The Church is refreshed by God’s breath-filled gifts of Christ into a community of Faith, Hope and Love. Holy Church. Led by the Spirit of the Risen Christ, gather together a great diversity of peoples as God’s during the Jewish celebration of Shavuot/Pentecost midst. “So it is to be.”

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Hello Bishop’s Ridge fans!

With a fast approaching camp season, Hope everyone has had a chance to look at the camp schedule. Whether you attend as a camper, counselor, volunteer or cook, Camp Stoney offers an experience unlike any other.

Summer camp is just part of the magic. Field games, arts and crafts, biking or hiking, making memories with friends and the camp’s website. Our staff and the many others I’ve seen you are all a part of the camp experience. Camps also offer amazing life skills.

Camp Stoney has the added benefit of helping any who walk on the grounds feel connected to God. I’ve heard Camp Stoney described as “a place that feels” and I must say agree. The summer camp season with all its programming, combined with time and space for Worship and Bible study, offers campers the chance to learn about and explore their faith as well as learn life skills such as teamwork and problem solving.

I would definitely not be in the person I am without the people and experiences I’ve gained from attending camp. I welcomed and encouraged everyone to come and experience camp for themselves.

We have had an increase in new and returning summer campers. Mostly in the form of families looking for a place to stay for the duration of their vacation in Taos, but also a couple regular groups. I’m excited by the increase in size and hope to see continued growth.

Camp Stoney is currently looking for a cook for the summer season. If you are interested, please contact the diocesan offices.

Online registration is currently open and has generated some really encouraging stats for all sessions. Once you have decided which session you would like to attend, please proceed to the diocesan office to sign up. The camp fee is $200 per camper. If you have any questions, please contact the diocesan offices.

In this issue of Growing Faith: A train of thought: From banjos to babies to blessings.

A train of thought: From banjos to babies to blessings

I recently learned that I have a type of Bluegrass Music. Banjos really weren’t my favorite instrument or style to listen to until I heard Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers sing with Edie Brickell on a PBS special. I was a huge Bluegrass Music fan, but that was sort of the tinge to the song I found at camp. Edie Brickell sang the words of children and found the “Iron Mountain Railroad” through a song that she wrote about a baby that was found in a vail. At the bottom of the song, the final words were “The Iron Mountain Baby”. She then imitated the look of that baby, loaned by a stained. That was so sweet to me, all the time.

I was fascinated by the story Edie Brickell wrote in the song. I never forgot the story. I enjoyed the very Edie Brickell told about how she came up with the idea for the song. She said that the song started as a story about a baby that was found in a vail. At the bottom of the song, the final words were “The Iron Mountain Baby”. She then imitated the look of that baby, loaned by a stained. That was so sweet to me, all the time.

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Cathedral Gallery Show Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Cathedral Gallery Show celebrates 40th anniversary. The Cathedral Gallery will be hosting their 40th anniversary show which opens on February 2nd. This year, the annual fundraiser goes to support the arts of the Cathedral Church. Artwork by local artists are on display, including paintings, photography, and mixed media. The show runs until February 28th, and admission is free.

Saint James Episcopal Church

St. James Catholic Church held their 18th annual Chili Day Cook-Off on February 2nd, 2021. This year, the chili cook-off was open to the public with admission fees ranging from $5 to $10. Prizes were awarded to the cook with the best chili, and the winning chili was donated to the local food bank. The proceeds from the event will be used to support the church’s community outreach programs. Chili was judged on flavor, presentation, and originality.

St. Alban’s Embraces CLAD Process

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, ELCA, is undergoing a transformation in their leadership structure. The church has transitioned to a new structure called CLAD, which stands for Collaborative Leadership and Development. This new structure will allow the church to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of their congregation. The first step in the process is the formation of a Transition Team, which will work with the church to develop a strategic plan for the future.

Clayson Day Cooks up for Missions & Outreach

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Otra Vez Thrift Shop Thriving

The Otra Vez Thrift Shop has been thriving since its opening in 2015. Located in the heart of Las Cruces, the shop has become a popular destination for locals and visitors alike. The shop is run by volunteers who work tirelessly to source and display a wide range of affordable clothing, furniture, and household items. The proceeds from the shop support community outreach programs and help those in need.

Hospitability House opening soon at St. Andrew’s

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Las Cruces has a long history of hospitality and community outreach programs. Their latest project, the Hospitality House, is set to open soon. The house will provide temporary housing for homeless individuals and families, offering a safe and secure environment. The facility includes multiple bedrooms, a kitchen, and a lounge area. The goal is to provide a temporary home for those in need until they can find permanent housing.


Sedering at St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces

Ralph Larry cardiologically acute and is on the best medication for the heart's health. He is no longer under cardiac monitoring but is still taking medication to prevent a heart attack. He is also undergoing cardiac rehabilitation to improve his overall health.

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Palm Sunday Processions Profess Faith in Santa Fe

On the Tuesday in Holy Week, March 22, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in the Presbyterian Church, Wester, who was joined by the Rt. Rev. Michael Vono and the Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III, pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

The procession from 1st Pres. Palm Sunday reaches the Santa Fe Plaza.

St. Christopher’s Welcomes Bishop Vono on Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday morning dawned to clear skies and a light breeze, after a week of fluctuating temperatures, high winds, and freezing clouds. St. Christopher’s was filled with Bishop Michael Vono’s presence and beautiful weather in the congregation’s view of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The glorious day began with a 9:00 Easter Breakfast cooked and served by our Fabulous Kitchen Crew in Rice Hall. More than 80 tables and chairs were set up to match the weather before the worship service. At 10:00, Bishop Vono celebrated the eucharistic service in the chapel of St. Christopher’s, assisted by the Rev. Joseph Bernal, Rector of St. Christopher’s and Rev. Miguel Ramirez Centeno, Rector of St. Joseph’s Church. Afterwards, the Rev. John Moore and Bishop Vono baptized one infant and two teens, and the Bishop received one adult into The Episcopal Church. St. Christopher’s was filled to nearly overflowing with over 225 in attendance.

After the worship service, Bishop Vono dedicated the church’s new walkway between the nave and the parish hall. “Eula’s Way” was given in loving memory of Eula Shinn, organist at St. Christopher’s for over 50 years, by her daughter, Virginia Bernal.

A spontaneous celebration of music, prayer, and motion began once again by the St. Christopher’s Kitchen Crew, who were inspired by the beauty of the processional and friends who didn’t want to be left behind for the big feast at the church’s Feast.

To the delight of the diners (and Bishop Vono!) several brave souls participated in Mexican karaoke, provided by Fr. Bernal through a big screen television and laptop program. It was a day to be long remembered at St. Christopher’s!
Men gather at the Bosco for Brotherhood retreat

By the Rev. Dennis Tim Bates

Forty men from the Diocese of the Rio Grande gathered at 25-27 at the Bosco Center for a Leadership Retreat on Prayer and Spirituality. The Retreat was put on by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew to ensure our ministry and our work, with God. The Brothers of St. Andrew know that retreats are a powerful tool in spiritual growth and hope that as a result of the Retreat men will become regular in their church attendance and more active in parish activities.

This was the Second Annual Diocesan RBA Retreat. Attendance this year was much better. Our keynote speaker, Bishop Richard René, O.F.M., was a big draw as were Bishop Michael Vono, Canons Daniel Guitierrez and Scott Raworth, Fathers Jose Ramirez and Paul Mosier, National RBA President Jeff Burdick, and Province President Ray Benavides. We thanked the present invitation by Bishop Vono really helped attendance. The men very much appreciated the helpfulness and the kindness of the Bosco Center staff. The Bosque Center with an abundance of God’s Spirit, is a wonderful place for a retreat and the good food and friendliness of the staff made for a perfectly enjoyable time. The men also appreciated the leaves and fishes banner provided by Dick and Elaine Wilson. None of our men were provided scholarships or otherwise would not have been able to attend. Bishop Vono was the first speaker and set the tone for the Retreat. (We even got a little bit of quantum physics). Canons Guitierrez was our celebrant for Holy Communion and our final speaker on Prayer and Spirituality. In the discussions that followed his remarks and in response to our sermons, we were challenged by Ken Davis of St. John’s Cathedral to take pictures of the bands of parachutists in our congregations, that hands that are and can be used in carrying our our work.

Some of the comments by the attendees on person transformations prompted Father Mosier of Silver City to comment that this had been a retreat not as a conference. Father Steve Caldwell thought it one of the best of the best the retreats he had attended. Tom Hennes of Silver City, may have summed up the thoughts of most best: it was a chance to hear some really superb speakers develop important spiritual insights as well as a chance for men from different parishes to share experiences, hopes and good advice.

Celebrating Mass at Fr. Kevin’s Confirmation, Cindy Lone, Diana Reaves, Rev. Becky, Shaun Recker. (Photo by Bill Wofford)

A Quiet Day with Julian of Norwich

On Saturday, February 27th, more than 50 people from parishes in Albuquerque and the southern part of the Diocese of the Rio Grande gathered at St. Alban’s, El Paso, to spend “A Day with Julian of Norwich.”

The Quiet Day, hosted by the Jane Torrence Sargent Chapter of the Daughters of the King, interwove three meditations on the writings of Dame Julian with periods of quiet reflection, culminating in a time of sharing and Eucharist before closing at 3:00 p.m. Lunch was served by the Daughters of the King.

The Reverend Dr. Jeanne Lutz, Priest-in-Charge at St. Alban’s, has been holding retreats for thirty years centering on Dame Julian’s book, Showings, sometimes titled, Revelations of Divine Love.

Dame Julian was born in 1342 and is believed to be the first woman theologian to write an English. Her feast day is May 8th in the Anglican calendar of saints, the day on which she experienced sixteen visions of the Presence of Christ in 1373. Julian spent the rest of her life as an anchorite, living in a room attached to the Church of St. Julian in Norwich, contemplating these showings. She wrote two texts, short a section of her visions and a long one.

While she was renowned in her day as a spiritual director and mystic, her book did not enjoy wide readership until the 1990s, when the Classics of Western Spirituality (Paulist Press) began its series with Dame Julian.

The three meditations of the Quiet Day touched on themes which included: God as Creator; God as Mother; the soul as God’s dwelling place; Christ’s Passion and our sin, the Holy Spirit at work in the church; and the Holy Spirit. He was mentioned.

Dame Julian is perhaps best known for Christ’s words to her, “All will be well and all will be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

Haga un día de silencio y reflexión con Julian of Norwich

Júlia de Norwich (1342-1416) fue una de las primeras mujeres en tener vida eremítica en el cristianismo occidental. Sus escritos, incluyendo Revelaciones de la Divina Amor, han tenido un impacto profundo en la vida espiritual de muchos eremitas y monjes. Después de realizar tres visiones de Jesucristo en 1373, Julian dedicó el resto de su vida a reflexionar sobre lo que había visto en estos momentos de silencio.

El evento que se celebró el 27 de febrero de este año, incluyó tres meditaciones basadas en las obras de Dame Julian. Las sesiones de meditación alternaban con momentos de reflexión silenciosa, proporcionando un espacio para que los participantes pudieran profundizar en su propia experiencia de vida espiritual.

El evento fue organizado por la Hermandad de la Reina de las Damas de El Paso, y tuvo lugar en la Iglesia de San Alfonso. La hermandad de la Reina de las Damas es una asociación femenina que se dedica a la promoción de la fe católica y el servicio a la comunidad.

La meditación final de Julian de Norwich concluyó con una reflexión sobre el mensaje “All will be well and all shall be well,” un lema que ha sido bendecido con el tiempo y sigue siendo una fuente de consuelo para muchas personas.
Southwest Deaney
The Very Rev. Canon Scott Rafhead
Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver City

Sponsored by the Good Shepherd, Silver City, and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the Wednesday evening services have been well attended and of great comfort to many during Holy Week. The theme of the 2016 series was “Christ; J Voorhies, Deputy Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe and Outérieur Board:

• St Mary’s Food Pantry ABQ $3,000.
• New Mexico Peace March $1,000.
• Catholic Charities $2,000.
• Loretto Commons $2,000.
• Casa Santuario $2,000.
• Santa Fe AIDS Service League $1,000.
• Respect Now $1,000.

NMCC Celebrates Circo for the Community
By Jennifer McIlvory-Orophy
Saturday, March 5, 2016, marked a unique collaboration coordinated by the New Mexico Conference of Churches that took place at St. Michael’s Church in Santa Fe. The day was designed to provide direction to the Board of NMCC, the Lay Leadership and the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Conference of Churches, Inc. (NMCC), and in partnership with the Church Women United of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, led by Bishop Robert Beckford, Deputy for the Southwest Conference UCC; (Back Row) Rob Craig, Deputy for the United Methodist Church; Robert Williams, President, NMCC, and Mary Kay Huggins, acting ED for NMCC; Charlotte Hoppe, Lead Minister for the Albuquerque Area. The event was underwritten by Bishop Beckford and the New Mexico Council of Churches, and was facilitated by the New Mexico Conference of Churches, Inc. (NMCC), the Lay Leadership and the Church Women United of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. The event featured a keynote address by Bishop Vono, Deputy Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and a series of workshops and panels on issues facing the community.

The event was held under the “big top” at St. Michael’s Methodist Church in Albuquerque, NMCC’s mission center, the Rev. Dr. Dale Plummer, began the evening with a prayer addressing the need for non-profit organizations. The event was then hosted by Bishop Vono, Deputy Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and featured a keynote address by Bishop Vono, Deputy Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and a series of workshops and panels on issues facing the community.

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Northwest Deaney
The Very Rev. Robert Manny
On Saturday, April 9, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Albuquerque, hosted an Immigration Information Forum presented by the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrants Justice.

San Gable’s 30th celebratory 10th birthday on Pontico Square - May 15 - 10:00 am, 48/98 Corrales Rd., Corrales, NM. At the event, a festival will be held, with a cake and dessert potluck. All friends of the parish are invited to join the celebration.

Epworth, Socorro will be celebrating 150 years in May. Hope in the Desert will be celebrating the return of their Rev. Dan Tanton from his sabbatical in Ireland and Israel.

The NW Deaney met April 30th at St. Mark’s, Rincon, and featured a presentation from Karen Longmire on her work with the Executive Committee of the Episcopal Church, and Episcopal Relief and Development.

Summer time is around the corner and lots of great things are going on for preparing for camping. Tom Pappas is going to be an area wide VBS leader in late July. Albuquerque Area Cursillists are asked to volunteer to take care of the Agape Meal for the June Cursillo.

The Cathedral is hosting an Arts & Design Camp this summer. We are looking for at least five churches to provide us with a team of children to work on projects. The camp will be held July 11-15.

St. Matthew’s Girls Brigade will meet for breakfast to share their time, and we encourage the Judicatory Heads and their Deputies to open a new chapter in this New Mexico ecclesiastical story.

John Singleton, TOOTH Youth Choir Director, invited all Diocesan Churches with choirs on our rosters to come together and sing an Easter Cantata. The Diocesan/Episcopal Choral Festival is free to most participants. The consultation was held at Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Larry Sydow, retired ELCA and Nazarene, hosted the event, and Evensong followed with Evensong and a Lunch at the Cathedral. The service followed the 1662 BCP and included:

• Bidding prayer
• Postlude
• Hymn

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• In Memoriam: Jonathon Lawrence (Victoria) 5
• Processional Hymn
• Bidding prayer
• Postlude
• Psalm (Psalm 84, short form, Parry)
• Magnificat® and Nunc Dimittis (Fred Exodus)

The Very Rev. Mike Olen
Holy Faith
Art, photographer and teacher Susan Kelly vs Mexico returns to Holy Faith to host a Photographic Exhibition on March 11 and 12. On Thursday, March 9, Ms. Kelly vs Mexico gave the presentation “Photographs, Illumination and Calligraphy” for the Sheldon Library Tea lecture series. The lecture will present the history and practice of illuminated manuscripts from the golden age of Islam (6-16th century AD) to the contemporary St. John’s Bible. Ms. Kelly vs Mexico is a studio artist and teacher at the Villars University and has published and exhibited with the Princeton School of Technology. Please visit her website www.sskellyvmexico.com for more information.

Many thanks to Neil and Kay for hosting the annual Easter Breakfast at Holy Faith. It has become a delicious tradition that everyone enjoys. Holy Faith has held two breakfasts in 2016 so far! For a tear in our cup of our son’s heart, that’s pretty amazing. Our most recent candidate, Rouse McCray, in 2016, had the day. April 3rd was scheduled for St. Andrew’s, but it was canceled due to an injury in the first week. We’re looking forward to the second breakfast.

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APD Forward Pushes Reforms for a Better Albuquerque

The Problem
- Since 2010, Albuquerque has experienced a rash of officer-involved shootings, 25 of which were fatal. From 2010 to 2012, Albuquerque police shot people at five times the pre-capita rate of New York City.
- Following an in-depth, impartial investigation, the Department of Justice concluded: A deep-rooted culture of resistance to change and reform is embedded within the Albuquerque Police Department.
- This culture of aggression is characterized by an unwarranted use of excessive force often directed against the most vulnerable of our citizens—persons in crisis, persons with mental illness and persons experiencing homelessness.
- The shooting deaths of James Boyd, Christopher Torres and Kenneth Ellis, among others, demonstrate the toll APD’s use of deadly force takes on the more vulnerable of our citizens.
- Often, when APD is called to respond to a mental health crisis, instead of experiencing mental illness and/or homelessness being arrested for vice crimes and being sent to jail for long periods of time because they cannot make bail (e.g. the citizen who was arrested at MacDonald’s on Lomas for flicking his cigarette away when told to do so by the police officer who then arrested him for littering).

The Department of Justice and the City of Albuquerque
- In 2014, the Department of Justice and APD entered into a court-ordered and court-monitored settlement agreement.
- This settlement agreement requires that APD address and make the reforms necessary to address the problems DOJ identified in its investigation of APD.
- Many of these problems involved or resulted in inadequate, haphazard or non-existent policies regarding a multitude of areas including excessive use of force, engagement with persons with mental illness, training and supervision, deployment of special teams and community relations.

APD Forward (www.apdfoward.org)

APD Forward is a group of concerned citizens working together to build a better Albuquerque by ensuring that the reform mandated by the Department of Justice be implemented and sustained.
- Among the coalition partners are the New Mexico Conference of Churches, the League of Women Voters, Common Cause New Mexico, the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, Peace Health for the Homeless, the ACLU New Mexico, Strong Families New Mexico, and families of people killed by lethal force on the part of APD.

APD Forward’s Role
- APD Forward was founded to help bring about a satisfactory settlement agreement between the City of Albuquerque, APD and the Department of Justice as well as to ensure that that agreement is monitored and funded. Currently APD Forward seeks to ensure that the City of Albuquerque and APD take concrete steps necessary to achieve and maintain “optimal operational compliance with the terms of the settlement agreement.”
- APD Forward works to achieve this through careful monitoring of reform efforts, on-going conversations with the Department of Justice, city officials, members of the Police Oversight Board and Police Community Relations Councils as well as meetings with Mayor Berry and Chief Felix.
- In addition, APD Forward conducts community/police conversations through structured and facilitated round table discussions (the first of which was with youth and police officers); provides encouragement for reform efforts when and where possible.

CURRENTLY APD FORWARD’S CONCERNS INCLUDE:
- Assessing the selection of Judge Lorenzo Garcia as APD’s policy drafting expert, including his qualifications for the position and his relationship to former City Manager Howard Long.
- The mayor’s leadership role in the APD reform process
- The accelerated compliance timeline
- The recruitment, training and operation of Community Policing Councils.

What Clergy and Churches Can Do:
1. Reach out to Mayor Berry to encourage him to play a bigger leadership role in reforming APD; encourage him to support and implement the recommendations of the City’s Consent Decree.
2. The recruitment, training and operation of Community Policing Councils.
3. Encourage support for the Consent Decree.
4. Reach out to Mayor Berry to encourage him to play a bigger leadership role in reforming APD; encourage him to support and implement the recommendations of the City’s Consent Decree.
5. The recruitment, training and operation of Community Policing Councils.
6. Encourage support for the Consent Decree.

BY Jo Ann Brown, OSF
Director of Intermutual Power & Light

Episcopalians are engaged with many faith communities in the fight to limit the effects of climate change through signing on to the UN COP21 climate agreement at April as the UN.

National Green Climate Fund

In April 212 religious communities representing tens of thousands of Americans based in 20 states and territories signed onto the National Green Climate Fund. Half of the Green Climate Fund is dedicated to the adaptation needs of nations and peoples vulnerable to climate change, with the remaining part going to clean energy projects and food security. Funding to adapt to climate change is in large part given to the least developed countries and small island developing States. For example, one of the GCF-approved projects is a small-scale urban food initiative in Ecuador that has helped more than 11,000 people in eight small-scale urban communities adapt to severe storms and climate change.

A Letter from Lusaka, continued from page 3

In several other ACC meetings and resolutions endorsing gender parity on Anglican leadership and episcopal positions required of the leaders, be they members of the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee or the Lay Ministry.

Diocesan Officers to be Elected 2016

- Chairman of the ACC
- One Lay Person for a three-year term
- One Clergy for a three-year term
- Standing Committee
- One Lay Person for a three-year term
- One Clergy for a two-year term

Diocesan Leadership Gatheres to Illustrate Ministries

More than thirty lay persons gathered at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Albuquerque on November 9 to take time out to illustrate the breadth and depth of the ministry of the Church. The biennial retreat was a joyous reminder that our identity as the Episcopal Church's full participation in the Anglican Consultative Council, Lusaka, Zambia
Communications Workshop
May 14 in El Paso

Congregations are invited to a one-day communications workshop at St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso, on Saturday May 14. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Francis, 6280 Los Robles Drive, El Paso, TX.

To register for the workshop contact Toye Robertson at the Diocese, 505-881-0636, trobertson@dioceserg.org.

There is a $15 charge to cover lunch.

Neva Rae Fox, the Public Affairs Officer for The Episcopal Church, will cover such topics as: How can I use “free” media to help my ministry? With all the forms of social media out there now, how do I best spend my time? How can I develop messages in my communication that are more meaningful? How can I effectively explain positive changes within our church to our congregation and our community?

The recipient of many awards, Neva Rae worked in Episcopal communications in two dioceses prior to joining the churchwide staff. Prior to Episcopal communications, she operated her own communications company, The Fox Group, working with a number of diverse clients. She is active in her own Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey, and is a member of many organizations and groups and has been elected to various offices on all levels of the Episcopal church.