Christmas carols and distributing sugar-free candy at the Alpine Valley Care Center on December 10.



Big Bend Chapter OSL members and guests capture the moment at the Sept 24th meeting with guest speaker, Dr. James Luecke, M.D. (back row, 3rd from right) & Ms. Barbara Miller (2nd from right). Dr. David Sanchez, M.D., (front row, behind charter) was inducted into full membership at the 4th Annual Conference on Healing held in August. Photo by Walt Frerck



BISHOP'S FIRST ORDINATION

The Rev. Lin S. Lilley kneels before the Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Louis Vono as presbyters lay hands on her as the Bishop says the Prayer of Consecration for her ordination to the Priesthood on October 8 at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church. The ordination was the first for Bishop Vono. Rev. Lilley has served as Deacon at St. Thomas, and has been assigned to St. Francis Episcopal Church in Rio Rancho. Further priestly ordinations are scheduled for December 3 of the Rev. Deacon Mark Lake, St. Michael's, Tucumcari, and for December 14 of the Rev. Deacon Jim Gordon, Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe. Mr. Douglas Bleye is scheduled to be ordained to the diaconate on January 6 at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque. (Photo by Raymond Raney)

LEST GOD BUILDS THE CHURCH... ST. MATTHEW'S BREAKS GROUND

By Mr. James M. Lee, Jr.

An eleven-year odyssey has led us to another phase in our continuing ministry. A beautiful day God has sent. The sun shines in all of its glory embracing the bright blue skies as it watches the clouds drift ever so slowly, constantly changing form, on their sojourn from horizon to horizon.

On this day we of St Matthew's Episcopal Mission Church have come to share in the groundbreaking of our new church home, seeking the blessing of God, hoping He will find favor with our efforts.

A majestic hill stands to our South, forming an impressive back drop, while at its foot stands a public school housing some of the young people we intend to include in our missionary work at St Matthew's.

To our West one sees the shifting sands dotted by various classification of cactus, tumbleweeds, and shrubs, with an occasional desert flower struggling to add a splash of color to an otherwise barren desert floor.

North of our position lies Rt. 6, (old Rt. 66) we can see eighteen wheelers heading East, and West far enough away so that we are not distracted by the roar of their powerful diesel engines.

East of us in stark contrast to the irregular terrain of the desert, stands the predictability and methodical regimentation of civilization, with its well ordered, earth-toned rows of single family homes.

At the epicenter of our surroundings, the congregation of St Matthew's Episcopal Mission Church have gathered on this parcel of land generously donated to St Matthew's by Mr. Jack Huning, for the singular purpose of building a Church. Unfortunately, Jack died, and cannot join us as we proceed towards the place where our altar will someday stand. Leading the procession bearing the Cross, is Duf, followed by Becky bearing the St Matthew's Banner. The wail of the bagpipe lends a quiet dignity to the procession. Our Vicar, the



The Bishop and Father Robert Mundy make their way to the St. Matthew's groundbreaking ceremonies.

Rev. Robert L. Mundy, and our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Vono, follow the procession to the spot where the consecration and ground breaking will take place.

There is a big hole where our altar will be erected. Each of us carries a rock that will be deposited in this hole. The symbolism is obvious. Some rocks are painted, some have the names of loved ones, some are plain only the bearer and God know the significance of his or her rock. It is both a solemn and joyous occasion, we are ever mindful of the purpose of the occasion, nevertheless the joy of the occasion can be seen in the demeanor of all in attendance.

Both the Bishop and the Vicar employ the appropriate liturgy for the occasion followed by their personal remarks. Now comes the moment everyone has waited for, some as long as eleven years. Dr. Tom Vincent, the Bishop's Warden, hands the golden shovel to the Bishop who in turn takes the golden shovel, and breaks the ground where our church home will soon be a reality. Praise God. Dare I be so bold to say, they have not labored in Vain.

ST. CHAD'S MARGE CUNNINGHAM HONORED

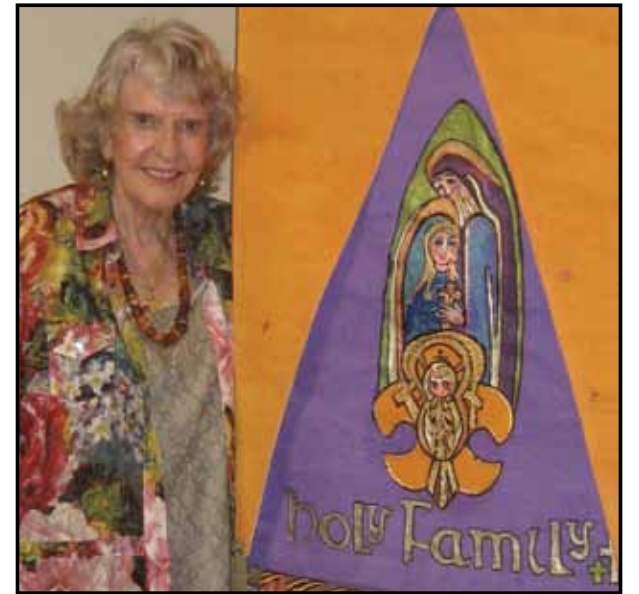


Ms. Marge Cunningham talks with Bishop David Bailey about ways to assist seminarians from the Diocese of Navajoland with the cost of their studies at a residential seminary.

The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM) has honored Ms. Marge Cunningham, who is a member at St. Chad's. Marge moved from Connecticut about 2 years ago where she served on the board of SIM.

SIM provides financial, pastoral and advocacy support to those preparing for the ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church and awards needs-based scholarships annually to postulants and candidates in seminary.

The 2011 Seminarian Friend of the Year award went to Ms. Cunningham for her loyal, dedicated, faithful spirit of generosity. A member of the 1857 Legacy Society and the Circle of Seminarian Friends, Marge established the perennial Cunningham Scholarship in 2003.



HOLY FAMILY BANNER

Textile artist Ms. Helenn Rumpel displays the Trinity Banner of the Holy Family, the new banner for the Church of the Holy Family of Santa Fe. The Banner, which required 18 months to finish, will be dedicated November 20th. The Holy Family is textile painted with luminous texture and color. Joseph appears sensitive and older. Mary is vibrant and happy to be the Mother of Jesus, and the Christ Child is presented in glory as well as a baby.



Ida Campbell waits to share her birthday cake with Jean Barnes, left, and Evelyn Yates. (Photo by Roger Lanse)

SILVER CITY FETES 96-YEAR-OLD

By Mr. Roger Lanse, Silver City Daily Press

The fourth Sunday of every month is a special day for Ida Campbell of Gila Hot Springs. On those Sundays a group from the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City visits the Campbell homestead for a service in her living room. The Sept. 25 gathering was especially meaningful for Campbell it marked her 96th birthday.

Among the many friends and relatives who attended her birthday event were two of her neighbors, Dr. Asa and Jean Barnes, who are preparing to return in December to Kenya where Asa Barnes serves at Kijabe Mission Hospital as a pathologist. Jean Barnes volunteers in the pediatric ward. She ministers to the mothers and the children they bring in for surgery, the mothers walking over long distances. She also plays the accordion and hands out baby blankets, among other duties.

After the service, several boxes containing 40 blankets made by members of the Daughters of the King, a women's group of the Church of the Good Shepherd, were presented to the Barnes by Evelyn Yates, who leads the baby blanket sewing project.



DAUGHTERS RETREAT IN RUIDOSO

Bishop Vono gathers with members of the Marantha Chapter of the Daughters of the King following the 2011 assembly at Church of the Holy Mount in September. The DOK chapter voted to give \$750 to various outreach programs. The three day retreat provided an opportunity for those gathered to share reports and programs. From left to right are: Mrs. Deborah Tischler, Treasurer; the Bishop; Mrs. Sandy Martin, President; Mrs. Trish Higdon, 2nd Vice President; Ms. Jane Madrid, Secretary; and Mrs. Nettie Roberts, 1st Vice President. The 2012 retreat will be August 2-4 at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque.



TEARING DOWN TO BUILD UP

The shell of the administration building at the Bosque Center remains as workers continue the demolition of the second story in early November. (Photo by Raymond Raney)



The Diocese is on the move

Movers work the load the thousand and one items from the Carlisle Boulevard office of the Diocese of the Rio Grande on the Monday and Tuesday after Convention. Items were sorted according to their destinations: Storage or the Bosque Center, where the staff now resides to serve the congregations of the Diocese. (Photo by Brian Winter)

ST. FRANCIS DAY

The Feast of St. Francis Celebrates All Creatures

The custom of blessing animals is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Stories of Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, have included his preaching to the birds and other animals. The story goes that Francis and his early brothers, who were living in a most humble abode, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey. Francis wrote in his Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things: "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."



Two llamas are held by owner Jeff Averhoff as his wife, Vickie scoffs. Llamas and horses were among the animals blessed at Church of the Holy Cross in Edgewood by rector the Rev. Raymond Raney and the Rev. Deacon Beth Noland. (Photo by Mrs. Jane Vickers)

MUSIC RINGS IN THE SEASON

Polyphony to perform at St. John's

Polyphony: Voices of New Mexico present their Christmas concerts this year at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, featuring Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, with internationally acclaimed harpist Lynn Gorman DeVelder, alongside carols and seasonal music from around the world. Polyphony will perform at 7 p.m. Friday December 9, and 3 p.m. Sunday December 11 at the Cathedral of St. John, 318 Silver Ave. SW, Albuquerque.

Jazz concert at Holy Cross, Edgewood

The season of Music for the Soul ends with a program of Christmas Jazz with the Mark Tatum Jazz Trio at 2:30 p.m. Sunday December 11 at Church of the Holy Cross in Edgewood. The church is located 3 1/2 miles north of I-40 on State Hwy 344.

ST. JAMES' CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL *By Ms. Rachel Ribeiro*



Family and friends of St. James' Episcopal Church in Las Cruces, celebrated the 100 year anniversary of their church building on

October 2nd. About 130 parishioners gathered after the Sunday worship services to commemorate the century of continuous use seen by the church building on South Main Street.

The oldest Protestant church in the Mesilla Valley, St. James was founded by Henry Forester in March of 1875. It was Preacher Lewis, of Virginia, however, who inspired congregants to build a more permanent building. It is said that Lewis took one look at the state of St. James' building and averred, "I'm going back to Texas!"

He didn't carry out his threat, thankfully, and the 100-year-old building is a living testimony to his faithfulness.

"Jesus Christ has written the history of the church with the pen of the lives of the people in the church," Father Nick Funk reminded listeners in his message after lunch. "We are the Church!" Unlike a time capsule that "embalms the past," our church gives us a "memory and heritage. Memory and heritage are living things, helping us to cope with new realities and grasp new opportunities."

The sense that St. James is indeed alive was echoed in comments from various church members. Kathy Fisher, a member since 1997, said of the St. James community, "There's not a stranger here. The Lord really is in this place." Art Fountain, who began attending in 1999, remarked on the cohesiveness of the church. "We're a strong community of people who like each other." Shirley Fountain, a parishioner of St. James since 1968, and whose three children went through Sunday School at St. James, said that its people – "good, friendly, cooperative" – are what makes the church special.



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, EL PASO

Agustin Vega assists Bishop Vono at the Holy Eucharist during the visitation and celebration of the Feast of St. Francis at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in El Paso. Sixty humans and 20 canines attended the service that was open to both the church family and the local community. The Bishop and the Rev. Canon Kathleene McNellis, Vicar, provided blessings and St. Christopher's provided a picnic lunch in the pecan grove.



ST. MARTIN'S

A pet's eye view of the ceremonies at an Albuquerque Park provides a vista to the blessing of the animals organized by St. Martin's Hospitality Center and Called Back to the Well. Clergy from three denominations (Episcopal, U.C.C., and Methodist) blessed pets and working dogs at the Downtown Albuquerque Farmers' Market. Two search and rescue dogs from the Albuquerque Police Department were among the dogs blessed that day. (Photo by Brian Winter)



FINE CHICKENS

Nick Aragon carries his two chickens to be blessed at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Tucumcari. Vicar Rev. Gay Wellborn and Deacon Rev. Mark Lake moved among the animals and their owners giving each one a special blessing and thanking God for the loving part each pet plays in the life of the owner.

SMALL CHURCH MINISTRY RESOURCES BEING ASSEMBLED

*A Letter from the Rev.
Dr. Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook*

As mandated by the General Convention, the Congregational Vitality Office at the Episcopal Church Center is in the process of compiling a Small Church Growth Strategies Handbook, titled, Hope and Action: Abundant Small Churches.

I am interested in any stories you might have about congregations involved in extraordinary ministries that could benefit others: community gardens or food ministries, innovative small church worship and music, outreach and social justice, new ways to engage children, youth, young adults, and seniors, global mission, ministry with military personnel and families, inventive building or facility usage, interfaith cooperation, interesting support groups or prayer groups, creative stewardship or evangelism initiatives, forward-looking technology, and any other distinctive and hopeful efforts.

I am also contacting all organizations and dioceses offering resources for congregations in an effort to compile a comprehensive resource section. Instead of the customary list, I am offering individuals and organizations an opportunity to submit a one-page flyer highlighting the resources you offer to congregations.

Submissions must be one page, one-sided, and black & white, so they can easily be duplicated. All pages must be submitted to me no later than November 28. Pages must be sent to me as a PDF file to: sherylkujawa1@msn.com or skujawa-holbrook@cst.edu. If this deadline causes huge problems, but you still want to participate, let me know.

CANON GUTIERREZ HONORED FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP



The Rev. Canon Daniel Gutierrez was honored by Called Back to the Well as one of the 2011 Servant Leaders. In attendance at the Recognition Breakfast was Bishop Michael Vono, the Very Rev. Mark Goodman, the Rev. Deacon Judith Jenkins and other Episcopal Clergy. Called Back to the Well is spiritual renewal program of the Good Samaritan Center.

Canon Gutierrez' call to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church came during a successful career in economic development and politics. Following his ordination to the priesthood in December 2008, Daniel continued working full time at his "day job" and served as a vibrant and much-loved priest at his home parish, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.

Canon Gutierrez is uniquely universal in his servant leadership. He warmly welcomes a shy teen with a pat on the back and an inquiry about his other life. He connects with those who are quiet and not prone to participate in the conversation. And, he's an insider; sought after for community service and advice not only for his political, administrative and mediation expertise, but because he's a steward of faith and compassion in work and life.

CLERGY CONFERENCE 2011: PURSUING PASTORAL EXCELLENCE

By the Very Rev. Mark Goodman



Dr. Paul Hopkins

While the Clergy Conference didn't begin officially until Monday afternoon, September 26, its official beginning was the evening before. That was when many clergy from around the Diocese of the Rio Grande made their way

to St. Francis-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church in El Paso to mark the fresh beginning of ministry, and a return home of the Episcopal congregation. It was a fitting and moving beginning to a time that would be focused on collegiality and conversations around seeking paths of strength in pastoral ministry.

The clergy of the Diocese have been meeting at the Holy Cross Monastery in Las Cruces, those gathered learned at dinner the first evening, for well over twenty years. In this place of peace and quietness, it is natural for deacons and priests, separated from their full schedules and demanding ministries, to settle into a routine of prayer, conversation and fellowship. This is the strength of Clergy Conference.

In the midst of that retreat aspect of our time together, though, those gathered always have been glad to be presented with new ideas, food for thought in the daily practice of ministry. This year, the featured speaker at our gathering was the Rev. Dr. Paul Hopkins, former Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center in Albuquerque. Dr. Hopkins has recently published a book, Pursuing Pastoral Excellence: Pathways to Fruitful Leadership, which



Bishop Michael Vono opens the celebration of the homecoming for St. Francis on the Hill in El Paso.

served as the foundation for his presentations to us, and was the backdrop of the small group discussions that followed most of Paul's conversations with us. The deeper appreciation of the purposeful nature of the pursuit of pastoral excellence that followed these discussions will certainly have a positive impact upon the ministry in the congregations throughout the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Bishop Vono took the opportunity of having his clergy gathered in one place to share some of his plans and visions for the Diocese. In particular, he spoke of his address to the Convention of the Diocese and the new initiatives that will be highlighted in it. As part of that discussion, he asked those involved in various ministries to give brief presentations of ongoing work and, afterward, during unscheduled time, encouraged the clergy to speak with presenters in areas in which they were interested.

Of course, Clergy Conference would not be what it is without fellowship. Meal times are noisy affairs, joyfully so, with many conversations happening around the dining room. Laughter mingles with more serious talk about ministry as colleagues engage in times of problem-sharing. It's a blessing to be able to see fellow clergy from the length and breadth of the Diocese that come together too infrequently. Part of the fellowship is around the Altar, and our times of prayer were filled with singing and intercessions for our congregations, families and friends. Ending our time together at Holy Cross Monastery, we joined in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This was a time of praise and worship, but, poignantly, also of hearing read the names of our clergy colleagues who have died over the past year.

Pursuing pastoral excellence is a life-long exercise for those who are called by God into ordained service, and we were reminded of that reality in many ways during Clergy Conference. In our daily ministry, through our relationships one with another, by our connection to God in the Eucharist and prayer, and from the example of faithful servants who go before us, we face the challenge of seeking more excellent ways to minister in Jesus' name.



Guy Mackie explains the process of writing icons.



Small groups provided opportunities for sharing

REST IN PEACE

The Rev. Norman Alexandre

The Rev. Norman Alexandre, 81, died on October 14 in Thornton, Colorado, where he retired with his wife, Charlotte. 10/14/11. Fr. Alexandre was the rector of St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Santa Fe, from 1978 to 1985. He was Canon to the Ordinary for the Rt. Rev. Richard Trelease from 1985 until the bishop's resignation in 1988, and a candidate for election to replace Bishop Trelease in 1989. After the election, Fr. Alexandre moved to serve in the Diocese of Oklahoma.

**The Very Rev. Jan Davey**

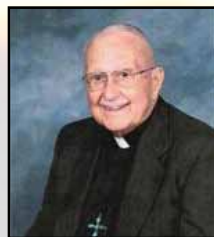
The Very Reverend Jan Davey died October 12, 2011. She was born Janet Thurley on March 19, 1932, in Newbury, Berkshire, England, to Reginald and Mabel Thurley. The family would eventually number seven children. She moved from high school to Harwell, and helped to load the first nuclear reactor built in Europe. It was at Harwell that she met her husband of 57 years, Bill Davey. They lived in Abingdon, Wallingford, and Dorchester and had two

daughters, Jane and Ruth.

The Davey family moved to the United States in 1961, and settled in Idaho Falls, Idaho, as immigrants. There Rev. Davey taught kindergarten, was a substitute teacher, and acted in local musical theater. Her active career continued when the family moved to New Mexico, when Bill was invited to join Los Alamos National Lab. The family resided in Española, New Mexico. She became both a LPN and RN, and specialized in Obstetrics. Almost at the same time, she was invited by Bishop Richard Trelease to repeat her Idaho role by becoming a canonate minister, to again encourage women to participate in the Episcopal Church. With others, she was one of several people involved in the Chili Line, which had the responsibility for rural churches, including Española and Chama. As a minister, she was very active in all aspects of the life of the church, in particular in the Commission on Ministry, and several terms on the Standing Committee, where she was twice elected as President.

After Bill's retirement from Los Alamos, Father Jan was invited to join a team of priests in Ruidoso, NM, serving several churches. She continued working as an OB nurse at the Lincoln County Medical Center. Before leaving Ruidoso to come to Belen, she was asked to be vicar of a church in Roswell. In addition to her Diocesan activities, Father Jan was well-recognized in the national church and elsewhere. These were not always formal, since she was invited by the previous Archbishop of Canterbury to tea at any time in her hometown of Newbury.

Inside the church, for several years she was a member of a national committee that formulated possible developmental policies and was also a member of Province VII committee, a post which she held up to her death. A succession of fires drove the family out of Ruidoso, and Father Jan was delighted to accept Bishop Terence Kelshaw's invitation to take charge of St. Phillip's in Belen. This was her happiest time because of the love of the people of Belen. She flourished and thrived in her many activities, and so did her church. Her Diocesan activities continued, under Bishop Kelshaw and Bishop Jeffrey Steenson, when she was Dean of the Northwest area of the Diocese.

**The Rev. Canon Charles De Vries**

The Rev. Canon Charles G. de Vries, Ph.D., died August 29, 2011, age 92. at Born in Wheeling, W.V., June 27, 1919 to G.B. and Ruth W. de Vries. He graduated from West Virginia University, and served in the U.S. Army as a rocket scientist in Aberdeen, Maryland. He attended graduate school at Louisiana State University, earning his M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry. He taught chemistry at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, for three years.

After going to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, he served as an Episcopal priest in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. After retiring from the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, he served as an interim priest on four different occasions on the island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean. He served on the staff at St. James', Mesilla Park. Rev. Dr. de Vries was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Sons of the American Revolution and Masonic Order. He was preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Arthur. He is survived by his wife, Laura, to whom he had been married for 64 years; daughter Ruth and son in law Tom Chaffin of Tucson, Arizona, son Peter Charles de Vries of Las Cruces, son Paul Francis de Vries of Phoenix, AZ, sister in law Frances Lee Lynch of Boonsboro, MD, grandson Thomas Charles Chaffin of Tempe, AZ.

**The Rev. Alfred Emmett Gardner Jr.**

The Rev. Alfred Emmett Gardner, Jr., 80, died on July 19, 2011. He is survived by his wife Phyllis; sister Dianne Lingerfelt; daughters Jan Beatty, Kimberly Forsyth, Linda Stine, Cathy Schneider, and Susan Wood; grandchildren Adam and Mark Beatty, Ryan and Vanessa Forsyth, Matthew and Scott Schneider, and Daniel Stine; great-grandchild Jaden Beatty; nieces Helen McDowell, Dona Steward, and Julie Dean; and nephew Joe Lingerfelt. He was born in Henderson, Tennessee

and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He served in the United States Air Force, graduated from the University of Memphis and received his law degree from the University of Tennessee. He was a retired FBI agent and a trust officer at El Paso National Bank. He was a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of El Paso 1977-78.

He was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1972 and served at many churches in the Diocese of the Rio Grande and as chaplain at El Paso area hospitals.

The Rev. Ronald McConnell

The Rev. Ronald McConnell died on May 23, 2011, after fifty-five years of ministry. Ron was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 2, 1932, to E. Albert and Maude O'Toole McConnell. He attended public schools in Fort Worth and graduated from Florida State University, Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, and Indiana Church of God Seminary. He and Marjorie Jane Hassler of Tacoma, Washington, were married on June 13, 1961 in Dallas while he was an Air Force Chaplain at Biloxi AFB, Mississippi. He survived by his wife Marjorie, daughter Kelly, sons Mark and Peter, son-in-law Monte Castillo, and grandsons Matthew and Bryan. Rev. McConnell served Bishop Terence Kelshaw as priest at Trinity in the Market Place in Albuquerque.

**The Rev. John W. Ridder**

The Rev. John W. Ridder, 87, died Jan. 16, 2011, at Westminster Village.

He was born June 17, 1923, in Bayonne, N.J., the son of John E. and Medora Ridder.

Raised in Fort Plain, N.Y., he was married Jane Allen Acker June 16, 1946, who preceded him in death in 2005.

During World War II, he served as a communications sergeant with the U.S. Army in Europe. He earned a B.A. degree from Syracuse University in 1946, and a master of divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in 1957. As an Episcopal priest, he served as vicar of St. Luke's Episcopal Church from 1957 to 1963, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ind., from 1963 to 1966; and Christ Episcopal Church in Madison, Ind., from 1966 to 1976. He also served as chaplain at Madison State Hospital from 1976 to 1991.

After retirement, he moved to Las Vegas, N.M., serving as minister at St. Paul's Peace Church until 2003. In early 2010, he returned to Indiana to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his daughters, Christina (John H.) Bowles of Muncie, Ind., and Medora Kennedy of Kokomo, Ind.; son, John E. A. (Gail) Ridder of Indianapolis, Ind.; three grandsons, Andrew Kennedy of Kokomo, John R. Bowles of Chicago and Matthew Ridder of Indianapolis; two granddaughters, Laura Bowles of Rochester Hills, Mich., and Melissa Ridder of Indianapolis; and five great-grandchildren.

“ I am leaving you with a gift-peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give is not fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid. ”

John 14:27

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR URBAN NATIVE AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP

By Mr. Doug Bleyle, Missioner to Native American Ministries

The Urban Native American Fellowship (UNAF) approaches its second year of emergence in the Diocese of the Rio Grande since its initial gathering December 2009 at the Cathedral Church of St. John. To date we have had a total of six large gatherings at the Cathedral of St. John supported by a grant from the Native American Ministries and Episcopal Council of Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church, monies from the Northwest Deanery, gracious hospitality by the Cathedral of St. John, and money management and accounting assistance from Holy Cross, Edgewood.

We learned a lot about the contours of urban ministry in Albuquerque and Santa Fe as we gathered in fellowship over the past year. We experienced the immense diversity of indigenous identity:

Apache, Alaskan, Diné, Lakota, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Choctaw, and numerous Pueblo connections with numerous participants having multiple ethnic and cultural identities such as Diné-Lakota-Anglo. Truly, this emerging fellowship highlights the reality of urban living with indigenous peoples who have come to Albuquerque and Santa Fe for a variety of reasons from educational and employment opportunities, health, and to escape the extreme poverty, domestic violence, gangs, alcoholism, and drugs rampant on many Indian reservations. We have also come to realize that urban living for indigenous peoples includes a high rate of homelessness, and very limited resources available to assist and negotiate urban realities of indigenous peoples, including for many who describe a need for a "spiritual home." This particular need is the primary



goal of the UNAF.

As the UNAF progresses into its third year of emergence we are moving in new directions to provide and develop a "spiritual home." The UNAF's steering committee has proposed the following directions: offer two annual Diocesan/Provincial/Regional events.

The first will be an All Saints gathering every first weekend in November and the second event will be a Late Winter/Early Spring gathering, yet to be determined. We will also begin in January 2012 offering weekly fellowship opportunities at the Cathedral of St. John, as well as in Santa Fe. We will announce these gathering opportunities in the near future on our website: www.riograndenations.org as well as distribute flyers in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Lastly, several members of the steering committee are now part of a newly formed Urban Ministry Group for Indigenous Peoples, and will be part of their next meeting December 4-5, 2011 in Minneapolis. This Urban Ministry Group will help us continue to discern the challenges of urban ministry among diverse indigenous peoples, discover ways to reach out to indigenous peoples including the youth, and most importantly assist us with prayers, conversation, and vision to help us as we intentionally gather "diverse indigenous peoples living in Santa Fe and Albuquerque into hospitable fellowship of honor and respect" where the "riches of the Christian and Indigenous traditions" may become a spiritual home to the peoples of the Rio Grande Nations (UNAF Vision Statement).

Anglican Communion News

BRITAIN TO ALTER SUCCESSION RULES

[Ecumenical News International, Canterbury, England] U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron confirmed that Britain would publish legislation to amend rules and institute that the order of succession will be determined by the order of birth, and not gender. Additionally, the changes would allow the monarch to marry a Roman Catholic, however, Catholics will still be barred from becoming monarch.

All 16 countries that have the queen as head of state will soon begin their own legislative process to enact the reforms.

NEW ZEALAND CATHEDRAL TO BE DECONSECRATED

[Anglican Taonga] ChristChurch Cathedral - the icon of that quake-crippled city, and the most recognized church in New Zealand - is to be deconsecrated ahead of partial demolition. Diocese of ChristChurch Bishop Victoria Matthews confirmed the cathedral would have to be partly demolished, and further engineering measures taken to make the rest of the building safe. ChristChurch Cathedral was consecrated on Nov. 1, 1881.

ZIMBABWE JUDGES RULES FOR ANGLICAN CHURCH

[Ecumenical News International, Harare, Zimbabwe] Zimbabwe's high court has ordered Anglican Church staffers back at a mission hospital from where they were evicted by excommunicated bishop Nolbert Kunonga last month.

In a separate October ruling, high court judge Tendai Uchena ordered excommunicated bishop Elson Jakazi, an ally of Kunonga, to "restore possession, control and use of the All Saints Zimunya Church" to the diocese of Manicaland or receive a three-month jail term.

UK CHURCHES MAY OPT FOR CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONIES

[Ecumenical News International, Canterbury, England] Same-sex couples will be allowed to hold civil partnership ceremonies in houses of worship in England and Wales, Equalities Minister Lynne Featherstone announced in the U.K. Parliament on Nov. 2. "The government is advancing equality for LGB (lesbian, gay, bisexual) people and ensuring freedom of religion for people of all faiths. No religious group will be forced to host a civil partnership, but for those who wish to do so this is an important step forward," she said. In 1994, the Marriage Act was amended to allow civil partnerships to give same-sex couples the same legal protection as if they were married.

BISHOP'S SCHOOL FOR MINISTRIES OFFERS 1ST CLASSES

By the Rev. Canon Dr. Richard Valantasis

The Bishop's School for Ministries is a new school established by the Bishop for education for laity and clergy in the Diocese, and open to all who wish to study together. The Bishop's School for Ministries will meet monthly at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque until the diocesan Bosque Center is renovated, when other courses will also be developed. We hope that during 2012 we will be able to provide electronic links to these and other courses to parishes throughout the diocese. For clergy, these courses provide the opportunity for continuing education. For laity, these courses provide an opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of our Christian and Anglican traditions.

Three courses will inaugurate the Bishop's School offerings. Each course consists of five sessions that will meet on Saturdays in 2012: January 28; February 18; March 17; April 21; and May 19. Each costs \$200 for laity and clergy, but is free for those in the ordination process (postulants, candidates, and transitional deacons). These are real classes with lectures, discussion, and assigned reading material for each session.

The first course offering is Introduction to New Testament Greek, taught by Warren Smith, from

7:30-9:00 am. Introduction to *New Testament Greek* introduces the student to the fundamentals of grammar and vocabulary to read the New Testament in its original language.

The second course offering is the first installment in the *Historical Study of the New Testament: The Letters of Paul*. It will be taught from 9:15-12:15 by Canon Valantasis. Paul's letters are the earliest witness to Christian writing, and this course will study Paul's letters in their Jewish and Roman contexts, and the course will explore the formation of the Christian Church from the earliest historical evidence. The course will include time for close readings and exegesis of important Pauline texts.

The third course offering is *Anglican and Episcopal Liturgy*, taught by Dean Mark Goodman of the Cathedral. This course will explore the riches of our Anglican tradition of worship through special attention to the history of the Book of Common Prayer in England and the United States, as well as the fullness of our current Book of Common Prayer. Each session will include time for close attention to presiding and participating in important liturgies of our prayer book.

Details concerning registration and payment of fees will be forthcoming

Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

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CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

Church of the Holy Family
Santa Fe, New Mexico

*Our mission is to know Christ and to make Him known by worship,
fellowship, study, outreach, and by living God's love through
word and deed in the power of the Holy Spirit.*



Together

is a monthly publication of
the Episcopal Diocese of
the Rio Grande

6400 Coors Blvd NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87120
505-881-0636

Bishop & Senior Editor:

The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono

Diocesan Communications Committee:

The Rev. Canon Raymond
Raney, Chair

The Rev. Canon Daniel
Gutierrez

The Rev. Canon Kathleene
McNellis

The Very Rev. Mark Goodman

The Rev. Stephen Caldwell

Ms. Lisa Katz-Ricker

Ms. Mary Jewell

Editorial and correspondence
may be mailed to

Diocesan House:
6400 Coors Blvd NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87120

or emailed to
Diocom@dioceserg.org

The next issue of *Together*
will be January 2012.

The deadline for submissions
will be December 6th.

Visit the Diocesan website at
www.dioceserg.org for archive
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