My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I grew up in a very close musical family. Music was always close together as possible!”

When I was a child, my brother Joe, when he was a teenager, took up the drums and later had his own band. My sister Linda would often ask me to sing with them. My mum was a music teacher and sang into a microphone. I used to love music, especially church music, since I always felt, that music was a way to connect with God and part of God's created harmonic—and we need harmony today—mystery and order. Throughout the centuries, scholars teach, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light... because 'the Lord will win you your lives.' The Diocese of the Rio Grande has been humbled and blessed by each of you. Your gifts to this diocese will have a planned giving program. More details of this missionary diocese. This will be the first time that the diocese will have a planned giving program. We have been clear about our efforts over these many years to nurture new believers; to respond to human need by loving service; to seek to transform unjust structures of society and culture; to boldly challenge violence of every kind, which is so prevalent today in this world; to build the Church of Christ’s mission is what I believe we have been learning and singing in this Diocese. We will continue to sing that song into the future.

Truly we have been blessed in these past seven years with a dynamic, faithful diocesan staff, several creative Canons to the Ordinary, especially Canon Renay whom I nicknamed the ‘bearded wonder’, gifted treasurers, dedicated, faithful clergy and extraordinary leaders and friends in the pew, are carrying on the important work of new life for all people. We are the building blocks in the Kingdom of God, and we must continue to build a diocese reliant upon an embolden and publicly dynamic Christian faith. For all, as at St. Peter teaches, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light... because ‘the Lord will win you your lives.’

I have heard you say this many times; as a rural diocese with two large urban centers, in a region that is not wealthy within a culture critical of organized religion, our Episcopal congregations are bearing all odds. We, you and I, the clergy and leaders and friends in the pew, are carrying on the important life-giving work of Jesus Christ in service of loving care, by meeting basic spiritual and human needs and inspiring hope of new life for all people. We are the building blocks in the Kingdom of God, and we must continue to build a diocese reliant upon an embolden and publicly dynamic Christian faith. For all, as at St. Peter teaches, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light... because ‘the Lord will win you your lives.’

The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande
Good evening, Diocese of the Rio Grande! ... be to God! So now, at this Convention, let us boldly “Sing unto the Lord a new Song!”
Amen.
Blessings everyone.

Bishop Vono Announces Howden Society Legacy Fund, My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
You will have heard in my convention homily yesterday evening that I am calling on this diocese to "Sing unto the Lord a new Song," and our Bosque Retreat and Conference Center will play an important role in answering that call. That is because the Bosque Retreat Center will one day be sung to by the Choir of the Chapel that we will build there, which has been part of my vision for this diocese and the Bosque Center from its beginnings, and I would like to report to you on the progress that we have made in realizing that vision. We have completed the work with our consultants and have been encouraged by the responses. The need for a Chapel is universally recognized, and I am grateful to those of you who have made donations to this project and to those of you who have expressed a willingness to make significant pledges. While we are not yet ready to launch the project publicly, we remain confident that the Chapel will be built to the glory of God and, that we will together, “Sing unto the Lord a new Song.”

I have a major announcement to make about a new initiative to support the mission and ministry of the diocese at the Bosque Retreat and Conference Center. When we were in the Howden Society will be shared in due course, and I would ask you to give both it and the Bosque Chapel Project your prayerful consideration. Thank you.

Bishop Michael
65th ANNUAL CONVENTION

ELECTING CONVENTION VOTING REQUIREMENTS

ARTICLE VI

ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Section 1

A Diocesan Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Suffragan Bishop shall be elected at an Annual Convention, or at a Special Convention called for that purpose. The membership of Convention shall consist of the lay membership as provided by canon and all clergy, canonically resident for at least one year who are in compliance with any canonical reporting requirements of the Diocese and the Episcopal Church for the preceding two years.

For Clergy:

All canonically resident clergy in compliance with reporting requirements:

Reporting Requirements


All other Canonically Resident Clergy – Annual Report for the years 2017, 2016 and 2015 (2 of 3) – due March 1, 2018

For Lay Persons:

Ex-Officio Delegates [Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Historian, Canonist, Chancellors, and members of Standing Committee, Investment Board, members at large of Diocesan Council and Deans/Vice Deans of each Deanery] (Canon 1 and Article VI):

• Wardens from each congregation
• Current elected delegates and alternates

(as of May 5, 2018)

Other Information

No vote may be cast by proxy. (Canon 2.2.b).

Should the membership right of any person be questioned, the matter shall be referred to a Committee on Credentials, consisting of two clergy and three lay delegates to be named by the Presiding Officer. (Canon 2.1.e)

Amended Resolutions approved by Convention 2017

RESOLUTION #1: OBSERVANCE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THE REV. FREDERICK B. ‘TED’ HOWDEN JR.

WHEREAS: December 11, 2017, will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the death of the Rev. Frederick B. ‘Ted’ Howden Jr., who served as chaplain to the 206th Coast Artillery on the Bataan Peninsula of the island of Luzon, and who gave his rations to others in the Japanese prison camps in the Philippines resulting in his death due to starvation-induced pellagra.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the 2017 Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande commends all persons in the Episcopal Church in their respective deaneries.

RESOLUTION #2: INCLUSION OF THE REV. FREDERICK B. ‘TED’ HOWDEN JR. IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CALENDAR OF COMMEMORATIONS

WHEREAS: The Rev. Frederick B. ‘Ted’ Howden Jr., as chaplain to the 206th Coast Artillery on the Bataan Peninsula of the island of Luzon, sacrificed his life by giving up his rations to others in the Japanese prison camps in the Philippines, and died of starvation-induced pellagra on December 11, 1942; and

WHEREAS: The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande annually observes Father Howden’s sacrifice on December 11 as a witness to his service of others.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the 2017 Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande submits this “C” resolution to the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church to add the name of The Rev. Frederick B. ‘Ted’ Howden Jr. to The Episcopal Church’s calendar of commemorations.


RESOLUTION #5: COMMENDATIONS TO THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Be it Resolved that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande extends its prayers and best wishes to the co-chairs, Ms. Cindy Davis and the Rev. Dale Plummer, and the members of the Transition Committee as they prepare for the tasks ahead for the election and consecration of the Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande.

RESOLUTION #6: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF MRS. NILAH TRIPP

The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande celebrates the ministries of Mrs. Nilah Tripp, beloved wife in the assurance of life everlasting and the sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life.

RESOLUTION #7: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. EUGENE MYRICK

Be it Resolved: that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life and devoted ministry of the Rev. Eugene Myrick, who built up the Kingdom of God in the Church in El Paso.

Continued on page 4
RESOLUTION #8: IN THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. MRS. VERONICA BAYANG
Be it Resolved; that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life and devoted ministry of Mrs. Veronica Bayang, beloved wife of Father Marta Bayang. This convention celebrates the 38 years of their vocational ministry at all Saints, Grants/Milan, and for her ministry as a nurse at the Gallup Indian Medical Center.

RESOLUTION #9: IN THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF MRS. MELISSA LEEHAN
Be it Resolved; that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life and ministry of Mrs. Melissa Leehan, who worked alongside her husband, the Rev. Jim Lehan, as his ministry in the Diocese of Navajo/Pon and served the congregation of St. Bede’s and the community of Santa Fe.

RESOLUTION #10: IN THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. GLEN ALLEN DESHAW
Be it Resolved; that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande celebrates the life and ministry of the Rev. Glen Allen Deshaw, for his long service to the Episcopal Church since his ordination to the Diaconate by Bishop Stoney in 1952, and his ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Kinsolving in 1953. Our Diocese celebrates his life of ministry at St. Matthew’s, Albuquerque; Holy Trinity, Raton; St. James, Taos; St. Paul’s, Truth or Consequences; and Christ Church, Hillabrooks.

RESOLUTION #11: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF MRS. VERONICA BAYANG
Be it Resolved; that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life and devoted ministry Mrs. Veronica Bayang, beloved wife of Father Marta Bayang. This convention celebrates the 38 years of their bi-vocational ministry at all Saints, Grants/Milan, and for her ministry as a nurse at the Gallup Indian Medical Center.

Be it further resolved that we, as a convention, extend our condolences to Father Martin Bayang and his family in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

RESOLUTION #12: IN THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF MRS. MELISSA LEEHAN
Be it Resolved; that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life and ministry of Mrs. Melissa Leehan, who worked alongside her husband, the Rev. Jim Lehan, as his ministry in the Diocese of Navajo/Pon, and served the congregation of St. Bede’s and the community of Santa Fe.

Be it further resolved that we, as a convention, extend our condolences to Father Jim Lehan for the loss of his beloved friend and wife in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

RESOLUTION #13: IN THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF MR. MORTON PEPPER MARTS
Be it Resolved; that the 65th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life of Col. Morton Pepper Mars, USAF, who served the Diocese in promoting communications through the Episcopal Information Network and the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels as a devoted member of the Latty.

RESOLUTION #14: COMMENDATIONS TO THE DIOCESES OF PROVINCE VII
Be it Resolved; that this 2017 Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Dioceses of Province VII that we will continue to work together for the betterment of The Episcopal Church and the stewardship of this fragile earth, our island home.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Western Kansas to express our gratitude for your ministry to build up the Kingdom of God.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Kansas in thanks for your faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of West Missouri to express our gratitude for your ministry and ask that God continue to surround you with Grace.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Oklahoma in thanks for your witness to Our Savior that he will continue to uphold you in ministry.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Arkansas to express our gratitude for your ministry to build the Kingdom of God for all.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Western Louisiana to express our gratitude for your ministry and ask that God continue to uphold you with Grace.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Fort Worth in thanks for your witness to Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to surround you with Grace.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Texas in thanks for your witness to the building of the Kingdom of God that you be upheld and encouraged in your ministries.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Northwestern Texas in thanks for your faithful witness to Jesus Christ that God will continue to uphold you with Grace.

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Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Western Kansas to express our gratitude for your ministry to build up the Kingdom of God.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Kansas in thanks for your faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of West Missouri to express our gratitude for your ministry and ask that God continue to surround you with Grace.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Oklahoma in thanks for your witness to Our Savior that he will continue to uphold you in ministry.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Arkansas to express our gratitude for your ministry to build the Kingdom of God for all.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Western Louisiana to express our gratitude for your ministry and ask that God continue to uphold you with Grace.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Fort Worth in thanks for your witness to Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to surround you with Grace.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Texas in thanks for your witness to the building of the Kingdom of God that you be upheld and encouraged in your ministries.

Be it further resolved that we raise our prayers for the Diocese of Northwestern Texas in thanks for your faithful witness to Jesus Christ that God will continue to uphold you with Grace.
The Diocese Reaches Out: Bishop Vono’s Borderland Thanksgiving Initiative

By the Venerable Patricia Soukup
Archdeacon of the Diocese of the Rio Grande

In addition to the overwhelming donation of goods, generous financial contributions have been received as well, and these will be distributed equally to the parishes near the border for their identified outreach ministries.

On behalf of Bishop Michael, a very sincere THANK YOU to all who donated items and/or made a financial contribution to benefit those in need along the border. And this Thanksgiving Initiative is just the beginning. Jesus calls each and every one of us to diaconia – to serve our neighbors who are poor and oppressed, wherever they may be. It is the Bishop’s sincere desire to foster ongoing relationships among congregations throughout the diocese in order that the outreach ministries of all of the congregations near the border may continue to grow and thrive. Together we can make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many of our neighbors! More opportunities to be announced soon!
Mark Your Calendars!
Snow Slam 2018!
February 16 – 18,
Presidents Day Weekend
At Holy Mount Episcopal Church
in Ruidoso NM!
Tubing, Worship, Fellowship, Food, and Snow!

Never worry about the numbers...
by Madeleine Fazenbaker St. John’s Episcopal Church, Alamogordo

What is the difference between accountability and bragging?
When you are being accountable for mission work, a measure of your work is required, either with a count of something or amount of care spent, or as a result. Lots of people ask me what I’m doing, and we aren’t supposed to brag, but we receive credibility by honestly telling people what we do. Often, people are dishonest in their reports of their work and inflate the numbers, or shine up the results to be more impressive than they actually are in an effort to build their reputations to a high degree. I have heard people say that accountability is telling the right people what you do, and bragging is telling the wrong people. People throw the word transparency around quite a bit these days in regards to politics, government, and media. In journalism, often it is in the dirt that is dug up, the ugliest of something that the journalist thinks you need to see or hear. In the advertising or marketing, they say, “tell all the people what they want to hear.” What is it that people want to hear? Is it the truth of how things are, or is that truth so ugly they would rather hear how to make something better, how to fix the ugly?

If you are saying to yourself, truth is the best policy, you are right. But sometimes the truth can be boring, and doesn’t get much attention, because it is not exciting and attention grabbing. Often accountability is viewed in the same light. Sometimes, weeks, months or years of work can be summed up with the bottom line, the number of items produced, people affected, or objectives accomplished. But true accountability is letting people know about the duration, as well as the result.

If you have ever heard about the Wounded Warrior program, you know that all the stories of how those servicemen and women got wounded are stories that are hard to hear. All of the incidents of how they became Wounded Warriors are important, and there are hundreds of stories. The truth is what made them wounded is now in their past, and now they have to make their lives better, and what most Americans would like to hear is how to do that. There are so many ways to help your fellow man. If you go to the Walter Reed website, it gives you lots of links to sites that give you ideas on what to do from where you are.

You hear stories of Wounded Warriors, and you say to yourself, “Thank God that isn’t a relative or friend of mine.” But one day, you might be sitting in church, in your regular community of friends, and hear a story about someone’s child, sibling, or friend that takes you out of your comfort zone and puts you in a place of sorrow, followed by a helpless feeling, and you wish you could do something to help. That happened to me one day, when I learned that my friend Drew Joyner, just a few years older than me, and serving in the US Army in Latvia, had become a Wounded Warrior. Drew’s story was briefly mentioned in the Stars and Stripes, a newspaper put out by the military. It did not give details, names or accountability of the event, it just listed the number of people in the particular incident as injured.

I asked Drew’s family for permission to mention him in this article. I told his mother the focus of the article would not be on Drew’s personal medical story, but on the opportunity we had to serve the Wounded Warrior Ward at Walter Reed Hospital, because Drew’s situation drew us to it. She gave us permission to use the pictures she sent and tell you what we did together.

Hearing about Drew, our family wanted to support the Joyner family in any way we could. The Joyners asked us for permission to use the pictures she sent and tell you what we did together.

Mrs. Joyner mentioned there were at least 100 Wounded Warrior patients at Walter Reed, and also of Mrs. Joyner in July, and Stephanie, who was getting her prosthetic leg that day and was picking out the pillowcase she liked. Mrs. Joyner said that Stephanie had become a champion wheel chair basketball player while there at Walter Reed.

So at the risk of sounding like I’m bragging, and in the full spirit of transparency, if you ask how I spent my summer vacation, I spent part of it making 100 pillowcases with my mom, and sending them with the Joyners to Wounded Warriors recovering at Walter Reed Hospital. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Joyner for making the delivery possible.

I’d like to ask you for your prayers for the healing of our Wounded Warriors and leave you with a quote from Mother Teresa: “Never worry about the numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”
Most educators will tell us that the frame of mind with which students enter the classroom dramatically influences their ability to succeed. If a child walks into class feeling good about himself, that teacher can work magic with the student. Economic forces do not necessarily mean failure is inevitable if we take measures to temper those forces. This is the basis for implementing “Give ‘em a Boost” by the outreach program at Saint Francis on the Hill.

At 7:30 Friday morning, August 25, Mary and I arrived at the Mass Walmart in El Paso, to coordinate the arrival of 150 students from Drama Davenport Elementary School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio Grande School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio Grande School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio Grande School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio Grande School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio

Four TV stations covered the event along with Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio Grande School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio Grande School in Westway, a community near the New Mexico state line and east of Interstate 10, part of the Canutillo Independent School District. Almost 90% of the students come from economically deprived families. Saint Francis on the Hill has adopted this school for the third straight year, raising funds to finance a back-to-school shopping spree for fourth and fifth graders. The Diocese of the Rio

Rite 13 Ceremony at St. Mark’s, Albuquerque

On Sunday, October 8, ten young members of the congregation of St. Mark’s in Albuquerque participated in a Rite 13 ceremony, a part of the Journey to Adulthood youth program developed by the Episcopal Church. The rite celebrates 13-year-olds leaving their childhood behind, beginning their journey to young adulthood, and encouraging them to fully participate in the life of the parish and help build the kingdom of God.

Stoney Camp and Recreation Center was proud to host the 43rd annual Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival this August 25-27. The Santa Fe Friends of Traditional Music host the annual festival. The goal is to bring together a large number of national, regional, and local musical groups for the community to enjoy in a family atmosphere. Plus, we allow attendees to play music in jam sessions and attend a variety of musical workshops. This festival is the only one in the Santa Fe, NM area.

For many years, the festival has been held at the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds. Due to construction at the fairgrounds, the festival was forced to find a new venue. One of the festival organizers, Ron Hale, a member of St. Bede’s in Santa Fe, suggested to his colleagues that Camp Stoney might be a possible site to host the event. More than twenty-five national, regional, and local acts performed on three stages, and entertained hundreds of guests over the weekend. The line-up of Bluegrass, Mariachi, Folk, and Old-Time Gospel music included the all-female Mariachi Buenaventura, The Fast Peso String Band, Elliott’s Ramblers, The Adobe Brothers, The Squash Blossom Boys, and Jean-Luc Leroux. Jean-Luc, who perhaps traveled the farthest, was born in Paris, France, and now lives in New Caledonia, east of Australia. He performed on Friday evening with The Bluegrass Collective, and with Higher Ground on Saturday evening.

Food trucks and merchandising vendors were on hand all weekend for the festival goers, and the weather was perfect. The main stage was in The Lodge, the outdoor stage was housed in a very large tent on the grounds, and the third stage was set up in the Arts and Crafts building. The first two stages each had seating for 150, and the third venue had seating for 75 music lovers. Jam sessions, which were all around the campus, indoor and out, went deep into the early morning hours, and workshops for ukelele, guitar, and banjo, to name just a few, were open to people of all skill levels, and were well attended. Many RVs, fifth-wheel campers, and tents dotted the campus. Parking was handled efficiently by the festival organizers, and on Saturday festival goers were encouraged to park at a local school and two shuttle buses transported them back and forth every thirty minutes.

The success of the 2017 Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival exceeded all expectations, and the overwhelming opinion is that Bishop’s Ridge/Camp Stoney is the ideal location for this event. It seems only fitting that Old-Time Mountain Music should be played on this mountain. If you missed this fantastic event, do not worry. The 2018 Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival is booked at Bishop’s Ridge for August 24-25, 2018. Mark it on your calendar and we’ll see you on the mountain next year.
The Nature Conservancy Bunks up at Bishop’s Ridge!!!

By Christopher J. Jewell
Bishop’s Ridge Hospitality Director

Bishop’s Ridge was honored to serve as the command center and classroom for The Nature Conservancy as they hosted the International Spanish Speaking Training Exchange aka TREX, September 20 to October 7. This majority of Spanish speaking wildland firefighters were from Central, South, and North America, and from as far away as Argentina and Spain.

In 2008, The Nature Conservancy was asked by a federal fire training coordinator to develop this exchange program. “These 2 week events include daily burning and give trainees a concentrated dose of prescribed fire experience as well as exposure to new people, places and techniques,” according to The Nature Conservancy’s website. TREX has focused on fire abatement in the Santa Fe Basin for over 10 years, and this ongoing project stretches from Santa Fe to Pecos.

The Lodge at Bishop’s Ridge accommodated a meet-and-greet for TREX, Santa Fe Fire Prevention, Santa Fe Fire Coalition, US Forest Service, and citizens of the local community on the evening of Saturday, September 23. Bishop’s Ridge also served as the site for cross-training sessions between these groups for the duration of their stay, and as their launch point for projects in the field.

While here, this group of wildland firefighters did a survey of the Bishop’s Ridge campus and developed and executed a fire mitigation plan. The two areas that were identified as having the highest potential risk, in the event of a forest fire, were around The Lodge and around the A-frame cabins on the “girls’ side” of the camp. Over a two-day period, the firefighters separated into two teams and cut and cleared away “ladder” fuels, the lower branches which, if ignited, allow fire to burn upward into the canopy of the forest. These ladder fuels were then collected into piles in open areas where supervised burns will be performed by Santa Fe County Fire Prevention in February of 2018. This is the second consecutive year that Bishop’s Ridge had hosted The Nature Conservancy’s TREX program. In light of the recent devastating wildfires that are ravaging Northern California, Bishop’s Ridge is proud to represent The Diocese of the Rio Grande and be involved with this very important fire prevention work in the Santa Fe Basin. The knowledge that is gained by these firefighters will be taken back to their home countries and taught to others for the conservation of their land and the safety of their communities.

The directors of the TREX program have stated that they will continue their work in the basin next year, and we are in the planning stages to be at their service again in September and October of 2018.

Camp Stoney 2018

Family Camp - June 14 – 17, All Ages
Excursion/Adventure Camp - June 17 – 23, Ages 13 – 18
Summer Fun Camp - June 24 – 30, Ages 8 – 12
Harry Potter: Sorcerer’s Stone - July 8 – 14, Ages 8 – 13
Teen Superhero Camp - July 15 – 21, Ages 13 – 18
Narnia: LWW – July 22 – 28, Ages 8 – 12

For further information see the Camp Stoney website at bishopsridge.org
**Women’s Ministries**

**Team to offer a series of prayers and meditations: “Come**

In 2018, Women’s Ministry is teaming up with the Transition website (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com). There will always be a great time for refreshment, reflection, and renewing. A list of suggested items is available online.

**Memorial Wall at Holy Mount, Ruidoso, adds section for Emergency Workers**

Five years ago the Church of the Holy Mount in Ruidoso decided to renovate the long neglected Jane Lancaster Memorial Garden. Parishioner Jordan Cameron suggested that the decrepit fence behind the garden be replaced with a stucco memorial wall. Parishioners and others purchased tiles to remember and honor, and in thanksgiving for loved ones.

One of the first and largest tiles was in remembrance of Jane Lancaster, the original force behind the garden. With so many recent tragedies affecting emergency workers, Jordan proposed setting aside one section of the wall to honor police, firefighters and EMTs. The newly completed addition is a step above where they’ve been interviewing candidates.

The garden area is defined by the wall, but it includes an altar where we have enjoyed outdoor services. Our most recent service was our pet blessing held the last Saturday of August. This was a very appropriate setting for the service since one of the tiles honors “creatures great and small.”

**Prayer is a Way of Life Retreat - Mark your Calendars for August 4, 2018**

All women in the Diocese, especially Daughters of the King, are encouraged to mark their calendars. This annual event is open to any woman interested in enhancing her prayer life. Women are invited to come to prayer, listen to the Word, and experience music. The retreat provides a unique opportunity for women to meet and pray with other women from around the diocese.

This year, the retreat will be held on August 4th at the Church of the Holy Mount in Ruidoso. The event begins with registration at 8:30 AM and concludes at 3:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch or purchase lunch at the event.

**Getting past the “NO”**

It comes as no surprise to parishioners at St. Andrew’s, Roswell, following an extensive demographic study, that many Chaves County women and children are living in desperate circumstances. Very low-to-moderate income households that are headed by women experience limited options for moving into economic stability. They need the opportunity to obtain employment and advance through career-forming, sustaining-wage employment. Sometimes getting past a “NO” is the hardest part. While managers, career coaches and potential employers would like to believe that personal appeal at the Rose Center, talks and interviews, decisions, the truth may be something very different. After conducting informal interviews with employers in Roswell, exploring the available data, and speaking with low-income individuals seeking employment, the nature of the challenge became apparent.

A year ago, an ad hoc committee of six women from Chaves County met to discuss the poverty level of single mothers and gals in the vicinity. Many of the single women are heads of households and need to enter or reenter the workforce. Training and support in areas of resume preparation, interview skills and self-advocacy exist in Roswell but are limited and not well coordinated. The closet of interview-appropriate attire that had been maintained by the Workforce Connection had closed. Without the ability to acquire low-cost or free interview clothing, many low-income women and girls have no choice but to appear for interviews in casual or otherwise inappropriate clothing. Most women just need a little help and encouragement to know how to conduct themselves in an interview, and how to write a resume, even if they only have life skills and not the technical skills of computer training. They also need assistance in proper telephone etiquette. The Starting Line was our response to this situation.

Father Dale Plummer, rector of St. Andrew’s, Roswell, stated in a Roswell Daily Record article, “The Starting Line is operating at the University and has taken collections for clothing that people can use for interviews. They make sure that clients are dressed a step above where they’re interviewing for and that they have the skills to interview as well.” The Starting Line pairs professional attire and appearance assistance with resume review, interview skills training, peer support networks and access to other sources of technical assistance throughout the community.

In a year’s time, The Starting Line has begun a partnership with the Career Resource Center at ENMU-R. We now have a room to house the clothes that have been collected, and are able to utilize their computer lab to enhance computer skills, watch training tapes on resume writing, and study interviewing examples. By becoming a part of the ENMU-R campus, the group can tap into the University students, Job Corps, Youth Challenge and University High School. They have also made contact with the Women’s Refuge, and participate in Career Days at the city and county high schools. We are anticipating referrals from The Workforce Connection and WESST, as well as the National Guard. Yes, even veterans need help in finding a job.

The Starting Line stands apart in its purpose from all other workforce-oriented entities in the area and represents a missing piece of the puzzle for job seekers and graduates of area educational programs. The Starting Line assists girls and women to move into the potential “NO” and hidden gender bias. The Starting Line encourages help from the public in being life buoys, stakeholders, with either moral support, financial support through the jobs, or networking about job opportunities in their workplace. Support could be as simple as a donation of gently used office attire.
Stewardship-
It's about saying
‘THANK YOU!!’

By Dana Bowley
St. Matthew’s, Los Lunas

Well, another Stewardship October is upon us. And we should kick it off by saying Thank You – Thank You to everyone of you for the blessings you’ve bestowed on our congregations over the years with your time, talent and treasure. We know many of you contribute in your own ways, often in private and without fanfare, and you should know we recognize each of you as an integral contributor.

Sometimes it’s difficult to figure out what stewardship path we want to take. It’s not just money, although that’s important to pay the priest and keep the lights on, but there are so many opportunities, and that’s kind of what I’d like to address.

There is a movement out there among some Christians that promises that if you exhibit deep faith, practice positive speech and make significant financial contributions to the church, God will reward you with, among other things, financial prosperity.

Now, while faith, positivity and generosity are admirable traits, I have some problems with this theory. First, it assumes that God cares whether we’re rich or not. Scripture would suggest otherwise – that whole camel through the eye of the needle thing.

Second, it suggests stewardship is some divine slot machine or heavenly stock market. Invest enough and you’ll hit the jackpot. And if you fail to get rich, that’s on you – you haven’t been faithful enough, positive enough or generous enough.

Most importantly, though, I think this theory has everything backwards. Scripture tells us we hit the jackpot when God sent Jesus to us, and we received our reward at baptism with the promise of information and salvation. And we cash in when we believe and follow Jesus, repent of our sins, and love God and our neighbor.

The problem with this theory is that it presupposes stewardship is all about giving, especially financial giving, and that if you give enough God will give you back more than you gave. But the truth is that on the day we’re prepared to head it up yourself. It doesn’t have to be a big, grandiose idea. It can be something as simple as Birthday Galore!

Bring it to your priest, vestry or Bishop’s Committee and prepare to head it up yourself. It doesn’t have to be a big, grandiose idea. It can be something as simple as Birthday Galore!

Hymns in the Limbs in the Gila
By the Rev. Paul Moore
Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver City

Hymn: Our Father, our God

Once a year Good Shepherd, Silver City takes advantage of the Gila National Forest that lies at our front door. We celebrate our late service up in the forest at a Forest Service park, followed by a pot-luck picnic. This year we were in the woods on September 17th. There were activities for the children and fun was generally had by all.

Alamogordo signs its Welcome
By Joe Parker

The red doors of St. John’s Episcopal Church are not the only welcoming sign the church provides in Alamogordo. The new sign makes sure everyone knows all are welcome. Deanna Overstreet and Randy Burnough of the St. John’s Transition Team, and one of Fr. Tom’s two Old English Sheepdogs, Winston, took a moment to pose.

The project was one of two by the Transition Team in an effort to attract a wider audience to our church.
Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man’s conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father’s intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values, and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210 Pope Innocent the Third confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the “least” of God’s servants. The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But by 1221 Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed. Not long before his death, during a retreat on Mount La Verna, Francis received, on September 14, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord’s wounds, the stigmata, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory the Ninth, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228, and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried.

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Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but, of these, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the “Canticle of the Sun,” which he composed at Clare’s convent of St. Damian’s.

The Hymnal version begins: Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured, And blessing without measure. Let creatures all give thanks to thee And serve in great humility.
Everything I know about murder, I learned from television, a good thing. Much as I enjoy American forensic dramas, I’m particularly fond of British murder mysteries, even though they give the impression that the lovely English countryside is the most dangerous place on Earth.

One BBC series I’ve been watching is quite unusual: Father Brown. Based on the character created by G.K. Chesterton, the series is updated, but only to the 1950s. Mostly, I think, for the ladies’ fashions.

Father Brown is different from the cop shows in that he isn’t really interested in bringing criminals to justice. He’s much more concerned with bringing sinners to mercy. He hurries not only to solve the case, but to confront the murderer or thief BEFORE the police, so he can appeal to their conscience and get them to confess. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don’t.

The police aren’t too fond of Father B, because he can’t share anything he learns in sacramental confession, and sometimes he even helps a guilty but repentant sinner escape man’s justice if he thinks God is satisfied. But he also withholds absolution if he senses that true repentance is absent. In other words, he’s an amateur sleuth, but a true priest.

Auricular confession, the speaking of one’s sins out loud into the ear of a priest, is not mandatory in the Anglican Communion, and indeed historically it has been part of the Catholic-Protestant tension in the Church. As Protestants, we believe that no intermediary is needed between us and God’s forgiveness, but as Catholics we recognize that we will fall short of perfection, and need to confess our failings and to hear the words of comfort and absolution.

We include a common prayer of confession and absolution in the Eucharist service, and it is highly recommended that we come to church prepared to “repent and return to the Lord” by examining our conscience and confessing our individual sins and failings in the General Confession. But individual confession out loud to a priest has always been an option, and highly advised whenever one is troubled in conscience. There wasn’t a specific form in the Episcopal prayer book until 1979, and then there were two forms of Reconciliation of a Penitent: a very basic form with only a few rote responses and a more elaborate ritual, with Psalms reading and verse and response.

For all my documented love of the ritual of the liturgy, I prefer the sparser form of the Confession as more authentic. From the simple opening “Bless me, for I have sinned” we get straight to the business at hand. No hiding behind flowery phrases, the penitent goes directly to naming her troubles, the things done and left undone that keep her from a longed-for closeness to God. After listening, the priest has a chance to offer counsel and advice before pronouncing Absolution, and closing with a request to “Pray for me, a sinner,” a reminder that we are all in this mess together: all fallen and in need of God’s love and each other’s.
News from the Northeast Area Deanery

Holy Family, Santa Fe • Donna Lukacs

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St. Paul’s Peace Church is now the home of New Day Horizons Childcare Center. We are privileged to have the children in our fellowship hall. Hearing them sing, count, play, and pray is a joy. They are taught and guided by two dedicated teachers, and a few college-level student volunteers who assist the teachers. The success of bringing the daycare center to St. Paul’s Peace is due to the efforts of the directors of the childcare center and to the support of the NE deanery churches, Bishop Vono, and the many who offered prayers and donations. We are grateful.

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Father Doug has been very busy renovating our Nave Sanctuary to have it ready for Bishop Michael’s visitation on October 15. St. Stephen’s gives thanks to St. Bede’s for the donation of their 82 pew chairs that spurred a renovation to our sanctuary and nave. This gift affords us divine flexibility to shape our worship and prayer life. St. Stephen’s will begin offering a third Sunday service at 5 pm, based on the Celtic Evensong used in many Episcopal Parishes, starting in Advent. A service of instrumental music, hymns, prayers, and Eucharist with lots of candle lighting and meditation.

St. James, Taos, Gwen • Dean Mike Olsen

The Interfaith/Intercultural Alliance, which was co-founded by Father Mike, held a “Peace Camp-Building Bridges” in September. Individuals from different faiths and cultures came together in a retreat to learn about each other. The group had different experiences throughout the month. We visited the Lama Foundation and participated in a Shabbat Service, we met at the Taos Mosque for a discussion on the Muslim’s perspective. The group participated in the Rosh Hashanah morning service at the Taos Jewish Center. We experienced an evening at an Ashram, and met with a Penitente Hermano to learn the history of the Taos Mosque. The group will meet Thursdays at 6 pm beginning October 4. All are welcome to attend. Holy Family continues to host the Santa Fe Chapter of New Mexico Autism Society’s parent support group, the third Friday of every month at 6:30 pm. We will host the monthly luncheon for the Interfaith Alliance through December.

St. Bede’s, Santa Fe • Catherine Willmont

On September 10, St. Bede’s celebrated a groundbreaking to bless the start of a major remodel project. In her remarks, Mother Catherine recollected Jacob’s dream of a ladder between heaven and earth, and his act of building a pile of rocks in the place because “this is holy ground.” St. Bede’s did the same. The parish also gave thanks to all the donors who are making the renovation possible, as well as the founders of the parish who built the original structure 75 years ago. St. Bede’s now has offices and conducts worship services in space leased from a nearby United Methodist church. We expect the project to be complete in summer 2018.

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Perspective From a First Time Deputy to General Convention

by the Rev. Alex Lenzo, Rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Rio Rancho

Dear friends in Christ, at Diocesan Convention 2016, I was elected as a Clergy Deputy to the next General Convention, which will be held in July 2018 in Austin, TX. Following are some updates about the work of the Deputies from our Diocese.

We are working on drafting a resolution to include Rev. Ted Howden, a WWII military chaplain from New Mexico who gave his life for his fellow soldiers and died in service, in the Episcopal calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. This work includes garnering support from around the Church to pass this Resolution.

Deputies are currently requesting assignments to legislative committees on which they would like to serve. To give a taste of which areas legislative committees cover, I requested to be placed on one of the following: Eccumenical and Interreligious Relations, Social Justice and US Policy, or Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Worship.

Other deputies requested to serve on committees focused on Governance and Structure, Church Pension Fund, and Christian Education and Discipleship, among others.

We have heard a report on the state of the Episcopal Church’s Budget from Ms. Karen Longenecker. The EC’s budget will soon be restructured according to the framework of Living, Liberating, and Life-giving, which is also the theme of the 2018 Convention. And we have been briefed on the proposal to join in Full Communion with the United Methodist Church.

It is truly a great honor to get to be a part of the shaping of the Episcopal Church’s future. It is also a part of my ordination vows, “to take my part in the councils of the Church.” Please keep all deputies and bishops in your prayers and thoughts as we continue to prepare for General Convention.

The Deputies from the Diocese of the Rio Grande are:

Deputation Co-chairs: The Very Rev. Canon Carole McGowan and Dr.Guy Gronquist


First Clergy Alternate: The Rev. Daniel Cave
First Lay Alternate: Dr. Victor Rizzo
Second Clergy Alternate: The Rev. Christopher McLaren
Second Lay Alternate: Ms. Karen Longenecker
Third Clergy Alternate: The Rev. Paul Moore
Third Lay Alternate: Ms. Cynthia Lose
Fourth Lay Alternate: Mr. Mark Childers

Bishops in Alaska

The Rt. Rev. David Bailey, Bishop of Navajoland, and Bishop Vono smile for the camera adorned with gifts from their native hosts in Fairbanks, Alaska. The two were among those gathered for the House of Bishops meeting that focused on indigenous and environmental issues.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, Rancho

St. Francis Episcopal Church, Rio Rancho

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At the Brotherhood of St. Andrew workshop in Socorro on September 16, Jeff Butcher gave a report on the overall status of the Brotherhood and explained what’s happening with new initiatives in five areas: Scouting, Discipleship, Veteran Services, Restorative Justice and Racial Reconciliation. He believes every male parishioner should be involved. Jeff and in our reporting, we are to put all the men in our congregations on the BSA prospect list. Jeff spent some time explaining the characteristics of Founders, Baby Boomers, Gen Xers and Millennials with the goal of recruiting more Millennials to the BSA.

The people forced to work for traffickers cannot leave or control their own lives. If they try, they are put among their families in perpetuity. We were told that there are 36 million enslaved worldwide and that this is more than have been enslaved in all of history prior to today.

Labor trafficking was distinguished from sex trafficking. Labor trafficking is involuntary servitude or debt bondage or slavery for labor primarily and we find these people in the trade, including killing them if they don’t do work out. The traffickers prey on the vulnerable and sell them to the traffickers. The traffickers sell to the pimps who offer them to the johns. The traffickers sell to the pimps who offer them to the johns. The pimps run their own brothels. The pimps are people who are paid to bring women to the johns.

Most of the workshop time was devoted to the important topic of human trafficking. This topic was selected by Province Seven President Roy Benavides in coordination with Disciplines Coordinator, Deacon Tom Bates, both of whom hoped that Brother Andrew, once they recognized the evils and the magnitude of human trafficking, would become part of the solution. Roy Benavides set the agenda and obtained the speakers. The Rev. Linda Wilson and Epiphany Church were the workshop hosts. The speakers made very clear that human trafficking is slavery. The people forced to work for traffickers cannot leave or control their own lives. If they try, they are put among their families in perpetuity. We were told that there are 36 million enslaved worldwide and that this is more than have been enslaved in all of history prior to today.

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Observing the 75th Anniversary of Ted Howden’s martyrdom

December 11, 2017, marks the Seventy-fifth anniversary of the death of the Rev. Chaplain Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr. He died of starvation-induced pellagra in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp. The Diocese of the Rio Grande will observe this anniversary with services in each deanery at 11 a.m. Monday, December 11. If you cannot attend one of these services, you are asked to observe a moment of silence at 11 a.m. and pray for peace in the world in the name of the one who first gave his life for us, Jesus Christ.

Deanery Observances

Northwest Deanery: St. James Episcopal Church, Taos.
Northwest Deanery: Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque.
Southwest Deanery: St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Roswell.
Southwest Deanery: St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Las Cruces.

The Rev. Frederick B. ‘Ted’ Howden Jr.
Priest – Soldier – Martyr, d. December 11, 1942

Collect

When World War II broke out Fr. Howden held the rank of Captain in the New Mexico State Guard, and was the Chaplain to the 200th Coast Artillery when it was federalized and sent to the Philippines in September 1941. A friend who was with him daily said he was always walking over the hills of Bataan holding open air services here and there and doing everything possible to help the men who affectionately called him “Chappy.” He was, however, a real soldier as well as a chaplain which all the more gained him admiration and respect as he moved from battery to battery, holding services and distributing candy, soap, and cigarettes he had foraged for the troops. He was a spiritual presence to his men, and in his last years demonstrated love, goodness of life, and joy in serving others in the Lord’s name and for His sake.

At the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor to Japanese forces in April 1942, Fr. Howden and his fellow soldiers were made prisoners of war and were forced to endure the Bataan Death March during which some 18,000 died. During imprisonment in several prison camps including Camp O’Donnell and Cabanatuan and finally at Davao Prison Colony on Mindanao, his heroism and faith were always apparent through the humanity he gave to those he served. At great cost to himself he often gave his own portion of food to others whom he insisted needed it more than he.

Fr. Howden died of dysentery and starvation-induced pellagra on December 11, 1942, but his family were not notified until June 1943. He was buried by his men in a small cemetery in the shadow of the Mindanao jungle a mile or so from the camp at Davao. After the war, in 1948, his remains were reinterred in an Albuquerque, New Mexico cemetery.

The prayer that Fr. Howden wrote for the cadets at New Mexico Military Institute was printed for many years in the cadet handbook. The prayer that Fr. Howden wrote for the cadets at New Mexico Military Institute was printed for many years in the cadet handbook.

Our Father in heaven, inspire us, we beseech Thee, all members of this School with generous purpose in the training of body, mind and spirit that we may better serve Thee, our country, and our fellows. Give us the vision to know the right, and the courage to follow after it. Strengthen us with might by Thy Spirit for the duties of life before us. And grant that we may so lay to the heart the lessons of training and discipline here that we may always continue Thy faithful soldiers and servants unto life’s end. Amen.

EPISCOPAL VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

D A V I D  P E T E R S

With guest musician Rev. Dr. Matt Williams

December 9th, 2017

Just in time for Fr. Ted Howden’s feast day, St. Chad’s Episcopal Church invites you to come hear military chaplain Fr. David Peters, author of Not Tragic Trauma: How the Church Cares for People Who’ve Been in Red and Black, tell his story and about the group he’s helped launch, Episcopal Tervas. This presentation is open to all denominations and will include time for discussion among similar groups in your context. It will conclude with a healing service for veterans which you are invited to witness, participate in, or replicate elsewhere.

RESERV Required for breakfast, workshop, or both.
St. Chad’s Episcopal Church
7571 Tennyson NE, ARQ, NM 87122
office@stchadabq.org or 505.836.9300

Saturday December 9th
8:00 - 9:10 a.m. Breakfast Provided
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Workshop “Moral Injury and the Church’s Response” with round table discussions
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Healing ritual and blessing of veterans (note: participation is voluntary. Everyone is invited to observe from a distance)

SUNDAY DEC. 10th
8:00 am & 10:15 am: Reverend David Peters will be the Guest Preacher
9:15 - 10:00 am: Veterinary Ministry Presentation

Cover Photo: Autumnal Turning On theWisner Trail Santa Fe Country
Photo by Raymond Raney