Together in the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

January / February 2016
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

All is calm, all is bright?

In 1818, it was common for roving bands of artisans to perform throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23rd a small group arrived at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, a picturesque village in Salzburg. That day the church organ wasn’t working, Massek seem to be the problem so the group of artists performed in one of the parsonage’s home. After the performance of Christ’s birth, Josef Mohr, the assistant Pastor, headed up the mountain to his home. At one point the pastor glanced back on the small village, which looked like a post card setting. It was a silent night, clear star filled night, with homes aglow by candles, smoke billowing from chimneys and pictures postcards of snowed in Alpine home.

The Gospel stories of Luke and Matthew provided the Pastor with all the details. Peace, Angels, a star by night that it would be a great Christmas carol for the performance of Christ’s birth. Josef Mohr, being a short story writer, felt that the angelic biblical announcement of Christ’s birth needed a setting that would break the holy silence, which ought to fill God’s people, and you will be able to hear and see the heavenly hosts proclaiming the reign of God. Christ the savior is born, this we believe but does love’s pure light, the glory of God, remain even in this darkness and still able to reveal the dawn of redeeming grace?

In 1839 “Silent Night” was translated into English and brought to the United States. Today the song is sung in over three hundred languages. The question is: does Pastor Mohr’s picture perfect poem and idyllic Christmas carol still inspire and fill people’s imaginations?

Today throughout the world there are no silent nights. Today throughout the world all is neither calm nor bright. Today in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Paris, Africa, Europe and the United States the city and countryside nights are filled with terror, fear, loud gunshots and angry voices of desperation and violence. The world seems to be quickly slipping into the dark coils of ancient war-time tales, divisions, hatred, distrust and violence. The culture of the Dark Ages seems resistant to passing away.

Terroists and hate groups like ISIS continue to break the holy silence, which ought to fill God’s world, with deafening dreams of death, victims of bombs and suicide vests. Terror, fear, anxiety, uncertainties, hopelessness and despair consume, distract and cloud the divine meaning of this heavenly hosts proclaiming the reign of God. Christ the savior is born, this we believe, but does love’s pure light, the Son of God, remain even in this darkness and still able to reveal the dawn of redeeming grace?

Like Pastor Mohr we need to pause and imagine, by faith the salvific images of Christ’s birth in the today’s world. We need to remember that God incarnate, Jesus born of Mary, was born into this world of sin and evil to rescue us. He would cure the world of its suffering and disease. Faith is stronger than any erratic human sin and cloud the divine message of the heavenly hosts. Faith, stronger is than any eratic human sin or evil. Let us then to be peacemakers and witnesses to the reality that the Kingdom of God has come near to us, Jesus the Christ of God was born to bring each one of us to the light of God’s grace, peace and Christ’s presence of unconditional love.

In every and every darkness we need to recognize and believe in the light and power of God’s grace. The world already has faced the darkness and evil of the Crusades, two World Wars, fascism, communism and war terrorism. We need to realize to believe and to insist that the light of God cannot be put out! God is always with us. Evil does not and will not have the last say. Darkness will not and does not cover the world. At the end what will cover and fill the world are one voices confidently saying, “Come Lord Jesus.”

So in this 21st Century we Christians continue to sing our Christmas carol: “glories stream from heaven’s dear, heavenly hosts singing alleluias, Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born.”

Live into this faith this Christmas and, my dear people, and you will be the living, breathing witness of what those heavenly hosts proclaiming God’s “silent night, Holy Night” All is calm, all is bright.”

Come, Lord Jesus! Welcome Lord Jesus!

Blessings upon you and those you love.

Michael
Babysitting, not just for babies anymore

By Ms. Madeleine Fazenbaker (age 13)

I can help directly. I think that sometimes it is important to love us until the day we die. It is what we all want because we all want to love us until the day we die.

Study, Fellowship, Retreats, and more for Women in 2016

The History of the Big Bend Ledge

The Big Bend Episcopal Mission logo was designed and made to be placed at the top of a new display board for a book at the Annual Convention the year it was held in Terlingua, New Mexico.

Alpine Fundraiser

By the Rev. Kay Jennings

We have glad news and sad news this week. Betty Read is stepping down from her manager’s role at Otto’s Vaq. Glad News. She is going to live with family in Washington state and she’s going to take care of her health. Everyone who knows her will miss her but we wish her well and offer our help to carry out this plan.

The Christmas House and Cottage Fundraiser for a serious and urgent cause for Otto’s Vaq to keep the building up and running. Our goal is $9,200.

The Big Bend Ledge was received with open arms at the Annual Convention and the news that was received was that the group is growing and that there are many supporters of the Ledge.

The logo features Cathedral Mountain located to the West of Terlingua and the mountain is also almost identical to Lajitas Mesa at the Resort in Texas. The services are now held in the restored Santa Inez Church.

The Big Bend Ledge raises money for the work of the Ledge. The Big Bend Ledge is a group of people who have come together to support the work of the Ledge.

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Together in the EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

Bishop Visit fills San Gabriel to capacity

On the glorious morning after Diocesan Convention, Bishop Vono confirmed one youth, received two adults, and blessed the reaffirmation of three others at San Gabriel in Carrolton. In the worship space that seats 54 people (elbow-to-elbow), 72 somehow found a way to fit and rejoice together amidst the Bishop’s blessings - in a way, San Gabriel’s own leaves and fishes story!

Halloween Fun!

Cathedral Halloween
The Children gather for a Halloween concert before Trunk n’ Treat at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque for a safe and celebratory All Hallows Eve.

Electric Light Parade in España

By the Rev. Doug Bleyye

The December light parade was a hit again in Española and for St. Stephen’s. Our “Great Creature” Judge Benjamin Morris rode in the church on the trailer and our “Small Creature” Laura Thomson’s gorgeous black cat Brax was wheeled in a custom wagon along side. They were such troublemakers and after a brief scare from the opening fireworks they were greeted by many fans along the parade route. Thanks to Chris Morris for all his work.

Much to our surprise and delight we won First Place in our category (Non-Profit) and Second Place for Best in Show! What I found most delightful sitting in the back with Judge, all the people along the road going “Oh yes, that’s St. Stephen’s."

St. Mark’s & Bishop Welcome New Members

Richard Rohr talk at Holy Faith in February.

Pastors’ Panel set for January 28

“Fear, Violence and Faith: A Christian Response” will be the topic for discussion on Thursday, January 28, atCriterion Hall at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe with pastors from the city’s three downtown churches.

The Rev. Canon Kenneth Sermon, Rector of The Church of the Holy Faith, Fr. Adam Ortega, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, and the Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III, Pastor of First Presbyterian will participate in the Pastors’ Panel.

The Pastors’ Panel begins at 6:15 pm. Admission is free. For more information, contact Fr. Jim Gordon, Holy Faith community office, at 505-982-4447.

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St. Andrew’s Celebrates 120th Anniversary

By Mrs. Donna Addikison

Director, Ministries for Children, Youth & Families

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Roswell, celebrated 120 years of service to the Roswell community by honoring the work done every day by the more than 120 nonprofit organizations in our community.

“St. Andrew’s occupies a unique space as a downtown church. Our mission of service to the larger community expands daily, but we understand fully that we work best when we work together,” said Father Dale Plummer, Rector of St. Andrew’s. “Nonprofit staff members and board members deserve our thanks and support for their commitment to Roswell and the surrounding area. This dinner gives us the opportunity to say thank you for working with us and for their efforts to improve the lives of Roswell residents.”

Four women organized an Episcopal Sunday School and Ladies’ Guild in 1891, and through their efforts St. Andrew’s Church began its life. They purchased and St. Andrew’s Church begun in 1895. Their work introduced the concept of non-profit staff members and board members deserves our thanks and support for their commitment to Roswell and the surrounding area. This dinner gives us the opportunity to say thank you for working with us and for their efforts to improve the lives of Roswell residents.

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“Thank you for working with us and for their efforts to improve the lives of Roswell residents,” Father Plummer said. “We are honored that the City of Roswell and Chaves County have both proclaimed St. Andrew’s Day. Yet, we choose to honor the willingness to serve and the leadership offered by other organizations throughout Roswell and the surrounding area.”

St. Andrew’s invited one hundred and twenty nonprofit leaders and board members and local parishioners to a reception and dinner on Monday evening, November 30th, St. Andrew’s Day. The Rev. Richard Rohr, OFM will speak on “The Contemplative Mind: Theory and Practice.”

Rohr’s free talk begins at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served at 6:15 pm. Admission is free. For more information, contact Faith Associate, at 505-982-4447.

CLAD eulogizes St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso

On November 6 and 7, Rev. Linda Wilson and Charlie Hardman, members of the CLAD (Congregational Life and Development) team, facilitated a retreat weekend at St. Francis on the Hill in El Paso.

Bishop’s blessings - in a way, San Gabriel’s own leaves and fishes story!

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The Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. – Priest – Soldier – Martyr

On December 11th, Grace Church, Carlsbad, hosted the Northeast Deanery service to honor the life of The Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. We gained inspiration from The Rev. Canon Tom Gray as he preached on the life and heroism of this Episcopal Priest who served for a time as Rector of St. Andrew’s Church in Roswell. When he was called to serve in World War II, he endured the Bitter Death March by ministering to those who were dying. He died from his ministry of others.

The Rev. B. Red Hurst was celebrant of the Eucharist and The Rev. Deacon Thomas Schneider assisted. We were blessed with about 32 people in attendance including The Rev. B. Red Hurst and his wife as representatives of the Southeast Deanery.

Grace Church hosts Howden celebration

The Bito Family serves the St. Stephen’s luncheon

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A Chapel to Honor Fr. Howden

The Bosque Center originally was envisioned as the beating heart of the Diocese. A place from which would flow the communal life blood for the Body of Christ in Far West Texas and New Mexico through evangelization, Christian and ecumenical outreach, formation, community service, and education.

That heart beats through the vision for a Chapel in memory of the Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. There are no plans for a capital funds drive in either the Diocese or to use our Diocesan endowment funds for this construction. Rather we visualize the spiritual significance of a Chapel will both inspire and motivate other sources of funding. Donations are being accepted at http://www.bosquecenter.org/chapel.

The addition of a chapel will be a sacred symbol and fruition of an intentional goal originally envisioned to plan for a dynamic future of outreach for the Diocese of the Rio Grande in the name of Jesus Christ. The Chapel will be dedicated and blessed for prayer, meditation, reconciliation, community worship, and spiritual nourishment. The Chapel will be built to the Glory of God’s revelation in Christ Jesus, the Lord of Peace, Love and reconciliation. It will be a sanctuary of remembrance for many especially those who gave their lives for the sake of others’ well being.

The life and ministry of the Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr., Priest, and military Chaplain, will be remembered in this Chapel. Like Christ he gave his life for his friends. Like Christ his ministry was to serve and not be served. Therefore, The Chapel will be a monument of the service and sacrifice of military personnel and families in New Mexico and Far West Texas.

Frederick B. ‘Ted’ Howden, Jr.

The Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. – Priest – Soldier – Martyr

Howden Collect

Almighty God our strength and sustenance, you gave your servant Frederick Howden the grace and courage to put the need and hunger of others before his own life and health. Inspire us with the same resolve of purpose as he trained of body, mind, and spirit that we may better serve you, our country, and others in your name. Give us the grace to know what is right and the courage to pursue it. Strengthen us as your Spirit for the change of the times before us, that we may continue your faithful servants to our life’s end, and at the last enter into your heavenly kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Bishop celebrates at Alamogordo Howden Service

At St. John’s Episcopal Church, Alamogordo, the observance of the Feast Day of Fr. Ted Howden, priest, soldier, and martyr began with a screening of the documentary about Fr. Ted, Letters from My Grandfather, by Melissa Howden.

Bishop Vono was the celebrant of the Holy Eucharist and Chaplain Major John Von Almen, Deputy Wing Chaplain at Holloman Air Force Base at the time and now Wing Chaplain at Edwards Air Force Base in California, delivered the homily.

That moving homily focused on the example we have in Fr. Ted’s service and sacrifice and was notable in reminding all that Fr. Ted was no different than all of us who, in accepting the call to follow Christ, enter through Christ the strength necessary to do what is required by him to serve those who are in need.

Northeast Deanery shares a Filipino Feast

The Northeast Deanery celebration of the Feast Day of St. Ted Howden was made extra special by the Filipino feast that followed the services at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Española prepared by the Bito family, members of St. Stephen’s.

Larry and Corgie from the Northeast Deanery honored the Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. Preaching at the service was Dean of the Northeast Deanery, the Very Rev. Mike Olsen, Colonel U.S. Army (Retired) and Chaplain Lt. Col. NM Wing, Civil Air Patrol. The Rev. Doug Melny, Vicar of St. Stephen’s, celebrated the Eucharist assisted by Crucifer Mr. Chris Morris, and organist Mr. Joe Cox, of Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church.

Northwest Deanery pilgrimages to Howden Gravesite

The sounds of bagpipes echoed through Fairview Memorial Park in Albuquerque in honor of the Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. Following services and reception at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Rancho.

The Eucharist of remembrance at St. Francis was co-concelebrated by the Very Rev. Robert Manley, Vicar of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Los Lunas, and Dean of the Northwest Deanery, and the Rev. Alexander Larran, Rector of St. Francis. The Rev. Gay Mackey, Rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Farmington, presided.

A light luncheon was served following the service.

The Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. – Priest – Soldier – Martyr

The Rev. Frederick B. Howden was appointed to be the priest-in-charge at St. John’s, Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 25, 2003. On December 10, 2003, Howden was killed in Iraq while serving with the U.S. Army National Guard. An airman who was injured in the attack remembered later saying, “I saw the whole plane explode.”

Howden was made extra special by the Filipino feast that followed the services at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Española prepared by the Bito family, members of St. Stephen’s.

In gratitude for the Service & Ministry of Episcopal Priest The Rev’d Captain Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr.

In memory of the Rev. Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr., Priest, and military Chaplain, who served with such great excellence and dedication for the Kingdom of God.

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Northwest Area Deanery
We have discussed and will be changing the meetings of the NW Clergy Councils to the Second Thursday of every other month beginning April 14, 2016. We will continue to gather at 10:00 a.m. and will start at 10:30 a.m. Clergy are asked to RSVP for lunch at the Rosque Center with Trace at 105-881-8086.

Save the Date: The Feast of St. Ailse, May 20th, a Spiritual Retreat for Soul Friends. More details to follow.
Our next Deanery Meeting will be at St. Francis in Roswell on April 30, 2016.

Southeast Area Deanery
The SE Deanery held its fall meeting at St. James’, Clovis on November 24th. We began with Eucharist with the Rev. Suzanne Brockmeier as celebrant. During the meeting we elected officers and approved grants to go to the Poverty & Outreach Board. We also heard reports from parishes. St. James’ provided us with a wonderful lunch. The hospitality and fellowship was enjoyed by all.
St. Andrew’s Roswell celebrated 120 years of ministry on November 30th, St. Andrew’s Day.
On Nov. 14th, St. Andrew’s hosted “Alien City Grand Prix” tricycle races for ages 2-200. All reports were that a good time was had by all, especially the adults.
Steady is occurring at St. Andrew’s, Roswell, within and outside of the parish. Donna Addison, Director of Children, Youth and Families, is conducting a study for the residence of Pachuta Village, an awarded living facility. Charles Carriez, retired district judge, holds Bible study every Wednesday noon. An EIM group will continue their study in January, as well as the Adult Forum in which Father Dale will lead a study of the saints celebrated during Epiphany.
On Dec. 6 at 2:00 p.m., St. Andrew’s Roswell presented an Advent Festival of Lessons and Music. Singers from at least six different churches participated. Fr. Dale Plummer said, “The Advent Festival allows us to set aside our differences and celebrate our oneness by sharing music, lessons and fellowship in preparation for the wonder and magic of Christmas.”

Northeast Deanery
Holy Faith, Santa Fe: Donna Lukacs
On Thursday, February 4th at 1:00 pm in Palen Hall at The Church of the Holy Faith, the Schellek lecture series is delighted to present Richard Rohr, OFM, Franciscan friar. Fr. Richard Rohr is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in Albuquerque.
He has authored numerous books, including Everything Belongs, Adam’s Return, The Naked Now, Befriending Uncertainty, Falling Upward, Immortal Diamond, and Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi.

Holy Family, Santa Fe: Camille Donoghue
Holy Family is happy to welcome our new Deacon, Lance Pender! We have been without a deacon for almost two years and we are thrilled to have her.
In November, Holy Family hosted the NW Deanery meeting, at which the Deanery’s parishes’ Poverty and Outreach board proposals were evaluated. This was followed by a joint potluck with the Utehnya community of Carlsbad and the mission itself.

Bishop Vono blessed us with a visit on Advent 1 and the Greening of the Church. The Very Rev. Patrick Malloy, interim dean at St. John’s Hospital, was present.

Hospitality
Clergy conference hospitality is provided by the Very Rev. Patrick Malloy, with chats with the Rev. Deacon Judith Jenkins (right) and the Rev. Maria Miller-Mutia (left). The food is prepared by Alex Lerner’s shadows on the trail snagging the baguette.

Feasting on the Word
Rabbi Jeff Braverman addresses the business of the clergy conference, introducing 19 new deacons and priests.

Clergy Conference
The Reverend Paul Moore, Kathy Boechenstein Adams and Sylvia Miller-Mutia, and Alex Lerner’s shadow on the trail snagging the baguette.

Sharing
The opportunity for conversation during the Reverend Michael Duvall’s sharing with Pilar Gutiérrez, Teodoro, and Christopher Adams.

Episcopal Words
Rabbi Jeff Braverman addresses the business of the clergy conference, introducing 19 new deacons and priests.
1. Evangelism, like spiritual direction, begins with faith, with the basic trust that God is already working out God's will for the other person—long before you or I ever arrive. The Father is already running out ahead of us to meet the family member or friend, brother or sister. Perhaps all we must do is "speak,水流." I'll prepare the fatted calf and put on the man." Perhaps our only task is to ask, "Do you have any Family or Parent to go home to?" The Father runs ahead of us; be stay back and watch. To trust that the Father has seen His son on the horizon and to run with Him is faith.

2. But we also make the choice to walk along the deep waters of human minds and hearts, we will find how very easy it is for us to fall. This, evangelism, like spiritual direction, begins with faith and forgiveness of sins.” The practice of spiritual direction, which God saves individuals and communities, and the biblical mandate to "proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins," offers a way that honors both the infinitely diverse ways in which people seek to graced sinners approaching other graced sinners.

3. For evangelism, like spiritual direction, is fruitful only insofar as it touches the concrete, the particular, the areas of life that God wants to redeem. There is no generic Repentance, no generic Faith, no generic Redemption. There is only repentance that cuts to the heart of what you desire most life; there is only faith that turns my particular ambition over to God’s will, there is only redeeming that lifts up this particular person or that particular spiritual direction may provide a framework for evangelism but it is not enough just that.

4. Evangelism, like spiritual direction, directs the other to pray. The goal of evangelism is to help others to experience faith in Jesus Christ, not just to explain the gospel or to memorize certain phrases. To pray with another means to enter into communion with faith, to walk the extra mile with him, and not merely point him at a direction. This is evangelism in its most potent form. For when another allows you to enter into prayer with him; to be encouraging you to accompany him to the Burning Bush, You are at that moment on very Holy Ground indeed. Those who pray with others too readily and casually are foolishly. Those who never do so must ask why. Do we fear to pray with others because we do not believe that God will answer our prayers, and thus we risk being seen as foolish or having our personal faith called into doubt?

5. Finally, like spiritual direction, evangelism is a practice. It is something to do or over and over again, that teaching that God is working something beautiful through it. It is a perfected skill. If Episcopalians are going to receive the living word of the early church to share the good news of Jesus Christ, we must begin to practice. Evangelism, like spiritual direction, begins with faith, proceeds with humility, deals in particulars, and directs towards prayer. More important than any theory is the practice. There are models—models of people who see clearly a solid world through which with God’s grace and lack of faith respond to that grace. Such people are often not outwardly pious people. They are great defenders of their faith, they are drivers, women and men. My grandmother was one of those people. May God grant us to follow in their footsteps.

Evanlism as Spiritual Direction
By the Rev. Alexander L. Fontan
Rector, St. Francis of Assisi, Rio Rancho

My grandmother was an evangelist. Offering a piece of pie to any teenager or adult who was in her door (a Texasan, Baptists, she always had a pie baked up), within a week or so she would be engaged in a lively discussion of faith. In public, she would move from placing her order with a waiter or for a hotel room to proclaiming the “plan of salvation” with seamless conversational grace.

I have something of my grandmother running through my veins. Conversations about life and faith exhilarate me and come naturally. In fact, others approach these topics with me, on-line and at school. But I am not a Southern Baptist as my grandmother was. I am an Episcopal priest. Episcopalian do “outreach.” not evangelism. We do social justice and good liturgy, not revivals and salvation tracts. We incorporate成人化 and disillusioned Christians into the church; we do call sinners to repentance. At our baptisms we testify to God’s grace that “revives” human flesh and does not unthorn it; upholds mystery in common prayer; and bear the marks of Christ’s reconciliation and doesn’t look at us and say, “Yes, but you are not.” My grandmother was an evangelist.

The theme for that week. Evangelism as Spiritual Direction was an evangelist. To explore the Christian themes found in Evangeline as Spiritual Direction as well as a variety of activities related to the theme for that week.

1. Session 1: June 3-6
   - College Camp: $200/camper (Ages 18-25)
   - High School Camp: $150/camper (Ages 16-17)
   - Mass Altar
   - Camp Study as a community, a day of fasting and prayer.

2. Session 2: June 9-12
   - Family Camp: $200/camp/family of 4, $125 for each additional family member. (All Ages; includes meals, snacks and beverages. "A stay with us and they will not be same to the same way"

3. Session 3: June 12-15
   - Harry Potter Camp: $200/camp (Grades 3-4)
   - Session 4: June 19-22
   - Session 5: June 26-July 1
   - Session 6: July 3-7

4. Mass on the Grass

5. Mass in the Grass

6. Kneelers Grace St. Christopher’s

7. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

8. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

9. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

10. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

11. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

12. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

13. Holy Faith’s Episcopal Church

The camp fee is $200 per camper. *(unless otherwise stated)*

All sessions will include traditional camp activities as well as various activities related to the theme for that week.
Choral Canticles Welcome 4th Advent Festival

By Ms. Janet Macaluso
St. Andrew’s Choir Director

St. Andrew’s Advent Festival began in its present form, in December 2012 as a way to reflect on and celebrate the season preceding Christmas Day, the season known as Advent. Our goal has always been to welcome all people in the community to participate in and attend the program. Musicians and singers from at least six different churches and traditions from around the Roswell area joined us this year. The textile choir and orchestra presented portions of Canticles in Camleight by Joseph M. Martin. The weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas are increasely full of events, commitments, and endto-end activities. Despite our busy seasons, it can seem impossible to find time to experience the peace, joy and anticipation of this “in-between” season. In the Christian tradition, Christmas is the time when light and hope returned to the world in the form of a newborn baby, God’s own son, Jesus. For those who believe, and celebrate this glorious event, a time of preparation seems fitting. That’s what the season of Advent is supposed to be: a time to prepare ourselves, our hearts and minds, to receive God’s gift of light and renewal. Somehow, we have to find the time to listen to His voice, to open our eyes to see the needs of others, and to experience with children wonder all that is around us.

One of my favorite songs that our St. Andrew’s choir often sings during Advent is “Make My Life a Bethlehem” by Craig Courtney. The text likens our hearts to a manger in which Jesus would be born. The chorus is, “Make my life a Bethlehem, a manger of my heart. Let me hear the angels sing, and let the music start. May I fall to a manger in which Jesus would be born. The chorus is, “Make my life a Bethlehem, a manger of my heart. Let me hear the angels sing, and let the music start. May I fall

Concerts reach out from Church of the Holy Spirit

Last Spring, the Church of the Holy Spirit in Gallup, New Mexico, invited the Gallup community to three events as part of a Summer Music Festival. We envisioned the concerts as a free gift to the community. We also hoped to provide a space for our church and community to come together to meet a community need.

We hosted our first event, Pipes and Brass Jubilation: St. Andrew’s Choir Director By Ms. Janet Macaluso Choral Canticles Welcome 4th Advent Festival

Cursillo June 23-26 at the Bosque Center

Are You Ready to Be More Intentional About Your Faith? You are invited to attend Episcopal Cursillo on June 23-26, 2016, at the Bosque Retreat Center, 6400 Caves Blvd. NW, Albuquerque.

Your time away will be filled with teachings and group discussions with emphasis on the doctrine of Grace, the Sacraments, and the great Cursillo topic—party, study and action, plus Holy Spirit fellowship, music, good food, time for prayer, meditation, prayer and walks. Each day is celebrated daily.

Applications are available in every church office or under Cursillo at www.dioceseg.org. Questions? Contact: Kathleen Pettman, Vicar, kpettmang@uwa.edu or Cursillohlg@gmail.com or phone 575-491-4218.

St. Stephen’s Marks 100 years of Ministry

More than fifty people gathered outside St. Stephen’s on December 26, 2015, braving the cold winter winds as the Church marked 100 years of ministry and mission. The people gathered in the presence of our Bishop, Michael, who blessed the gathering. The people also were honored by the presence of Mr. Howard Red Hand and the Hopi Red Clay Dancers.

Our indigenous guests offered prayers and blessings in song and dance during our time in honoring the history and reaffirming our commitments to the Church’s call in mission and ministry in proclaiming the Gospel.

In our reaffirming our commitments St. Stephen’s new altar, built and donated by Ms. Steve Rommer, was consecrated in our Parish Hall. This altar is set apart for ministry and mission in a weekly Sunday Eucharist in the language of prayer for our youngest members participating with all members.

We reaffirmed our commitments further as Ms. Chris Morris addressed the people in the Lodge of Wood, where he marked the paradigm shift of the Parish in the past five years and encouraging the people to the years ahead, as he graciously thanked the people who already have begun to do so in sharing in the ministry of gift giving, presence, and willingness to evangelize our Episcopal way of life. Bishop Michael followed Ms. Morris with comforting and encouraging words as St. Stephen’s moves toward becoming an independent parish in the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

We then renewed our Baptism vows, blessed water, received Christ’s Body and Blood, and then into further fellowship with Tamale, Posole, and Red Chili.

A Camp for Children with Autism

The Rev. Kay Andrews
Vicar, Holy Family, Santa Fe

Camp Rising Sun is an wonder camp for children with autism and their peers. One of our parishioners has attended and enjoyed Camp Rising Sun for the past several years. Holy Family does have some scholarships available (holysunfamilysantafe@gmail.com). Applications and registration forms are available at www.ccamperprogram.com.

Deadlines:
• January 29th: Deadline to participate in lottery
• February 19th: Results announced
• Applications will be accepted after the lottery

The camp is run by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center for Development and Disabilities. The camp has capacity for 64 campers and Tent Camp allows for 66 campers. These numbers are based on the interest in camp and the various support needs for each camper. Each year the applications for campers are reviewed and support levels determined for all campers. Some campers need more intense support, requiring two counselors to support them, while other campers need various levels of lesser support. Each camp session is organized to support a certain number of campers at the different levels of support.

Two camps are typically developing children. Often they are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD, or individuals who are siblings or friends of our campers with ASD. Each session is organized to support a certain number of campers at the different levels of support.

The new altar and chapel in the Parish Hall.

St. Stephen's Church during the Advent Festival. Photo courtesy of Sarah Keith McElhaney.
Church Spotlight

Church of the Holy Cross, Episcopal Edgewood, NM

The Parish of Holy Cross is a welcoming and inclusive community, blessed with members of all ages, from all sorts of backgrounds who contribute to the vibrant life and ministry of our parish family, which extends throughout the beautiful East Mountains/Estancia Valley area of North Central New Mexico.

Tending the fields of the Lord
Management & Stewardship

!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!
Saturday, February 6, 2016
at the Bosque Center
in Albuquerque
for all
Clergy, Bishop’s Committees, Vestries, Administrators & Treasurers

SUBSCRIPTION
Visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceserg.org for archive copies of the newsletter.
If you wish to subscribe to the Diocesan weekly e-mail newsletter, send an e-mail to intheloop@dioceserg.org.