Together

in the

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF THE RIO GRANDE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

Photo by Raymond Raney
Sometimes a Life-Changing Moment is just an Invitation to Coffee Hour
By the Rev. Canon Raymond Roney

This New Year moves us forward on our journey towards God’s mission for ourselves and our Church. This is the season after the Epiphany when the Magi found the baby Messiah and presented gifts worthy of a king. The Magi asked questions and allowed a star to lead them on a journey into the mystery of the Incarnation. Would that we were led so clearly toward our own Epiphany.

Epiphany comes from a Greek word that means “manifestation.” In the case of The Epiphany the meaning is not what is given to Jesus, but what God gave to humanity with the gift of the Christ Child: the revelation of Jesus the Christ as the Son of God. The Word made flesh that God might dwell among us. The Isaiah reading for Epiphany foretells the manifestation: “Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” Isaiah opens the door for us in understanding that it is through the Jews that salvation comes: “you shall be light to enlighten the gentiles, and the glory of the Lord shall shine upon you.”

In the Epistle to the Ephesians, Paul reflects on Isaiah and that is what he means by “the mystery hidden for ages” being unknown to humankind, and now revealed in Jesus so that the Gentiles (that’s us) may be made known “through the church.”

My own introduction to The Episcopal Church came not from mystery but in the form of a simple invitation: “Please join us for coffee hour.” The Morning Prayer service ended, I was turning to leave by the nearby narthex door when Mrs. Charlene Watson crossed the nave, greeted me with a smile, and asked me to share coffee in the Parish hall.

With that one request following the Sunday morning service at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Lafayette, Indiana, my life was irrevocably changed. Within one year, I had moved to another city. All that ended my last year in high school when questions became a wall instead of a doorway.

Even still, I love questions. Back then, questions became a way of life. What better profession for one who likes questions than Journalist – after all the basics in Journalism were: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How? Those questions served me well for a number of years on newspaper beats from health and environment to reporting for church shopping) when I changed paths from reporting to copy editing and was hired by The Elkhart Truth. The Bishop’s sentiment while on sabbatical. The Elkhart Truth served as an early place to start as any. The Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu (c.604-531 BC) wrote in the Tao Te Ching: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”
- Lao Tzu

Bishop Vono is taking Sabbatical time off, and requested his Canon to the Ordinary share reflections with the readers of Together.

Together in the
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

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The Bishop’s sentiment while on sabbatical.
As Episcopalians
We Believe …

- As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we believe:
  - The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the revealed Word of God;
  - The Nicene Creed as the sufficient statement of the Christian Faith;
  - The two Sacraments — Baptism and the Supper of the Lord — ministered with unflailing use of Christ’s words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him; and
  - The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the unity of His Church.
- We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.
- Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions, and is celebrated in many languages.
- We welcome men and women, married or celibate, to be ordained as bishops, priests, and deacons.
- We believe in amendment of life, the forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting.
- Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our Church.
- Holy Communion may be received by all baptized Christians, not only members of the Episcopal Church.
- We uphold the Bible and worship with the Book of Common Prayer.
- We affirm that committed relationships are lifelong and monogamous. Episcopalians also recognize that there is grace after divorce and do not deny the sacraments to those who have been divorced and those who have remarried.
- We affirm that issues such as birth control are matters of personal informed conscience.
- We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.
- All are welcome to find a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church.
- The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and traces its heritage to the beginnings of Christianity.
- The Episcopal Church has members in the United States, as well as in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Haiti, Honduras, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands.
Together in the
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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Save the Dates!

Camp Stoney Registration will begin January 25

CELEBRATING
Camp STONEY
Discover: Making All Things New
50 YEARS of WONDER

Snow Slam
Open to all youth grades 6 - 12
February 17-19 (President’s Weekend)
Join us at Camp Stoney for a
Joy-filled weekend!
Come for lots of fellowship and fun!

Snow Slams Past …
Let’s see your Snow Slam photos here next year!

Registration:
$30 regular registration until February 3
$40 late registration
Check in: Friday, February 17, 5pm - 7pm
Program to begin at 7:00pm
Check out: Sunday, February 19, 1:00pm

For information and to register, please email kristins@all-angels.com

June 8 - 11: Family Camp
Families participate in building lasting memories of faith, fun, and fellowship with other families. The goal is to create a family-friendly atmosphere where families can enjoy spending time together in a natural setting.

June 11 - 17: Once and Future King Fantasy Camp
Campers enjoy a variety of summer activities, including hiking, swimming, water games, daily worship and Bible studies focusing on Christian themes present in the fantasy genre. Costumes are highly encouraged. Campers are expected to participate in all activities and bring appropriate clothing.

June 12 - 16: Adventure Camp
Teens are invited into the rugged outdoors through wilderness hiking, off-site camping, white-water rafting and fishing. Bible study and worship will take place in God’s very own creation.

June 25 - July 1: Summer Fun
Enjoy Camp Activities like Archery, Arts & Crafts, Music, Field Games, Swimming, Campfires, Bible Study and much more while exploring who you are in Christ.

July 2 - 8: Harry Potter - Goblet of Fire
A fantasy camp that explores the Christian themes found in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter, through Bible Study and worship. Activities include playing Quidditch, visiting Diagon Alley, putting on a skit, making themed craft projects, participating in classes, swimming, hiking and archery lessons at Camp Stoney’s version of Hogwarts.

July 9 - 15: Episcopal Youth Event in Oklahoma City
The Diocese of the Rio Grande will be taking a group of diverse young men and women who are currently enrolled as high school students and a few adult mentors to EYE17 in Oklahoma City. This is an incredible opportunity to meet youths from all over! You’ll get to know other Episcopalians your own age and discuss your similarities and differences in large and small group settings.

July 16 - 22: Narnia - The Magician’s Nephew
Campers grow in their relationship with Christ as they explore the world of C.S. Lewis’s Narnia. Campers will participate in themed arts and crafts projects, participate in worship and Bible study as well as spend the week reenacting one of C.S. Lewis’ iconic books through costumed skits.

July 23 - 29: Grace Camp
This special outreach ministry provides a traditional camp experience for children with an incarcerated family member. Please contact the camp for further information.

July 30 - August 6: Alumni Camp
It’s Camp Stoney’s 50th Anniversary!!! Come back and experience a week of camp, but as an adult. Alumni will have the chance to relive being campers and counselors. Families are welcome, but activities will be geared more toward adults and older youth than our traditional Family Camp.

For more information and to register, please email kristins@all-angels.com

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As you all know, I’ve been sewing pillowcases for charities for a while. So far since Jan. 1 of 2016, my mother and I have made 490 pillowcases for charities such as the El Paso, Lubbock, Amarillo and Albuquerque Ronald McDonald Houses, St. Andrew’s Hospitality House, and more recently I made them for Veterans in local nursing homes. I still have some to deliver, but more than half of them have been distributed to their intended locations. The more of these I make, the more ideas I have of whom these pillowcases can serve.

I have learned several things about this simple, repetitive, project. One thing is that repetitive action, if productive, is very relaxing, and gives you a feeling of accomplishment. Spending my time producing something useful is very gratifying. The other thing I learned is that small things mean a lot especially to the two ends of the life experience. Very small kids and older people in nursing homes respond the same way, with delight, when receiving even the smallest gift when it is given personally.

Most institutions will take your donations, have you sign a donor list and send you on your way. When you get the opportunity to personally give your small gift to individuals, it makes you more connected to the recipient and more likely to want to continue to give more of yourself in the future. If you are one of those people that like to give anonymously there are lots of opportunities to do that. But if you want to share the light Jesus put in you and spark that light in someone else, find the thing that len you make human, one on one contract with someone.

I had two of the best experiences happen in the past month. I had been praying for a personal experience of connection with someone who would receive one of my pillowcases. The first was delivering red, white and blue pillowcases to veterans in nursing homes on Veteran’s Day. Responses of nursing home residents were as varied as their physical and medical situations. Some didn’t know I was in the room, most didn’t know what to say and were surprised that a stranger came to give them something. But the ones that sat up and started telling you stories of their military adventures were really enjoyable. I knew I sparked a memory in them that was important, and it was important to them that someone heard it. I was glad to be that person.

Then on Thanksgiving week I got to deliver to Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo, Texas. The coordinator there, Mrs. Jan Plequette, has been my contact here for four years. She arranged for me to meet the Child Life Specialist at North West Texas Children’s Hospital. When I got there, the staff picked out a pillowcase that they thought would perfectly fit a particular patient they wanted me to meet. Her name was Mla. She was four and receiving infusions that day. I was not allowed to know her illness because of HIPAA regulations, but they put me in a disposable isolation gown and gloves and let me give her this specially chosen pillowcase myself.

This little girl was the brightest piece of sunshine I have ever met. The nurses there at the hospital said that this little girl keeps them all cheered up. And she was so sweet I had the best time talking to her. I wish I could have taken her home with me and kept her for a sister. I would love to have someone like this in my life on a daily basis. Her mother was so sweet too. She said she was happy and grateful that a complete stranger would give her daughter a little gift that made the time they spent there at the hospital more comfortable and a less bland and boring experience.

That experience was my ideal, the dream I had in my mind all along, coming true. On Veterans Day, after delivering pillowcases all day, we went to the VFW for their fundraiser dinner in Cloacknott, NM. There I saw the man I knew as Santa Claus my whole life. He was the man that worked at our local mall and posed for Christmas pictures. He has been Santa for every Toys for Tots event, every charitable Christmas project and event in Alamogordo for my entire life. He was there, eating dinner and had a Vietnam Veteran jacket on. I had never spoken to him outside of his role as Santa.

As he left, I went to our car, and picked out an extra red, white and blue pillowcase and gave it to him. I thanked him for his service to our country, as I had with all the veterans in the nursing homes I met that day. And he thanked me and said he knew I made a lot of old people happy that day, and that’s what is so great about being Santa – we had a little something in common. I guess if I had to choose a title, I’d choose “The Pillowcase Fairy”. I really can’t pull off Santa Jr.

The marketing director at North West Texas Children’s Hospital said she hoped that my doing this would spark interest in others to do something and hopefully encourage kids to do things that were small random acts of kindness. That is what I hoped to do with this article. To tell kids that they are an important part of the world and that their outlook on life, if carried with them through adulthood, can affect the world around them. At the least an attitude of giving can affect their own life, and at the most it can affect all those that have received from them. It may spark others to pay it forward in their own way. And every different way you can think of to pay it forward is necessary in some way to someone.

To all the kids in the Diocese who dream of affecting the world in a big way, do it in a way that you know makes Jesus proud, have him as your partner, and you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.
A Fabulous DOK Christmas Party

The Bosque Center Residence Hall was filled with the sounds of laughter and conversation on the afternoon of December 17 when four dozen women arrived for the Christmas party sponsored by the Daughters of the King of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

All attendees received an ornament, one of Cynthia Davis’ books, and a Mary Kay lotion for attending. After finding a comfy chair, those who wanted to had the opportunity to make an “Inspiration Box.” This is a small box, individually decorated. Inspirational scriptures and Bible verses were provided to go inside to be referred to when a pick-me-up is needed.

The ladies were encouraged to continue adding their favorite scriptures and sayings throughout the next year. Everyone had fun greeting old and new friends and a lively time ensued as favorite Christmas traditions were shared. Door prizes were given out for the person with the most candy canes in each small group, after a fun game. Mary Kay Cosmetics gift sets were also awarded.

Among those attending were half a dozen members of the Women’s Circle of Empowerment (a ministry of the Diocese to and by women who have experienced homelessness firsthand). These women are “building a strong community through encouragement, support and perseverance.”

Founder Amy Malick shared the history of the group. Members of the Women’s Circle thanked those present for the outpouring of love evident in the donations from those at the party, and from many who could not attend. The shampoos and lotions, toothbrushes and cleaning supplies, socks and paper goods filled the foyer at the Residence Hall. The women noted that they would be able to share the bounty with other women in the ministry as well as friends who are still on the streets, thus making the gifts even more meaningful as they are re-gifted.

Thanks to the Daughters of the King in Albuquerque who helped with the food and arrangements. The cookies, cheese, crackers, fruit and chocolate were all delicious and greatly enjoyed. The response to this event was overwhelmingly positive with requests to make this an annual event.

If you have questions about the ministry of Daughters of the King, contact Cindy Davis, diocesan president (cdavis@cynthiadavisauthor.com) or your parish priest, or visit the cynthiadavisauthor.com. For information about upcoming retreats, are on the Women’s Ministry website (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com). We have a Facebook page, too.

The next Women’s Ministry event will be Wild Lent, a retreat for women and men in Alpine, TX. You can learn more about upcoming events here.

Linda Raney feted for 30 years of music ministry

Dr. Linda Lewis Raney was honored December 11 on the 30th anniversary as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe. The recognition came as the Church prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

Dr. Raney became music director about a year after moving to Santa Fe with her husband, Raymond, who then was news editor at The New Mexican. She is a member of St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, and at one time was its organist.

In addition to her church ministry, Dr. Raney directs the Santa Fe Women’s Ensemble and the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus. She has served as the conductor of The Santa Fe New Mexican’s Operetta Chorus, director of the New Mexico Opera Chorus, and conductor of the New Mexico Symphony Chorus. She also conducted the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus and the Santa Fe Women’s Ensemble, and was the artistic director of the Santa Fe Choral Society.

Dr. Raney has also been active in the New Mexico Music Educators Association, the New Mexico Choral Directors Association, and the American Choral Directors Association. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, and was the first female President of the New Mexico Music Educators Association.

Dr. Raney has been awarded numerous awards and honors for her work in music, including the New Mexico Music Educators Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the New Mexico Choral Directors Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award. She has also been named to the New Mexico College of the Holy Spirit’s Hall of Fame, and has received the New Mexico Choral Directors Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Additionally, Dr. Raney has been recognized for her work as a teacher, including the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the New Mexico Choral Directors Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the New Mexico College of the Holy Spirit’s Hall of Fame.

Lastly, Dr. Raney has been recognized for her work as a conductor, including the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the New Mexico Choral Directors Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the New Mexico College of the Holy Spirit’s Hall of Fame.

5th annual women’s retreat puts Puzzle in place

The Bosque Center was buzzing with prayer and sharing on November 18-19. Thirty women from around the diocese came together for Puzzle Pieces, 5th Annual Bosque Weekend. Elaine Wilson, Cathedral member and graduate of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, was the moderator. Throughout the weekend participants learned about the Bible and Book of Common Prayer (BCP), gratitude to Dr. Linda Lewis Raney.
Beyond the Parish Bounds
by Charmaine Martin
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Roswell

There's a reason you don't talk about politics or religion in polite society: politeness goes out the window. When I was a young adult, my husband and I lived near my uncle, and got a chance to re-connect. Once, the conversation turned to politics, and I was asked to learn my uncle was a McCarthyite. This was in the early 1970s, and McCarthy (Joe, not Eugene) had been discredited for nearly twenty years. But Uncle Rob still thought he'd be right, and that Nixon was the next best thing. I hated Nixon vociferally. We had to be physically separated and my husband took me into a different room until I calmed down. That visit was ruined, but we both valued our love as family and the growing friendship that was developing as we both knew each other, so we continued visiting. But we never talked politics again.

And I learned how unimportant politics can be. Which is a lesson I have to keep re-learning.

Once upon a time, when I was a delegate to Diocesan Convention, I shared an elevator with another novice delegate, who exclaimed “Isn’t it exciting to be here, and share the work of the Church?”

“This isn’t the work of the Church,” I said. “This is the housekeeping of the Church. I’m sorry that sounded so ‘holier-than-thou,’ because I was actually directing the remark to myself: I was really enjoying all the legislative wrangling and in serious danger of mistaking that for something of importance.

The work of the Church was going down that path: we were wrangling about who was right and who was wrong (expressed always in terms of who was correctly interpreting God’s Will – which makes the politicians even more brutal). And, worse still, who was important.

I don’t mean to imply that the issues our Church has been grappling with are trivial; women’s empowerment and gender issues speak to the question of how to be the Church in this place and time. And how do we serve the people we are among? But this place and time is so divided that the term “Culture Wars” is used to describe it. It’s not surprising the Church became a battle-ground in these Wars.

But these issues are not essential to who we are as Church. The Episcopal Church focuses more on Incarnational than Confessional: we are defined not by a set-in-stone code of beliefs and laws, but by relationships. We are called to love God and our neighbor, and not to spend too much time or energy in defining those terms. I see the Church turning its attention to divine love and the outward and inward service, like one waking from a bad dream and getting on with one’s work.

Within the Episcopal Church, there can be no doubt that the one side “won,” but they don’t seem to be embracing triumphalism (thank God.) We can all recognize that in our democratic polity structures, 50.001% will prevail, but it certainly doesn’t build consensus. Many of the disputants left, but this schism did not destroy the Church, perhaps because those who stayed adopted the same attitude that my uncle and I did: family is more important than politics, and the work we are called to do is more important than politics.

Last year’s Anglican Communion Bishops meeting at Lambeth reminded me of an old, conservative family faced with the decision that my uncle and I made. That meeting ended with expressions of ‘mutual love, and with both sides expecting the other to “come around” eventually.

I’m not sure that will ever happen: my uncle and I never agreed on McCarthy, but we broke bread together regularly. I hope the Church can “agree to disagree” but continue in the fellowship and prayers, and in the breaking of the bread. It’s not appropriate for one guest at the banquet to attempt to haras another. That’s entirely up to the Host. We need to have a care in Whose House we are quarreling.

Charmaine is a pew-bearer, who writes a monthly column in The Word, St. Andrew’s parish newsletter. She has served on the vestry, directed Christian Education and moderated The Adult Forum.
Evangelism matters to the world, say 400+ Episcopalians, Anglicans
Conference connected, inspired participants, and gave them practical tools

By Mary Frances Schjonberg


While some people might think that an Episcopal evangelist is a rare breed, with over 400 veterans and fledgling practitioners spent Nov. 19-19 being inspired, finding camaraderie and learning new ways to live up to that slogan during the Evangelism Matters conference in Church of the Transfiguration here.

The Rev. Emily Schnabl, rector of St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, Midwest City, Oklahoma, said she was already convinced of the need for evangelism and came to the conference looking for practical ways to bring that idea alive in her parish. She told Episcopal News Service that she left feeling supported in some of what St. Christopher’s is already doing and with some “really achievable things that I’ve literally got in my bag to take back.”

The Episcopal Church is waking up to the need for evangelism, said Ron Braman, an enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe in Wyoming and music minster at the Episcopal Mission of the Good Shepherd in Fort Hall, Idaho. Braman said he was encouraged by the presence of lay evangelists because too many people assume that the work ought only to be done by ordained clergy. That expectation is self-destructive, he said, “because if we’re not doing our part, we’re just setting up our leaders to fail.”

Fighting the oxymoron perception begins with individuals, the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, the presiding bishop’s canon for evangelism and reconciliation, said during the Nov. 19 plenary, asking “why do we need to conference to convince ourselves or to proclaim that evangelism matters?”

“I think you know why,” she answered. “I think we know that, deep down, we’re not really 100% sure.”

When she asked people to shout out why that is so, some of the answers were “fear of rejection,” “fear of looking weak,” “fear of only things that have been done in the name of evangelism,” “leave it to the clergy,” “people have to be gifted to do evangelism” and “I’m not sure; what is the Good News?” “What if the churchwide budget — General Convention in 2015 to set up a church-planting network and founding rector of Church of the Nativity in Scottsdale, Arizona, said when she sponsored Resolution D055 at General Convention in 2015 to set up a church-planting network and when Logan conceded that same meeting of convention to add $2.8 million to the 2016-2018 budget for evangelism work, “we thought we were pushing at a closed door.”

“Or maybe we’d crack it open a little bit and, oh my gosh, we have found that the spirit has blown that door wide open. We are ready for something new in the church.”

She told ENS she would like to see Episcopalians connect with the people from their diocese who attended the conference and who can show them how to spread the good news of Christ through their communities.

Snook, a veteran evangelist and church planter, said she found renewal and refreshment of her ministry at the conference. She went to the “Elevator Evangelism” workshop, run by the Rev. Casey Shoake, Transfiguration’s rector, and learned how to hone the story of why she follows Jesus down to one minute. “I got in touch with a way of speaking about it that I hadn’t done before,” she said.

Participants had their choice of 25 workshops offered during the plenary. Conferees were, from left, Carrie Boren Headington, missioner for evangelism, Diocese of Texas; the Rev. Marcus Halley, Transfiguration’s rector, and learned how to hone the story of why she follows Jesus down to one minute. “I got in touch with a way of speaking about it that I hadn’t done before,” she said.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was always on the move during his time at the Evangelism Matters conference at Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Texas.

The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, the presiding bishop’s canon for evangelism and reconciliation, leads the conference’s final plenary.

Evangelism Matters conference participants make their “cardboard testimonials,” first the side of a struggle of theirs (above) and, here, the side of God at work in their struggle.
Lao Tzu: “If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.”

Lao Tzu: “If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry united Anglican Communion Secretary General Josiah Idowu-Fearon to attend Evangelism Matters. Fearon spoke to the conference, praising it for "re-evangelizing this part of the Anglican Communion." During a later press conference, he said that rest of Communion needs to know that the Episcopal Church talks not just about human sexuality, it talks about evangelism, too, and that it is setting an example of attempting to live together amid difference, contextualizing gospel.

As a college football fan, I can say with great honesty that it is more fun to watch amazing athletes than it is to go to the gym and work out every single day. Working out requires the drive and the passion of a dedicated athlete. Can we see ourselves as athletes for God if the E-word is just too uncomfortable? Can we 'just do it'? We do a disservice to ourselves, our church and our God by failing to acknowledge the gifts brought by those younger than we while we revere those who succeed at a young age in other areas, sports and business to name two. Bill Gates took the helm of Microsoft at 23. David Filo, one of the co-founders of Yahoo, created this search engine at 27. Billionaires Jeff Bezos, Mark Cuban and Richard Branson started their first businesses before graduating high school. We applaud them, but do we applaud teens and twenty-somethings in our parishes?

Do we allow them to introduce innovation? Have we EVER? Even now the world is watching 9-year-old Evan, creator of EvanTubeHD and millionaire. Who are we EVER? Even now the world is watching 9-year-old Evan, creator of EvanTubeHD and millionaire. Who are we allowing children the space to be innovators of change and growth or must they wait their turn? I find that my definition of young adult has widened substantially, including my fellow Generation Xers, Gen Y and the emerging Generation Z. I exercise my own ady evangelism muscles through the telling of my story and my faith. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endured - Psalm 119:90.

The call to be a Christian is not a call to a cultural imperialism; it is a call to serve the world that is aching to see the Jesus of the Bible, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said during his Nov. 18 sermon during the Evangelism Matters conference at Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Texas.

"Evangelism and Reconciliation require the active participation of every Episcopalian, not just priests"

by Ms. Diana Addison
St. Andrew’s, Roswell

"What is Evangelism?" Participants were, from left, Carrie Boson Huddington, missionary for evangelism, Diocese of Dallas; Mary Parmenter, creator of the website "Welcome" Connect program, Diocese of Texas; the Rev. Marcus Halley, rector of West Missions; and the Rev. Alberto Catin, Diocese of Southeast Florida made up the morning panel.
Alpine confirmations

Bishop Jerry Lamb enjoys a potluck reception after the December 4 reception Eucharist that brought Sheila Ness and John Bane into the Episcopal Church and the Community of St James, Alpine, Texas.

A plaque honors Ann Lovekin

The Congregation of the Church of the Holy Cross, Edgewood, gathered on Rose Sunday, December 11th to dedicate a rose garden in the name of wife of the Parish’s founder, the Rev. Canon Dr. Adams Lovekin. The family of Ann Lovekin, beloved matriarch of Holy Cross, joined the members of the congregation in honoring Ann.

The project was made possible by the efforts of Holy Cross’ former Junior Warden Brian Smith and volunteers from the congregation. Roses were planted and noted in honor of many who will be remembered in the flowering each year.

Nicole and Allen Manley during the potluck dinner. Allen was baptized and Nicole was confirmed.

Tucumcari visitation

Bishop Vono visited St. Michael’s Episcopal Church on October 23.

The service was highlighted by two baptisms and a confirmation, and a pot-luck dinner followed the service.

The clergy were plentiful at the service. In addition to Bishop Vono, there were: Vicar, the Rev. Mark Lake, former vicar Gay Welborn and the Rev. Suzanne Brockmeier, assistant priest at St. James’, Clovis.

Alpine confirmations

The New Ministry of the Rev. Kay Jennings was celebrated December 3 at St. James Episcopal Church for the Big Bend Episcopal Mission. From right to left are: Bishop Jerry Lamb, Marcy Reed, Deb Bloomer, John Bane, Nancy Antrim, Sheila Ness. Kneeling is Vicar Kay Jennings.

Fall Festival blossoms at Holy Spirit

EL PASO—The treasury of Holy Spirit Church was the major beneficiary of its annual Fall Festival which was held October 1 in the fellowship hall.

Basket raffle ticket sales, kitchen food sales, bake sales and vendor tables brought in a total of $1,604.60, according to Norene Pitman, the senior warden. The biggest income producer by far was the basket sales, which brought in more than $1,100.

At their own expense, parishioners filled 20 baskets with specialty items. They included a Dallas Cowboy basket, pet lovers basket, car cleaning basket, chocolate lovers basket, gardening basket, margarita basket, breakfast basket and a cleaning basket.

Recalling the basket raffles with a smile, Pitman added, “I think the best thing was the Rev. Kathy LaLonde (priest in charge) winning the basket she had prepared. And then there were the teetotaling Woodyards winning the beer basket.”

The Rev. Kathy points out, “The Fall Festival is a blessed time in the life of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. “It is our annual fund-raiser. However, it is so much more.

“The Fall Festival is a great time for our church to come together in ministry, fun and fellowship with our community,” she said.

The Fall Festival is the second, community-oriented outreach program conducted by the church within the last 30 days.

Holy Spirit invited first responders in Northeast El Paso to a special Holy Eucharist on Sept. 11, marking the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.
San Gabriel the Archangel welcomes new Rector
Meet the Rev. Bonnie E. Edwards

It is a pleasure and a blessing to announce to the Diocese the call of the Rev. Bonnie E. Edwards to be the next rector of San Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church of Corrales, beginning January 2017.

Last January, the Rev. Rhonda McIntire announced her intent to retire at the end of 2016. Bishop Vono had granted her request to permit a search to be conducted with a sitting rector, using a new protocol devised by the Diocese, which greatly simplified the process. The vestry formed a search committee, which held its first meeting with the Rev. Canon Raymond Raney on 3 March 2016. The search for San Gabriel's next rector began, concluding this past fall in the calling of the Rev. Bonnie Edwards.

Having served as the rector at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Portage, Michigan, since 2012, Reverend Edwards now looks forward to moving to New Mexico. The search committee and vestry of San Gabriel's found her to be a warm and outgoing leader and a sensitive pastor. Her experience as a priest and as a business manager will help San Gabriel maintain its vitality and integrity, dedicated to its principles of outreach, inclusion, and healing and continuing its culture of progressive theology with traditional liturgy.

An experienced provider of outreach programs, she shares San Gabriel's view of a diaconal church. She has been engaged with homeless shelters, prison ministry, and other outreach in the community for some time, as well as giving practical and spiritual help during the Katrina crisis.

At her present church, Reverend Edwards also instituted a “diaper ministry,” which distributes said garments as a way to help poor mothers who are looking for or returning to work and must provide the supply for their children in daycare. The program has been successful at her church and in the community.

In addition to her liturgical knowledge and graceful worship leadership, she has a lovely singing voice and will be a wonderful soprano addition to San Gabriel’s “congregational choir.”

Reverend Edwards has led annual retreats on “Spirituality in Nature: seeing God Through Your Lens,” for the past three years. Apart from extensive training in pastoral care, her experience in hospice and hospital chaplaincy informs her abilities as a caring pastor.

Skilled at creating and maintaining community, she developed a newsletter and uses social media to strengthen lines of communication in her congregation.

She has developed discussion groups at her church and elsewhere, such as a Tap into Theology pub night. She is active in her diocese, serving on the diocesan finance committee, among other contributions.

Before she became an Episcopal priest (in 2009) she worked in fields that have direct applicability to administering a parish, including technical research and writing, managing a professional team, and for a period, running her own business.

Her hobbies and interests include choral singing, photography, hiking, amateur birding, reading, and gardening (she hopes to be a Master Gardener someday).

Bishop Michael Vono will celebrate the Reverend Bonnie E. Edwards as San Gabriel’s next rector upon his return from sabbatical in early 2017.

Holy Faith, Santa Fe

The retreat, “Celebrating Christmas After Loss,” for people who have lost a loved one, was held at The Church of Holy Faith on December 9 and 10. Our purpose is to honor the past and help develop new ways that Christmas can be a time of deep renewal. A light dinner was served on Friday evening.

St. James’, Taos

On Sunday, November 20, St. James, Taos celebrated Christ the King Day with eight confirmations, one reception, and one reaffirmation. Bishop Craig Anderson officiated. On November 24, we celebrated Thanksgiving with Holy Eucharist and a parish potluck feast.

During Advent, Sandra Kinchen will provide four classes on Centering Prayer, and Fr. Mike Olsen will lead four Wednesday Evening Adult Education presentations on the life of Mary as seen through the Gospels, Art and Music.

On Sunday, December 11 we hosted the Taos Community Choirs for the Sing-Along Messiah. St. James will hold a “Longest Night” which is also known as “Blue Christmas” worship service on December 16.

And on Christmas Day we celebrated the birth of Our Lord at 9:15 am with Holy Eucharist and the Service of Lessons and Carols.

St. Jerome’s, Chama

As of this date, St. Jerome’s has given out more than 400 coats and numerous pairs of boots to the children in five Chama and the surrounding communities’ schools. We thank the Poverty and Outreach Board for their grant that has helped make this possible by supplementing the money raised through St. Jerome’s.

In order to receive the coats, the children are required to answer teacher-supplied questions about civics. The children are very proud of being able to learn this material and of their new coats.

Our Advent Study is entitled A Thrill of Hope, The Christmas Story in Word and Art. It is a teaching video produced by Candler School of Theology. The presenters include people of the caliber of Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson. Each passage of scripture is illustrated and interpreted by the beautiful artwork of John August Swanson. The suggested questions led us into sharing our own stories and we began to see how our stories are beautifully woven into the story of God’s plan.

We wish for all of you a very Blessed Christmas Season.

St. Paul’s, Las Vegas

We began the holiday season with a Thanksgiving Treasures and Trash fundraiser. Many very nice items and useful tools and kitchen ware were donated along with some hand crocheted blankets.

Our Stewardship of Thanksgiving concluded on November 27th with a blessing of the gifts returned in Thanksgiving to God and a potluck following the service.

The children of St. Paul’s will be presenting a Christmas program, “The Children’s Christmas Card”, on December 11th during our Sunday morning worship service. (Many thanks to St. Bede’s for the loan of Christmas pageant costumes.)

The Native American Student Group will be having a fundraiser in Faith Hall in January. Making them welcome is part of what we hope will become more outreach to the university community. The music scholarship auditions will be held in January and the scholarship performance and award in February.

Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos

Beginning the 2nd Week of Advent, Trinity on the Hill launched a Public Service of Healing with Holy Eucharist. There has been a long tradition of healing services at the parish, and we are reviewing to meet the growing demand for a service of its kind.

Trinity on the Hill is also furthering its partnership with the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. Representatives from Navajoland visited Trinity on the Hill to explore ways to become more united in our ministry together.

The Rev. Monica Whitaker Called to St. Andrew’s, Sedona, AZ

Sedona AZ – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church has called The Reverend Monica Whitaker to serve as its next Rector beginning January 14, 2017. The appointment follows a nine-month search that drew candidates from across the US.

Rev. Monica is currently Associate Rector with Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo CA. While in the Bay Area she served as a religion teacher at a local day school and a hospital chaplain, as well as a seminarian. For the Diocese of California, Rev. Monica was Secretary for the Asian Commission and a facilitator for anti-racism training. Previously she served in various ministries with the Cathedral Church of St. John, Albuquerque NM, including as a vestry member, deanery delegate, and choir member.

The new Rector earned a Master of Divinity degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific-Berkeley (2014), an MA and Master of Music from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and a BA from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. She was sponsored for ordination by the congregation of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Albuquerque.

Rev. Monica’s daughter, Isabella, is an NAU graduate interior designer and lives in Chandler with her husband and son. Before her call to the ministry, Rev. Monica was a veteran marketing professional with twenty years’ experience with firms in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congregational Life and Development:
*Turning Congregations upside down and right side up!*

By Mrs. Cathy Bailey
Co-Chair, CLAD

There is a ministry in the Diocese of the Rio Grande that has been working very hard for the last five years. This ministry has existed since 2010, and we have helped more than 35 congregations. Most of these congregations have been in transition. Recently, the committee was asked by Bishop Vono to expand our ministry's focus from transition to mutual ministry review and leadership development.

In response to the Bishop's request we met with Lou Blanchard, a Congregational Development Consultant from the Diocese of Colorado, and refined the mission we have been called to, and we rewrote our call to mission. Our call to mission states that we, in communion with mission, we have been called to, and we rewrote our call to mission.

In the coming year, we are looking to bring additional members to our team, both clergy and lay. We will be traveling to the Deaneries in the Spring of 2017 to talk about our ministry. We are asking the area Deans to help us identify new members to CLAD, specifically people who have facilitation skills to be part of this ministry.

- The Rev. Canon Colin Kelly Co-Chair
- Mrs. Cathy Bailey Co-Chair
- The Rev. Lin Lilley
- The Rev. Linda Wilson
- The Rev. Jan Hosea
- Mr. Bruce Hosea
- The Rev. Canon Michael Drinkwater
- Mr. Charlie Hawkins
- Ms. Janet Sanders

We will continue to serve the congregations in the Diocese and look forward to another great year full of ministry opportunities. The mission is open to all congregations in the Diocese. CLAD's volunteer ministry is made up of both clergy and lay members. We meet congregations where they are and walk with them on their journey. At the Diocesan Convention this Fall, we were called by Archbishop Michael Curry and by Christ to love God and to love our neighbors. Actions of love will change the world.

Now it is time to examine ourselves, our congregations, and to take a hard look at how we can be better builders of God's Kingdom. Congregational Life and Development can help your congregation look deeper and discern what God is calling your parishes to do to be an active participant in the “Jesus Movement”.

If you are interested in learning more about us please contact us.

Contact Persons: Mrs. Cathy Bailey / The Rev. Canon Colin Kelly
Contact Telephone: 505.264.0697 / 505.670.1176
Contact Email Address: Cathy_bailey50@msn.com / CPKellyL@aol.com

In the spring of 2016, the committees met and discussed the CLAD retreat for those who lead.

The diocesan deadline is February 1, 2017. Only one grant will be chosen for final consideration by the Province VII and national committees by March 3.

When writing a grant, please contact Rickie Sherrill, 505-955-8550, to discuss the application, and the wording that the committee likes to see.

When completed, applicants make three complete copies, one to keep, one to mail to Mary Jewell at the Diocese, 6400 Coors Blvd., NW, Albuquerque NM 87120, and one to mail to Rickie Sherrill, 322 Pinos Verdes, Santa Fe, NM 87501.
Contemporary Holiness: Becoming the Person God Calls Us to Be
9 am – 4 pm Saturday January 21, 2017
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Las Cruces

There are many ways to think about the spiritual life. In recent years, many spiritual writers have talked about the True Self and the False Self. The True Self is the person whom God has created me to be. The False Self is the person whom I have made myself into.

On Saturday, January 21, Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, will lead us in a workshop at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, dealing with the True Self and the False Self. He’ll begin by discussing how the spiritual journey is a process of transformation. He will discuss the 10 characteristics of the True Self which indicate we are growing in the person God calls us to be. He’ll discuss the “lie” of the False Self’s agenda and how we all become trapped in it. Finally, he will discuss how to break free of the False Self’s agenda and begin the transformative journey to the True Self.

Fr. Albert’s books and DVDs will be available for purchase during the day (cash or checks only). The day begins at 9am and concludes at 4pm. There is a $10.00 donation payable at the door. Lunch will be on your own. No prior registration required.

About Fr. Albert: Ordained a Franciscan priest in 1983, Albert Haase, OFM, is a popular preacher, teacher, and spiritual director. A former missionary to mainland China for over eleven years, he is the author of nine books on popular spirituality and the presenter on four best selling DVDs. He trains spiritual directors in the diocese of Springfield, Illinois. He lives in Crowley, Texas. Visit his web site at www.AlbertOFM.org or on Facebook: “Albert Haase, OFM”

St. Andrew’s is located at 518 Alameda Boulevard, Las Cruces, NM 88005 Phone: (575) 526-6333

Theological & Storyteller,
Dr. Megan McKenna,
to Lead Women’s Retreat Saturday,
February 18

The Women’s Spirituality Group of Church of the Holy Faith Santa Fe presents the fifth annual Quiet Day Retreat and gratefully acknowledges support for this retreat from The Holy Faith Library-Scheffler Lecture Series Fund. Dr. Megan McKenna, a compelling teacher and prolific author of 50 books, will speak on “We Drink From Our Own Wells.”

The retreat will emphasize community and how we live, mature in our faith, and are converted with others. The selected Scripture studies include The Woman at the Well and the Transfiguration of Jesus. This pre-Lenten retreat is a day to reflect, listen to the stories of God, and share our thoughts on the Word of God. Registration opens at 7 a.m. and a continental breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. in Elen Hall on February 18. At the conclusion of the retreat, Holy Eucharist will be celebrated from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. for all retreat participants. Please plan to bring your lunch. Beverages will be provided at the lunch break. There is no cost to attend, but you will need to register by emailing marycdudley@gmail.com no later than February 1, 2017.

The Workshop will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 3, at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Alpine. The main part of the retreat begins March 24 at St. James’ Church in Alpine with dinner and presentations based on Matthew 4 on Friday and Saturday. The retreat concludes after Sunday services on March 26. Retreat registration is $25, which covers lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday. Registration info is available on the Women’s Ministry website (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com) or you can register online at WildLent.eventsbot.com. This retreat is sponsored by the Women of the Diocese and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Does God Really Get Trans People? Transgender People and Communities of Faith

Transgender people experience discrimination on a consistent basis, in all areas of life, including the religious community.

Transgender 101 will be an introduction to transgender people, our lives and issues. Transgender people are not always known and understood by others, and our training is meant to address this lack of information and experience.

The Workshop will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 3, at St. Michael and All Angels
601 Montano Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107-5226.

Adrien Lawyer, Co-Director of the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, provides basic training including a chance to engage in dialogue and have your questions answered directly. Our objective is to personalize transgender folks and to increase visibility and awareness while decreasing the discrimination, fear, hostility and violence that is routinely directed toward members of our population.

A panel from TGRCNM’s Speakers Bureau, including St Michael’s member Emerson Corley, will be on hand to share their personal experiences and perspectives and to assist in the Q&A portion of the session.
CDSP: Largest solar installation of any theological institution in the country

By David Paulsen

[Episcopal News Service] Arizona may sound like the last place you’d find a dynamic agricultural enterprise, but the work underway in the Navajoland Area Mission is gathering the seeds of history, culture, tradition, environmental stewardship and spirituality to cultivate a local ministry with sky’s-the-limit potential for a small Episcopal congregation here.

Gardening has been alive for decades at Good Shepherd Mission in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Now, local leaders are looking for ways to expand those efforts while emphasizing conservation, particularly of water. Native American traditions and Episcopal teachings overlap on that point – the importance of protecting the Earth and our God-given resources, said the Rev. Cynthia Hizer, Good Shepherd’s vicar.

“The indigenous people have been the environmentalists for as long as they’ve been here,” Hizer said. “The way they step out into the world is honoring creation.”

The latest initiative to tilt this fertile ground is the Protecting the Precious water conservation project at Good Shepherd Mission, which this week is installing a rainwater collection system to augment the congregation’s farming operation. An additional component of the project will involve teaching water-saving farming techniques to would-be farmers on the Navajo reservation.

“Water is such an issue in the West,” Good Shepherd head gardener Margaret Putnam said. The mission’s half-acre garden uses a drip irrigation system fed by municipal water, but the congregation hopes to plant a full field of crops on an additional half acre with the rainwater it collects.

Conservation is itself a goal of the project, Putnam added. Using less municipal water is the right thing to do, especially in a dry climate like Arizona’s.

Rain collection at Good Shepherd has been backed by a $41,500 grant from the Episcopal Church’s United Thank Offering program, or UTO. The grant application noted that the high-desert region has a long history of farming and animal grazing, but those traditions have diminished over the decades, partly because of environmental degradation.

A particularly shocking and devastating recent case was the accidental release of toxic chemicals into the Animas River, one of the water sources for the Navajoland farm at St. Christopher’s. The waste from that spill made it all the way to the San Juan River, one of the water sources for the Navajoland farm at St. Christopher’s in Bluff, Utah, and some of that mission’s crops were wiped out.

Since then, St. Christopher’s has decided to tap into artisan wells for some of its crop irrigation, so it doesn’t have to rely solely on the river anymore, said the Rev. Leon Sampson, a deacon.

The Protecting the Precious grant application also notes that decades of mining has lowered the water table on the reservation and contaminated much of the remaining water. Nutrient depletion, erosion and pesticide use are other factors that pose challenges to Navajo farmers.

The solution proposed by the water conservation project at Good Shepherd starts small but has growth potential as the congregation leads by example and teaches conservation to others.

“It excites us to think that those participating in this initiative will deepen their respect for the land,” Navajoland’s grant application said. “Protecting the Precious can transform how we interact with the natural world.”

Navajoland is a collection of Episcopal missions in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah that serve the 250,000 people on the 27,000 square-mile Navajo reservation. The missions technically don’t make up a diocese because they still are working toward becoming financially self-sustaining. An estimated 43 percent of the Navajo population lives under the poverty line, so Episcopal leaders are looking to entrepreneurialism to achieve their goal of self-sustainability and to lift others out of poverty.

There’s the beekeeping operation that is taking shape at Good Shepherd and St. Christopher’s. The missions are working together to turn blue corn flour production into a cottage industry. And Good Shepherd’s hand-made soaps business is taking off.

Hizer has been a big part of that growth since she arrived early last year, and recently she was named to Navajoland Bishop David Bulley’s staff as canon for development and social enterprise.

“I came with a passion,” said Hizer, who previously served in the Diocese of Atlanta and oversaw a garden project there. It’s a skill set she’ll be able to transfer to Navajoland.

Launched in 2013, Navajoland’s SEED Awards Honor Ministries in creation care.

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light (NM IPL), celebrated creation care work of a number of faith communities and individuals at their annual fall gathering. This year, St. Bede’s Church in Santa Fe and the Episcopal Church in Albuquerque had two recipients of SEED Awards.

SEED awards honor those working in their communities to implement energy efficiency upgrades, installation of solar, support of local food production, care of water and engagement in public policy advocacy. St. Bede’s, Santa Fe, is in the process of energy upgrades utilizing an NM IPL no-interest loan to jump start their work and begin saving money on utilities. They hope to install solar in the future.

Rev. Cathlena Plummer shared the work of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland in various missions that includes greenhouses and gardens, policy advocacy addressing pollution of water and air in oil and gas extraction areas, energy efficiency upgrades and solar plans for the future. Your faith community could be honored next year. Let NM IPL know what you are doing.

People of Faith Engaging New Mexico Legislative Advocacy

Have you wanted to engage in the New Mexico Legislative Session in advocacy as a person of faith? Have you wondered how you could do this? Come to an advocacy training Monday, January 9, 6 pm at Albuquerque Mennonite Church, 1300 Girard. NM IPL will offer an overview of why people of faith are needed in the call to faithful citizenship around policies to protect air, land, water and communities and address climate change. Ruth Hoffman, Executive Director of Lutheran Advocacy will offer a training on how to work as a citizen with legislators and in the Roundhouse.

If you would like to know more or get engaged contact joan@nm-ipl.org. Have you wanted to install solar in the future. CDSP is Largest solar installation of any theological institution in the United States.

“Within a decade, the US is expected to be completely embracing the transition into renewable energy,” said Mark Richardson, during an interview with Episcopal News Service earlier this year. “The seminary is lucky to be working together to turn blue corn flour production into a cottage industry. And Good Shepherd’s hand-made soaps business is taking off.

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Navajo mission finds fertile ground for water conservation project ‘Protecting the Precious’ is latest farm-based project in Navajoland

By David Paulsen

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**REMEMBERING FATHER TED HOWDEN**

Fr. Howden and Guadalupe celebrated at Silver City  
*By the Rev. Paul Moore  
Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd*

On December 11th Good Shepherd did double-duty. At the early service we celebrated the life and ministry of the Rev. Theodore Howden. At the late service we had the Mariachi Band from the Deming High School here to help us celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. Members of the local Council of the League of United Latin American Citizens, of which Fr. Paul is chaplain, provided delicious food after the service as the Mariachis played music for us in the Parish Hall.

We are proud to remember these two events in the history of our faith. The Rev. Ted Howden’s self-sacrificial life parallels that of our Savior, and Juan Diego’s courageous obedience to his vision of the Lady helped to bring the Kingdom of our Savior to bear on Latin American spirituality. Helping to support the youth of our area in an ancient and well-respected musical tradition is also very rewarding.

A Mariachi Band from Deming High School fill Good Shepherd with music.

Chaplain Howden honored in Lessons and Carols  
*By the Rev. Kay Jennings  
Vicar of St. James, Alpine, Texas*

There is an ambivalence about the relationship of 15 days before Christmas and the Advent custom of waiting to decorate and pull out the stops until Christmas Day, and then celebrating 12 Days of Christmas. I stand firmly with a foot in both customs. The third Sunday of Advent began our opening salvo of Advent Lessons and Carols at St. James. Familiar songs.

Readings that set the stage for Christ. Bill Smith explored the music of Advent that we have always rolled into Christmas season, and we all came and sang out with him, and our readers stepped up to share the Word from Genesis to Luke. The service was followed by hot cider and snacks, and all spiced with the shared joy.

As part of our Lessons & Carols we observed our remembrance of Fr. Ted Howden, a World War II chaplain who died so others could live. December 11 is the day he is remembered throughout our Diocese of the Rio Grande. He served the parish in Roswell, NM, and went into the service. He was in the brutal Bataan March in the Philippines and died in a prison camp there. The Diocese is presently working to build a chapel for servicemen and women and for veterans at the Bosque Center in Albuquerque. Our remembrance of Fr. Howden fit the 3rd Sunday of Advent when the scripture speaks of John the Baptist when he was imprisoned.

So happiness and remembering sad things intermingling in this season when we hope for Christ’s return to bring the world right side up. No more war. God visibly and perpetually with us.


The Diocesan Convention in October resolved to commend the observance to each and all the congregations of the Diocese in whatever way they chose. To some there was observance, and to others he was remembered in the Prayers of the People, or in the Collects of the Day.

In whatever ways the day was commended, Chaplain Ted Howden was remembered. In addition to the observance, Diocesan Convention also resolved to recommend his inclusion in the Feast Days of The Episcopal Church calendar. We at the Diocese recently were informed by the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music the revision of the official calendar, Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006, will include no additional names.

We were advised on a course of action that will involve the Diocese submitting a “C” resolution, and diocesan deputation submitting an identical “D” resolution directly to General Convention 2018. The diocesan staff will be confering on a strategy with the deputation co-chairs in the next few months.

**HOWDEN CHAPEL PLEDGE CARD (SIDE ONE)**

1. Cut out pledge card
2. Fill out side one
3. Mail to: Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande  
6400 Coors Blvd., NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120

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All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.**
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Together@dioceserg.org

PHOTOGRAPHY SUBMISSIONS
Please submit high resolution photographs with stories to ensure the best possible print reproduction. Email to: Together@dioceserg.org

TOGETHER DEADLINES FOR 2017
MARCH/APRIL 2017 Submission deadline: February 5
MAY/JUNE 2017 Submission deadline: April 7
JULY/AUGUST 2017 Submission deadline: August 11
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017 Submission deadline: November 12
DECEMBER 2017 Submission deadline: January 5

Cover Photo: A Truly Frosted Morning in December
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Photo by Raymond Raney

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