The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D. 
Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

A Christian’s lifestyle of informed faith embraces a lifelong cycle of learnings and revelations. Mr. Brian McLaren, a teaching mentor at Richard Rohr’s Center for Action and Contemplation, describes this movement as a “migration.” Our faith migration begins with the first Church year every Advent as we listen to the Scripture’s anticipatory Good News of God’s coming, celebrate God’s Incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth at Christmas, and illumine in the Church’s deepening spiritual journeys of Epiphany’s revelations, meditate on the Gospel’s Lenten examination, and then awaken to Easter’s truths about Life, Death and Resurrection. We then journey on through the long weeks and days of Pentecostal stories, which is our final walk before re-entering once again into the new beginning of Advent.

These liturgical seasons of the Church are the very spiritual vehicles through which we deepen our experience with the Holy Spirit and our relationship with the living Christ of God, Jesus our Lord. All our beginnings and endings in this mortal life intentionally participate in a community of Christ as witnesses to the building up of the Kingdom of God in this life. I believe Christian faith has a beginning, a new beginning and a new beginning. The mystery of life is after all birth, death and rebirth. This is our human and spiritual migration into God’s divine presence and purpose. Everything which begins ends in God.

At the entrance of every New Year, which I believe is a demarcation point of our faith migration, we become deeply aware of how complicated, imperfect and fast life seems to be moving. Looking back on the events and experiences of our lives enables us to discover some grounding in the present time. How often these days I am hearing people tell me that they are feeling hopeless, anxious and helpless and that the future looks bleak. There does not seem to be any solid moral or ethical grounding today. National and international political chaos and uncertainties are coupled with grave concerns about the effectiveness of religion and the state of the churches. Some people believe God is moving away from us. Maybe this is the year and the moment in your life that you cannot clearly see or perceive how God is in your life and how God is present with you amidst the world’s bewildering waywardness, confusion and suffering.

Br. Jim Woodrum, a monk from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, recently wrote an article encouraging people today to “take Jesus at his word.” He says, “We will come to know God’s presence with us by following the example of Jesus ... by teaching and healing, listening to our neighbors both known and unknown to us and by showing acts of love and mercy even in the face of those who do us ill.” Yes, I do believe that our random acts of Christian love, mercy, compassion and kindness in the name of Jesus Christ will enable us to sense that it is Christ’s love, mercy and kindness being extended through us! The Immanuel reality is that God is with us. Jesus has not and will not abandoned us!

“Take Jesus at his word!” In the New Testament, we read about Philip’s question to Jesus: “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus says to Philip: “Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and, in fact, will do greater works than these.”

Taking Jesus at his word means that we are willing to live in his ways and his teachings. God incarnate means incarnate in you and me and that in our living faith we become concrete evidence of God’s presence in the world. The Creator is in and with all creatures. Do you believe this? If you are still wondering than I suggest you pause, make time and quietly observe all that is around you and within you. Be still and know that God IS!

“Take Jesus at his word!” Jesus had assured his followers that he would always be with them and that he was going to prepare a place for them in the kingdom so that in time he would return to take all to himself. Thomas was the daring disciple who said, “Lord, we do not know where you are going.” Implied in this sentiment is the obvious “we do not know where we are going.” Thomas then says, “How can we know the way?” Jesus answers him: “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” God IS.

In the beginning was the Word and in the end is the Word. As the philosopher Seneca wrote, “every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s ending.” Every day the Church celebrates that Christ Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Our human life migration and our faith migration has its purpose in, with and through the Being of God in Jesus Christ. A Christian’s life-style of informed faith embraces a lifelong cyclical movement of learnings and revelations. Today and every day of this new year “take Jesus at his word!”

Many Blessings Everyone,

Bishop Michael
As Episcopalians, we believe:

- 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 unfailing 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.
A note from Madeleine’s mother

We have had a very stressful time the past ten days, with the medical needs of my parents (Madeleine’s grandparents) in Clovis. The overwhelming nature of things, and the effect it is going to be on our lives long term, have left us in a state of grief. Since Madeleine is better, we can thank God for being with us the entire time. At some point in the future, when we feel a little more settled, we hope to be able to give thanks for when we grieve?

It’s hard to be in those times and feel thankful. Grief is hard enough without being told that there is always something to be thankful for. So what do we have to be thankful for when we grieve?

We are taught to pray, and we are taught to not be idle. We are taught to do what we can, when we can, and not excuse our way out of helping someone. Sometimes all our good intentions and our real physical commitment can’t help something that is out of our control. In those times, prayer is not only for the relief of suffering, but also for the relief of the person who wants to help but can’t. This is really hard for kids to learn, and also for some adults to learn too.

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“Are Helicopter Parents Ruining Summer Camp?”

by Anya Kamenetz

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“It beeped in the envelope. That’s how we knew.”

Leslie Conrad is the director of Clemson Outdoor Lab in Pendleton, S.C., which runs several different camps during the summer. Clemson bans cellphones and other electronic devices for campers.

That makes sense. We traditionally think of summer camp as a place to swim in the lake and weave friendship bracelets, not text and play video games.

But sometimes, Conrad says, parents will give their children a cellphone to turn in and a second phone to keep hidden. And, a few years ago, an 11-year-old camper was sent a cellphone as a care package. “We just held on to it and sent it back home at the end of the session,” Conrad says.

Millions of children will attend nearly 8,400 different sleepaway camps across the U.S. this summer according to the American Camp Association, the industry’s main accrediting agency. Most limit access to technology: “Only 17 percent of ACA-accredited camps allow access to the Internet on a scheduled basis, and only 10 percent allow access to cellphones,” says Tom Rosenberg, the ACA’s director.

Researchers say that campers develop invaluable social and emotional skills from navigating friendships, facing rules and getting through bouts of homesickness—all on their own. And as young people’s lives grow increasingly wired, camp provides a correspondingly rare break from that.

“It’s kind of like letting go of everything and coming to a different world,” says Alexa Sherman, 11, who is currently spending her fifth summer at Camp Echo in Bloomingburg, N.Y. This year, the camp’s unplugged policy got tougher; one staff member has helicopter parents as well, who also expect to be in constant contact. Last year, Mathews says, he got four or five phone calls from parents of staff members: “I can’t reach my child, they haven’t tested yet to say that they’re safe, they don’t like their cabin assignment, another staff member isn’t polluting their weight...” One parent complained about the poor cellphone reception in the Georgia woods.

While that may not sound too tough if you were born in the 1970s or earlier, consider that over 90 percent of young adults today own smartphones and are used to checking them all day long. Data going back to 2015 showed 92 percent of college students using their phones in class, and checking phones an average of 11 times a day during class. “I’ve seen a huge, huge decrease in the last few years with these college-aged folks,” Conrad says. “I believe that [tech dependence] is real.”

Dan Mathews agrees. He is the head of Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA. “The camp pace has been fairly easy for us. What we’re struggling with is the college kids,” he says. “They’re the ones we really have to stay on.”

Conrad and Mathews both say their young adult staff members have helicopter parents as well, who also expect to be in constant contact. Last year, Mathews says, he got four or five phone calls from parents of staff members: “I can’t reach my child, they haven’t tested yet to say that they’re safe, they don’t like their cabin assignment, another staff member isn’t polluting their weight...” One parent complained about the poor cellphone reception in the Georgia woods.

Summer vacation is a time of growth and change. Understanding the relationship between tech overdependence and parent-child interdependence may be key to untangling it, so kids can fly free.

But Mathews is the first to admit that he shouldn’t throw stones. He has a 13-year-old daughter heading all the way to Nebraska for a weeklong theater program this summer. He has a 13-year-old daughter heading all the way to Nebraska for a weeklong theater program this summer. He doesn’t expect to hear from his daughter more than once or twice a week. “My plan is not to call her,” he says. “My wife, on the other hand, will call her every day.”

And what about his daughter’s own phone policy? “I told her, just be aware of when you’re using it. Are you using it because you’re bored, or you’re feeling shy? Put the phone down and talk to people.”

Will she listen? “Ahh hell. She’s 13. Probably not.”


Bishop’s Ridge Hosts The Sky Center’s Natural Helpers

By Christopher J. Jewell
Director of Hospitality, Bishop’s Ridge

Bishop’s Ridge was honored to serve as the meeting place for Natural Helpers from The Sky Center, New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project’s program for middle school youth. The New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project’s mission is to reduce the risk of youth suicide in Santa Fe County and Northern New Mexico.

Natural Helpers is a “Peer-Helping Program”, and according to the Sky Center’s website the “…program provides training to students who have been identified as ‘listeners’ by their peers and school staff. These trained helpers learn to respond effectively when their fellow students experience a wide range of difficulties, and they receive valuable coaching in connecting vulnerable peers to appropriate resources.”

It was startling to learn from the New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project’s website that:

- In the State of New Mexico, suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24 and the third leading cause of death among youth ages 10-14 (NM Epidemiology Report, 2006).

- New Mexico ranks FIFTH among states with the highest suicide rates for all age-groups (American Association of Suicidology, September 20, 2012 from suicidology.org).

- In the most recent 2011 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, for grades 9-12, 17.2% of Santa Fe County high school students seriously considered suicide; 10.2% attempted.

Bishop’s Ridge hosted six, two-day retreat sessions, between September and November 2017. The school groups averaged 20 students, and close to 160 people participated in this year’s training periods. The Natural Helper’s website describes their time together as, “Intensive training retreats…[that] provide a comfortable, supportive, and confidential setting where students can discuss behavioral health issues such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, risky behaviors and self-harm. The Program Coordinator instructs the student groups in understanding and observing the warning signs and risk factors for suicide and how to take direct action to keep their peers out of harm’s way. They also learn how to care for themselves while building a toolbox of resiliency skills. Values of tolerance, inclusion and empathy are strengthened as these helpers support the most vulnerable in their school communities.”

Bishop’s Ridge is overturned to be a part of this very valuable, important, and potentially life-saving work that Natural Helpers is doing to empower our local youth in the Santa Fe community. If you would like more information about the amazing work that The Sky Center, New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project is doing, or more information on the Natural Helpers program, please contact Grete Laga, Natural Helpers Coordinator at: glag1@gmail.com, or call: The Sky Center at 505-473-6791. I am also proud to say that Natural Helpers is booked for eight sessions in September and October of 2018.

The Episcopal Diocese Releases Curriculum on Biblical Hero Traits

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland has completed a learning resource designed to show the connection of biblical heroes and heroines to more contemporary people of faith.

Called “Selected Character Traits Embodied in Biblical Heroes and in African-Americans in History: A Curriculum,” the document has been a long labor of love. It is available for download at the Ministries listing under Truth and Reconciliation on the Diocese of Maryland website, https://episcopalmaryland.org.

“The diocesan Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) began seven years ago and in that time phenomenal work towards dismantling the sin of racism has been accomplished,” said the Rev. Dr. Angela Shepherd, canon for mission, charity, the commission recognized the importance of education. “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other Antrimac Workshop” became a staple. But bubbling up from retired educators was a strong desire to create a resource for youth that would link persons found in the Bible to contemporary African Americans by way of character traits.

The 5-page resource lists 12 such traits including, resilience, justice, perseverance and courage with side-by-side comparisons of biblical and contemporary people. These materials are meant to show students the relevance of the Bible in today’s society by suggesting that today’s heroes/heroines are comparable in many ways to those they meet in the Scriptures.

“Nancy Barrick, a member of St. James, Baltimore, gathered others who over the course of a few years created a curriculum,” said Canon Shepherd. “The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is delighted to make this resource available to the broader church. The dismantling of racism requires a multifaceted approach and we hope this resource will help enlighten and encourage youth to work for change.”

It’s the TRC’s hope this material will help young people live in a diverse society by seeing the presence of God in all people and themselves.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland has more than 100 parishes in 10 counties and the City of Baltimore in western, central and southern Maryland. It is a part of The Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Teenagers use Advent Pilgrimage to take message of hope across Central America

A group of young people from Chimaltenango in Guatemala have undertaken an Advent pilgrimage of the five dioceses that make up the Iglesia Anglicana de la Región Central de América – the Anglican Church in Central America. Led by their parish priest, Father Miguel Salanic, and his wife Roselia, the 14 teenagers visited Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

During the trip, the youngsters shared a message of unity, and sought to inspire other young people, the clergy and bishops they met. Using drama, the group demonstrated that the love of God is the only safe refuge from the challenges and temptations that young people face today.

The trip was undertaken in a small van using alternating drivers, and was financed by the youngsters from their own resources and a small loan.

“It has been an enriching experience that has allowed us not only to share very pleasant moments with the brothers and sisters of the province but it also has allowed us to see in our own flesh the world that develops between the border limits of the nations,” Father Miguel said, “We are very grateful with those who welcomed us with open arms, with signs of support and solidarity not only from our church but from the people of God, because when the Holy Spirit guides our walk all our children can recognize him.”

Teenagers from Chimaltenango on their Advent pilgrimage through Central America. (Photo: Jeronymo Melendez / Diocese of Costa Rica)

Jóvenes hacen peregrinación de Adviento para llevar un mensaje de esperanza en Centroamérica

Un grupo de jóvenes de Chimaltenango en Guatemala han emprendido una peregrinación de Adviento en los cinco diócesis que conforman la Iglesia Anglicana de la Región Central de América – la Iglesia Anglicana de América Central. Liderados por su parroquial, el Padre Miguel Salanic, y su esposa Roselia, los 14 adolescentes salieron de Guatemala y visitaron El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica y Panamá.

Durante el viaje, los jóvenes compartieron un mensaje de unidad y amor, a los jóvenes que conocieron, al clero y a los obispos que los recibieron. Usando el drama, el grupo demostró que el amor de Dios es el único refugio seguro contra los desafíos y las tentaciones que los jóvenes enfrentan en la actualidad.

El viaje se llevó a cabo en una pequeña camioneta con conductores alternados y fue financiado con sus propios recursos y un pequeño préstamo.

“Ha sido una experiencia enriquecedora que nos ha permitido no solo compartir momentos muy agradables con los hermanos y hermanas de la provincia, sino que nos ha permitido ver en carne propia el mundo que se desarrolla entre los límites fronterizos del mismo,” dijo El Padre Miguel. “Estamos muy agradecidos con aquellos que nos recibieron con los brazos abiertos, con signos de apoyo y solidaridad no solo por parte de nuestra iglesia, sino a lo largo de todo el viaje, porque cuando el Espíritu Santo guíe nuestro caminar, todos sus hijos pueden reconocernos.”

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Margaret Myers Leaves Legacy of Helping

Margaret Louise Myers passed away Monday, October 23, 2017, at Manzano del Sol Good Samaritan Village. She was born on August 10, 1916, in Akron, Ohio, where she lived and earned her BA in Speech and Debate at University of Akron. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 74 years, Frederick. They were married on May 12, 1940. At the end of WWII, Frederick was stationed in Japan with the occupational army and Margaret joined him later with their two young sons, Stephen and Michael. During their two and a half years in Japan, their third child, Ann was born. In 1950 they moved their young family to Albuquerque where they led a full and adventurous life that included supporting her husband in his duties as a Deacon serving at St. Matthew’s, St. Mary’s, and the Cathedral of St. John. Margaret earned her Master’s Degree in Education from UNM. While teaching in the Albuquerque Public School system, with her husband she founded the non-fee-profit organization Teen-Age Study Tours, sharing their love of travel over the years with hundreds of New Mexico high school students with summer tours throughout the world. Margaret is survived by three children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services were held Monday, November 6 at the Cathedral of St. John. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations to the Episcopal Relief Fund would be appreciated.

Come Follow Me Study Begins in Lent

By Ms. Cindy Davis

Women’s Ministry Coordinator

In 2018, the Women’s Ministry will not offer a Lent Retreat. Instead of meeting for a single event, all members of the diocese are invited to join in prayer and in consideration of the life and ministries of the Diocese of the Rio Grande as we prepare to elect a new Bishop.

Come Follow Me is a study opportunity for women and men from February 18 through May 5. You will be able to download the study guide, a joint project of the Women’s Ministry Council and the Transition Team, in early February. There will be prayers and activities to do as a small group, or individually. Supplemental weekly meditations by members of the Women’s Ministry Council and Transition Team will be available via email. See this, sign up by emailing wdrcstudy@gmail.com, or you can simply log onto the Women’s Ministry website or Facebook page to get them. Plan to start a small group in your parish, or with friends, to take advantage of this opportunity to pray and study together.

If you have questions about this exciting opportunity to pray together in preparation for the election of the next Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, contact Cindy Davis (cdavis@cynthiaadavisauthor.com).

Sabbath Refreshes Our Relationships

The 6th Annual fall retreat at the Bosque Center focused on Exploring Sabbath. About 40 attendees from around the diocese began by sharing a one-word definition of ‘Sabbath’. The Rev. Monica Whitaker encouraged everyone to look at the 4th Commandment as the fulcrum between the commandments about relationship with God and those relating to human relationships. Whitaker noted that we have to consciously choose to create Sabbath as a time to build and deepen relationships with God.

The weekend worship times were enriched by the addition of movement with some of the hymns. During the ‘Sabbath times’ on Saturday, the women had the opportunity to experience Sabbath through creativity, prayer beads, nature, and even prayer movement. Everyone left the event with a deeper understanding of the many facets of Sabbath, which is relationship with God and with each other. A complete summary is on the Women’s Ministry website. (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com)

The 2018 Bosque Weekend will be August 17-18. Our theme will be Boldly Forward. We will gather to examine where we have come with the Women’s Ministry over the past 7 years and where we want to go and how we want to grow.

Women of the diocese can keep up with all the upcoming events by receiving the e-newsletters, checking out the Women’s Ministry website (VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com) and Facebook page (Facebook.com/WomensMinistryODRG). E-mail Cindy Davis, Coordinator of Women’s Ministries (cdavis@cynthiaadavisauthor.com) if you aren’t getting the e-news.

Archbishop of Canterbury: Upcoming Royal Wedding is Inspirational

[Anglican News Service] - The entire episode of the December 18th Today Programme on BBC Radio Four, Britain’s flagship national radio news breakfast programme, has been broadcast live from Lambeth Palace, which has been the London home and office of Archbishops of Canterbury for nearly 800 years. And Archbishop Justin Welby used an interview in the 8.10 am slot, usually reserved for the key political interview of the day, to say that the Church of England “is very confident in its faith”.

“We have heard today of the extraordinary things the church is doing reaching into the community,” he told the BBC’s Nick Robinson. “There is a huge amount of confidence on the ground: parishes and chaplains reaching out into their communities; night shelters are rostered; food banks – we don’t like the fact that they exist but we get stuck in and do it. The Church is actually doing more in society than it has done in a very long time.

The archbishop also commented on the up-coming British royal wedding, of Prince Harry to the US actress Meghan Markle. Prince Harry is currently fifth in line to the British throne; but will move to sixth once his older brother Prince William and his wife Catherine have their third child, due in April. Last month, the royal family announced the engagement of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. Few details have been released about the wedding, other than it will take place in St George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle, to the west of London, in May next year.

Archbishop Justin said that the wedding “will be fun”, but when asked whether he would preside over it, he commented: “that is up to them.”

He said that the couple’s desire for a church wedding was not a “tick-box exercise” but part of “a profound sense of commitment of seriousness, both about faith and about their lives together which is quite inspirational.”

He said that the wedding, which is expected to be televised around the world, “is important” because people watching it “will see a model of how two people commit themselves to one another before God in the presence of millions of people. That is going to be a wonderful.”
On this day, in this place, we remember Chaplain Ted Howden. Seven years ago today he died as a prisoner of war. The date of his death marks the observance, but we do not honor him for his dying. We honor him for how he lived his life in the service of his Lord and Savior. So who was Ted Howden?

Since learning of Chaplain Howden’s sacrifice, I always thought of him as more. All the photographs I’ve seen of him show a man without a smile. That is to say, he is remembered as having a photo on the back page of the November-December issue of Together. That’s when I started to see the resemblance of Howden to a young Jimmy Stewart.

Chaplain Howden was described as tall and gaunt, a gritty athlete with a swimmer’s physique. He had a quick wit and great sense of humor. He was known as an “easy mixer” and made friends with “all sorts and conditions of men” both in and out of the Episcopal Church. He was a leader of young people and championed them in their faith. He had a sense of duty and faith were imbedded in the prayer he wrote for the cadets at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell where he served as chaplain and swimming instructor from 1935 to 1940.

Our Father in heaven, inspire, we beseech Thee, that the members of this congregation, with a rightness of purpose in the training of body, mind and spirit that we may better serve God by using our faith and talents to help “young soldiers adjust to the ordules of training for them.”

Chaplain Howden returned from training at Fort Bliss that year for the midnight Christmas Eve service. He could not have anticipated how impressive he looked standing before the altar in his army uniform.7

On 17 August 1941, the 200th was mobilized to the Pacific. “We’d been fighting hard, and we’d moved to the Philippines. I don’t believe you could best serve God by using your faith and talents to help “young soldiers adjust to the ordules of training for them.”

Chaplain Howden distributed much of his meager ration to others, who he said “needed them more.”

Chaplain Howden was among the many who volunteered to be transferred to Cebanahan, which was considered “better.” On 28 October 1942, close to a thousand men were assembled at 0200 hours, fed a small portion of watery rice porridge, and marched sixteen miles in pouring rain to a train to be transported to the docks in Manila where they boarded the Eric Maru. The latrine facilities for the holding, dysentery, the heat, and the sea air. But for those in the crowd, stinking held the Sunday voyage was one of pure horror.

From the time he commanded a battery at Cebanahan, which added to his suffering from starvation-induced Pellegra, Howden “began to go down,” wrote Capt. Murrett. “The trip down to Mindanao was most difficult. It was just too much for him.” However, for nearly a month, Howden continued to work, holding services each Sunday, going to the cemetery almost every day.

Cpl. Fred Brewer helped Chaplain Howden care for the wounded who kept streaming in. Once he looked out on the polo field in front of the hospital and could see the 105 mm. He looked around and said “The score was still up on the scoreboard.”

Two weeks after the war began the Japanese started to make landings on Luzon and their air effort over Clark Field and the Manda area was intensified. Soon the main Japanese landing was made. A decision was reached to withdraw the forces into Bataan. First from the Regiment defense, held Japanese air at Manila. By 23 November, all batteries were reached the Philippines and then immediately assembled. The fort.

At 1235 hours, 8 December, Manila time, the Japanese attacked Clark Field. Howden witnessed the attack. “It’s Sunday,” he said, “and I’m going to pray a sermon.” As soon as the circle of light around him, I can’t describe it, he said, “I’m going to pray a sermon.” And just then the sun came up. “Right through the trees. It made a circle of light around him. I can’t describe it, but we all felt it. Everything just hushed.”

On 3 April 1942, (Good Friday) the Japanese received sufficient reinforcements and began their move down the peninsula. An intense concentration of Japanese air and artillery fire was placed on the front and rear areas. After two days and nights of continuous shelling, the Japanese infantry and tank attacks commenced. On 7 April, the combined enemy effort broke through “allied lines.”

On the afternoon of 8 April, the 200th were ordered to destroy their heavy weapons and anything that might be of use to the enemy. The men of the 200th held the line to allow many to evacuate to Corregidor, which held out another month.

On 9 April, the fighting was over. General Edward King went forward and surrendered the troops. When he finally arrived at the first prison camp, General King got up in front of the troops and said, “No one surrendered but me. If there’s any blame it’s mine. I ordered you to surrender. You didn’t do anything but take orders.”

The story of the Regiment and the other defenders reached its tragic climax with the horrors and evacuation of the 63-mile “Death March” from Marives to San Fernando. Captain John Murrett, Howden’s close friend and fellow Episcopalian, later wrote the story at St. Andrews to tell him he owed his life to Chaplain Howden who carried him for many miles on the march to present him to the Japanese guards for failure to keep up with the column.

Howden distributed much of his meager ration to others, who he said “needed them more.”

Chaplain Howden was among the many who volunteered to be transferred to Cebanahan, which was considered “better.” On 28 October 1942, close to a thousand men were assembled at 0200 hours, fed a small portion of watery rice porridge, and marched sixteen miles in pouring rain to a train to be transported to the docks in Manila where they boarded the Eric Maru. The latrine facilities for the holding, dysentery, the heat, and the sea air. But for those in the crowd, stinking held the Sunday voyage was one of pure horror.

From the time he commanded a battery at Cebanahan, which added to his suffering from starvation-induced Pellegra, Howden “began to go down,” wrote Capt. Murrett. “The trip down to Mindanao was most difficult. It was just too much for him.” However, for nearly a month, Howden continued to work, holding services each Sunday, going to the cemetery almost every day.

Within one year a third of that number died from various complications. Of those who lived, many credited Father Howden with their survival.

I’d like to share the verses from a hymn that was in our hymnal of the time, which I am sure Father Howden knew.

Let us now give thanks for Father Howden.

*Participants in the Howden Memorial at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, included the Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard, Major General Kenneth Nava; Chaplain Capt. Stephen G. Jimenez, Full Time Support Chaplain, New Mexico ARNG; and Col. Elmon Krupnik, Arizona ARNG chaplain for Joint Force Headquarters.*

Sermon for 75th Anniversary of the death of The Rev. Chaplain Frederick B. “Ted” Howden Jr.

The Rev. Canon Raymond Raney

Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Monday, December 11, 2017

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.*

1 Corinthians 16:13
Am I a Soldier of the Cross?1

By Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Written in 1709 to accompany a sermon on 1 Corinthians 16:13. “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.”

Am I a soldier of the cross, A true chorister of Jesus’ cause? And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His name? Must I be carried to the skies On flow’ry beds of ease? Are there no foes for me to face? And sailed through bloody seas?

Sure I must fight if I would reign; I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain, Are there no foes for me to face? And sailed through bloody seas?

A signed photo from Chaplain Howden to his sons

A Veterans Day meditation: Hopeful the good will always eventually win out.

By the Rt. Rev. Walter Wright

I greet you in the Name of the Lord Jesus on this the 98th commemoration of Armistice Day. It used to be called “Armistice Day” in thanksgiving for the peace that was signed between the warring powers. When President Woodrow Wilson made the second Armistice Day (11 November 1919) an official celebration, we were an optimistic people. The horrible tragic “War to End All Wars” had ended the previous year. Things were looking up. Americans had every right to expect that our lives would be normal and peaceful once again. But I ask you to join me in trusting in the true Redeemer liveth” (Job 19). Let us be hopeful and living God, just as Job did, when he said, in the midst of great confusion, “I know that my mind, and spirit that we may better serve you, our country, and others in your name. Amen.

ENDNOTES
1 A History of St. Andrew’s Church by Edith Wood
2 Standback, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Roswell, New Mexico, 1966, p. 77.
3 A History, p. 62.
6 Beyond Courage, p. 101
7 Beyond Courage, p. 127
8 God’s Warrior: Father Albert Braun, O.F.M., 1709-1889, Last of the Frontier Priests by Dorothy Cave, Stone Press Inc., Santa Fe, NM, 2011, p. 519
9 God’s Warrior, p. 319.
10 A History, p. 83.

Photos courtesy of Melissa Howden

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RT. REV. CARL WALTER WRIGHT

BISHOP SUFFRAGAN FOR THE ARMED FORCES AND FEDERAL MINISTRIES.
The Rt. Rev. Anne Dyer

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In 2017 we decided to study one book each year. This year we chose The Praying Life: Seeking God in All Things by Deborah Smith Douglas. Each monthly meeting begins with a spiritual program which includes guest speakers. These programs are open to all in the parish. We have sponsored parish activities such as making these hats for the homeless, making pillow case dresses for the Mustang seed Orphanage in Uganda, and we recently had a showing of the movie The Shack, followed by lunch and a discussion with our Chaplain.

Our members participate in all outreach and parish activities of the church. The parish Lay Eucharistic visitor team consists of five DOK members and two gentlemen. Our members serve breakfast following both services on two Sundays each year. This past year the Vestry asked that we take on several needed projects, one of which was the complete reorganization and consolidation of the church library, and we continue to monitor its operation.

Celebrating Ministries of DOK at Christmas

The Annual Christmas Party for Daughters of the King and the Women of the Diocese was held December 2 at the Cathedral. Attendees enjoyed a potluck luncheon, shared costume conversation, and inline, Cindy Davis, diocesan DOK president, presented a short video about the history of the Women of the Diocese, showing how over the decades, women’s ministries have become more and more diverse. The event included singing Advent hymns, led by Betty Byrne. Betty’s ministry of Tandem Truth helps groups discover the history of well-known hymns. Tandemchrome participants also brought donations for the Children’s Circle of Hope movement and for the Borderlands Ministry. Everyone went home with dozens of delicious cookies from the cookie exchange.

In 2018, all Daughters are encouraged to join in the diocesan-wide DOK Assembly at the Bosque Center. This will provide the opportunity for women and men throughout the diocese to contemplate and prepare for the election of the next bishop.

The story of family and faith of St. Chad’s DOK Chapter

Gin Allen, Varda Gaus, Desa Halsar, Christine Long, and Meg Tarble participated in the DOK Service of Admission at St. Chad’s, Albuquerque, on October 15, with Father Jeremiah Griffin, Rector, and Mother Jan House, DOK Diocesan Chaplain. A reception honoring the newly admitted followed in the parish hall. With the admission of these five new sisters, our chapter has grown to 24 members in a six year period. This growth is remarkable, with a story grounded in love, inclusiveness, openness, dedication, and community.

St. Chad’s Chapter formed in May,1990, with a small group of committed women. The group went inactive in 2004 but never officially disbanded. It was reactivated in 2011 with the admission of 11 members. We met monthly, prayed, and served our community and church with the talents we possessed. Our service projects were open to the whole parish to participate and we invited women to our meetings and fostered an attitude of openness and transparency, welcoming all women to join us. We also communicated via our parish newsletter.

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St. Chad’s DOK Chapter Grows to 24 With Admission of Five New Members

by Margaret K. Edwards

One of the on-going projects of St. Chad’s is to furnish and decorate an apartment for the Saratoga housing and education program for homeless families who have a desire to change their lives to end their homelessness. Each year we gather everything from linens, dishes, appliances, furniture, and cleaning supplies for this effort, and one of our DOK members is the “decorator” who pulls it all together.

The Daughters assist the parish with various commitments, providing dinner for the homeless, service ushers, greeters and readers, altar guard, Eucharistic servers, adult bible study, Cursillo team, and Kairos service. Two Cursillo reunion groups meet weekly, vestry committees, children's study, and handmade cross stitch nametags for every parish member are made by one Daughter. Our chapter president meets monthly with the rector to communicate our work, seek feedback, support, and offer our services to the church.

We are now the largest group within this church and one of the largest chapters in the diocese. We have been asked to host the DOK Assembly for the diocese in August 2018. Deborah Smith Douglas, author, will be our speaker. We are excited to be able to serve God through this service.

Something unexpected has happened to us this year - we have discovered that we are a faith community of women grounded in our commitment to our order but also supported by each other in ways we never imagined. This Christian community is a gift to each of us and a gift we want to share with other women. Sharing with other women the gift of DOK is a community is a gift to each of us and we want to share it with each other in ways we never imagined. This Christian community is a gift to each of us and a gift we want to share with other women. Sharing with other women the gift of DOK is a special form of evangelism. Perhaps each of us might consider this an outreach to be considered.

Deborah Smith Douglas, dynamic speaker and author and on August 4, 2018. Douglas will be the keynote speaker at the DOK Assembly at the Bosque Center. Her talks will be open to all and are sure to be inspiring. You are invited to contact Donna Ace at St. Chad’s (acedona@gmail.com) to get a copy of Douglas’ book The Praying Life.

The former Chief Nursing Officer for England, Dame Sarah Mullally, has today been named as the next Bishop of London.

When she is enthroned in the New Year, she will become the most senior female bishop in the Church of England, and will become a member of the House of Lords, the upper house of the UK Parliament; and the Privy Council, the ancient body which formally advises British sovereigns on the行使 of the Royal Prerogative.

Mullally, who currently serves as the Bishop of Crediton, in the Diocese of Exeter, succeeds Bishop Richard Chartres, who retired in February.

Bishop Sarah worked in the health service before moving to the British government’s health ministry as Chief Nursing Officer for England in 1999. Two years later, she was ordained and served her curacy in St. Saviour’s, Battersea Fields, in the Diocese of Southwark. She was appointed a non-stipendiary, or self-supporting, minister before leaving her civil service role to take up full-time ministry as Team Rector of the Sutton Team Ministry, based at St Nicholas’ Church in Sutton, south London. In 2012 she was appointed Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral, and was consecrated to serve as Bishop of Crediton in 2015.

She was the youngest person to be appointed Chief Nursing Officer for England. With the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, she was part of the first ordination service in Canterbury Cathedral of women chosen to the episcopacy.

She was the first woman in the Church of England to lead an ordination service when she ordained two deaconesses to the priesthood at St Mary's Church in Ottery St Mary, Devon. And now she is the first woman to be appointed bishop of one of the five dioceses in the Church of England: Canterbury, York, London, Durham and Winchester.

Bishop Sarah said that she was “both delighted and slightly terrified” at the nomination to serve as Bishop of London, adding that it would be like “returning home”, having lived and worked in London for more than 32 years.

The see of Aberdeen & Orkney became vacant last November when the Rt. Rev. Robert Gillies retired as bishop of the diocese.

Dyer was born in 1957. She is married and has a daughter. On hearing of her election, Dyer said, “I am delighted to be elected by the bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church to serve as bishop in the united Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney. It will be a privilege to lead the people of this diocese as they continue to make known the love of God to those in their communities and beyond. I am looking forward to both the challenge and excitement of serving and worshipping together in diverse locations across the diocese and to joining the College of Bishops.”

The Scottish Episcopal Church On November 9, the Episcopal Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church elected the Rev. Canon Anne Dyer as the next bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney.

Dyer has served as rector of Holy Trinity Church in Haddington, Scotland, since 2011. Her wider church involvement includes being a member of the Scottish Episcopal Institute Council and a member of the General Synod.

Dyer was ordained deacon in 1987 and priest in 1994 in Rochester, being among the first group of women for each of these orders. She served as warden of Cranmer Hall, Durham, England, and before that was ministry development officer in the Diocese of Rochester, England. Prior to ordination, Dyer read chemistry at St. Anne’s College, Oxford, and was a business systems analyst with Unilever before training for ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and studying theology at King’s College London.

Dyer is chair of the East Lothian Foodbank and is also a regular lecturer across Edinburgh and the Lothians on the subject of fine art and theology.

Dyer is the first woman to be elected bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church voted to allow the election of female bishops in 2003.
Mission of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The mission of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is to introduce our men’s ministry to all parishes in The Episcopal Church and Worldwide Anglican Communion. Their vision is to inspire, empower and equip men and boys to fulfill the Great Commission.

Members are called Brothers and are required to accept and observe the Brotherhood disciplines of Prayer, Study and Service. Brotherhood chapters usually meet once or twice per month in Episcopal and Anglican churches. A portion of each meeting is devoted to each of the disciplines of Prayer, Study and Service.

To find out more about the Brotherhood, visit the website at http://www.brothersandrew.net

Fr. LaLonde Elected Assembly President

Following the November meeting of the SW Deane in El Paso, active Brotherhood of St. Andrew chapters and chapters pending membership held a short meeting. BStA representatives from St. Luke’s, St. Alban’s, St. John’s Alamogordo, Good Shepherd, St. Francis on the Hill and St. Andrew’s Las Cruces, elected Father Wally LaLonde assembly president.

The assembly agreed to include Holy Mount, Ruidoso, from the SE Deanery in the SW Assembly. BStA Regional President Roy Benavides, who represented St. John’s Alamogordo, expressed his appreciation to the assembly for an historical achievement, noting that this was the first BStA assembly, maybe ever, in the Diocese of The Rio Grande.

“I feel it is extremely important for men to support each other in prayer, service and fellowship. I’m excited to help the BStA Chapter of the SW Deane, and see what God will do through us,” said Father Wally.

Brotherhood Celebrates St. Andrew

By the Rev. Deacon Tom Bates

The Feast of St. Andrew was celebrated on November 30 at St. Matthew’s, Los Lunas, with Brotherhood Province President, Roy Benavides, and Diocesan Coordinator, Deacon Tom Bates. Fr. Robert Mundy preached and celebrated.

Following the celebration, Brothers of St. Andrew met to discuss the formation of a BStA Assembly North. It was agreed the mission and coordination of the Brotherhood could be enhanced by the formation of such an assembly. Province President Roy Benavides appointed Brother Dana Bowley as Interim Assembly President and charged him with the mission of forming an Assembly North or Northwest. Roy pledged his support and the support of the Diocesan Coordinator to Dana. In accepting the position of Assembly President, Dana said he was honored to be charged with this important mission and with God’s help, was confident that we would see a BStA assembly doing important work in the north.

In response to questions by the St. Matthew’s Chapter of the BStA, it was explained that the purpose of the Assembly would be to support and encourage current chapters, and to organize, train its leadership, and to plan, promote, and coordinate activities to reach out to other parishes to form chapters. Roy and Fr. Mundy also emphasized that chapter members need not be Episcopalians.

Membership in the BStA is open to all Christians, so invite your Lutheran, Methodist and Roman friends. National considers every male member of the Episcopal Church to be members of the Brotherhood and should be included in your chapter membership lists. As regards dues, Roy said not to worry about the money. There are no dues. Members can make pledges to National and are encouraged to do so. These pledges support a whole list of activities including support for Scouting, veterans, prison ministry, orphanages, and racial reconciliation to mention a few.

The One Who Calls You is Faithful & He Will Do It.

“The One who calls me is faithful” and giving us the tools we need to address the mission at hand “and He will do this.”

For the nuns it was the mission, not themselves. So it is with us. As we approach the Christ child in Bethlehem in these days to come I pray you are so intensely touched with His radiance that you approach the New Year with an awareness that it’s about the mission and not about us. When you do, my hope is you sense compassion tenderly.

Merry Christmas

A Christmas Message from the Brotherhood of St. Andrew

By Tom Welch

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you…. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

I love the scripture readings for this time of year. They help me look over my shoulder at where we have come; the good, the bad, the joys and the sorrowful chapters of our lives. Sometimes when circumstances change drastically in our days we ask why. For some it may be a change in health, some a change in the demands of the workplace, and others a literal change from all that we have known as normal and routine.

When I couple the above with the scripture reference it reminds me about a group of nuns who owned and staffed an entire hospital. Their jobs changed from time to time. The same nun might work one week by a surgeon, later on the Board of Governors, return to being a nurse and later be working in the kitchen as a cook. Sometimes the nun was a chaplain, an orderly, an accounting clerk, human with the insurance companies and work as a lab tech assistant. The same person might do all of these jobs and more. You see, for them it wasn’t about them as individuals. It was about the mission. The mission for the week determined what they would be about. Knowing what our true role is allows us to be true to mission.

That brings me back to this letter to the Thessalonians. It’s not about you and me. It’s not about our wants. Think about those times when we find ourselves completely out of our comfort zone, our routine. Think of those times when we are doing something that simply needed to be done even though it wasn’t part of our training, desire or routine. In my own life I find it has been in those very times that I grow the most, that I learn at a much deeper level. What about you? If we can’t see beyond our own wants and demands then we cannot be instruments of justice, mercy, understanding and change can we?
All Saints Makes Donation to Navajo Nation

On November 20, a small group of the membership of All Saints’ Episcopal Church, located on San Mateo Road at Grants/Milan, New Mexico, delivered a pickup truck loaded with food, toys, books, clothing, bedding and a variety of other items to Baca Chapter House near Prewitt outside Grants. All the goods were collected and donated by members of our All Saints’ Episcopal Church congregation. Not only were the goods greatly appreciated by the recipients, it served as a meaningful stimulus for our membership.

Over the past year or so, this small church has had, as a priority focus, building the numbers in its congregation. While this remains a priority, All Saints’ membership re-directed its emphasis from numbers to need.

“While we still need to grow in numbers, our main concern must always be helping our fellowman,” according to John Martinez, All Saints’ Bishop’s Warder. And we have obligated ourselves to make another run to the Baca Chapter House before Christmas. Not only are we doing the Lord’s work, we are energized in the process.

All Saints’ Episcopal Church is a small church located midway between Gallup and Albuquerque. It’s membership ranks between 20 and 25 congregants.

Bishops parade

Father Paul Moore, Rector of Church of the Good Shepherd, stands with Bishop Michael Vono for the Christmas parade in Silver City. Bishop Vono’s visitation to Good Shepherd coincided with the parade and the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Blessings for Trinity on the Hill

November 12 was a Sunday to remember at Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos, as Bishop Vono made his visitation to confirm parishioners at Trinity with the assistance of the Rev. Christopher Adams, Rector of Trinity on the Hill, and the Rev. Louise Weiss. From left to right are Alison Bailey, Isabella Bailey, Paul Church, Judi Church and George Price

Balloons Rally at Taos Mountain

By the Very Rev. Mike Olsen
Rector, St. James Episcopal Church

At the Taos Mountain Balloon Rally you become part of the fun. A small intimate balloon rally where only 30 balloon pilots were invited to participate.

2017 was the 35th anniversary of the Taos Mountain Balloon Rally which is annually held on the last full weekend in October. Spectators are invited to help with the balloons and may well be drafted to ride along in the balloons or to become part of the balloon chase crew.

St. James, Taos, has a hospitality tent on the balloon field. They offer hot drinks, breakfast sandwiches and love. During the Saturday evening “balloomenshade” - we aren’t allowed to call it a glow - St. James volunteers offer Frito Pies and share stories of the outreach ministries of St. James.

While this is a fundraiser for St. James, it is much more. It is a chance for the St. James volunteers to invite youth into our youth group, enlist volunteers for our food pantry and rummage sales, and invite all to join us in worship, prayer and fun!

Bishop Blesses St. Christopher’s, Hobbs

On Sunday, October 1, Bishop Michael Vono made his last official visit to St. Christopher’s, Hobbs. As usual, everyone was happy to see him and all enjoyed his visit, especially our young acolytes who not only got to meet him but also interacted with him during the Eucharist.

Afterwards, Bishop Michael partook of some of the finest food in southeastern New Mexico at our coffee hour. Then he met with our Bishop’s Committee where he assured us that the problems concerning our vacancy are on their way to resolution. Finally, he expressed how pleased he is with the progress being made by our church. We wish him well with his impending retirement and further ministry.

Giving Thanks Can Be Habit Forming

By Ms. Rickie Sherrill, DRS UTO Coordinator

United Thank Offering is a national Episcopal organization started by women in 1886, but the date is sort of controversial because women missionaries were funded in 1883.

This picture of St. Michaels and All Angels, Dallas, is from about 1975. That’s me, third from the top left. This illustrates how addictive working for UTO has been for me. We pray, give thanks, we donate time and money to help others who need help. I truly appreciate what UTO does.

The purpose of UTO is to help fund local churches as they start projects like after school programs for children whose parents are incarcerated. Roswell, New Mexico, provides transportation for people to and from churches where there is no easy transportation, El Paso, fight drug problems in cities, Albuquerque and Roswell, start halfway houses for women leaving incarceration, Albuquerque. The halfway house gives instructions on self care, like cooking, cleaning and body hygiene. And not incidentally, they have Bible Study. One place in Albuquerque even instructs what to wear and how to act in a job interview. The accomplishments are overwhelming.

Most of us are blessed to be able to help and donate to UTO. The easiest part is digging into your pockets and dropping coins in the blue box. Prayer and money, even the smallest donation, brings help to those who have no other sources. Change from the pocket adds up to big changes in lives.

Please put the United Thank Offering in your prayers and blessings this year.
**Guadalupe in Silver City**

By Ms. Lisa Kirksey
Good Shepherd Parish Administrator

For the fifth year in a row Good Shepherd, Silver City, celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For the second time, the Deming High School Mariachi Band played for the service. With students eager to participate, the band was 30 strong this year. The youngest player was 7 years old, and he played a guitarron that was as big as he was! The women from the local LULAC Council 8003 provided pozole, Mexican rice, tacos and other goodies. The band played mariachi music for about an hour after the Eucharist, inspiring dancing by members of the congregation.

Fr. Paul Moore finds the story of Juan Diego and the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to be a compelling account of the Gospel lived out creatively under hugely adverse conditions. He has been a strong supporter of the celebration in the Episcopal Church since the early 90’s.

**Northeast Area Deanery Report**

**Holy Faith, Santa Fe, Donna Lukacs**

The Women’s 6th Annual Quiet Day at The Church of the Holy Faith will be held February 10. Retreat Leader will be Jean Moleky-Pot. Her topic is Journey into Lent with St. Clare of Assisi. “May you go forward, securely, joyfully and swiftly.” For information and registration, call the church office at 505-982-4447.

**Holy Family, Santa Fe, Camille Donoghue**

Hail and farewell at Holy Family! Christ the King Sunday we said farewell to interim pastor, Deacon Lane Perdue, with a potluck and hymn sing. Thank you for your service!

On Advent 1 we hailed our new vicar, the Reverend Corinne Hodges, with a wonderful musical thank you from Turquoise Trail Baroque Ensemble. Mother Corinne and husband Joe Cox, Chancel Choir Director for 27 years, retired from his guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**St. James, Taos, Gwenneth Glenn**

Advent began with the Annual Visitation of Bishop Michael Vono. He met with the vestry and search committee for the service. For the fifth year in a row Good Shepherd, Silver City, celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For the second time, the Deming High School Mariachi Band played for the service. With students eager to participate, the band was 30 strong this year. The youngest player was 7 years old, and he played a guitarron that was as big as he was! The women from the local LULAC Council 8003 provided pozole, Mexican rice, tacos and other goodies. The band played mariachi music for about an hour after the Eucharist, inspiring dancing by members of the congregation.

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**St. Stephen’s, Española, Rev. Doug Bleyle**

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**Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos, Rev. Christopher Adams**

The Shop on the Corner at Trinity on the Hill recently opened a new Boutique section, selling higher-end items. It has proven to be a great success, and the revenue from sales has steadily increased. With an increase in revenue, the shop will have more funds to disburse to other outreach ministries and agencies at the end of the year.

Trinity on the Hill continues its process of Strategic Visioning, having recently completed eight listening sessions within the parish. The information gathered enables us to hear from a wide variety of individuals within the parish as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Joe Cox, Chancel Choir Director for 27 years, retired from his post after his long tenure. He and his wife Ruth will remain active members of the parish.

Mother Louise Weiss, Priest Associate, has announced her intention to retire from active ministry on January 1. She and her husband Doug will remain active members of the parish.
**Clergy News**

**Cathedral Chapter Elects Interim Dean**

The Cathedral Chapter elected the Rev. Canon Daniel Webster as Interim Dean of the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, during its meeting December 18 at the Bosque Center. He currently serves as Canon for Evangelism and Media in the Diocese of Maryland.

Fr. Webster was selected from a field of seven qualified applicants during a search process of just over a month following the resignation of the Very Rev. Mark Goodman. The search for a permanent dean will not begin until the next bishop is able to participate.

“I’m thrilled to be returning to Albuquerque in this capacity. The interim transition between clergy leaders is so exciting. It affords a congregation the opportunity to explore who they are and what God may be calling them to do. I’m honored and blessed to be walking with the people of St. John’s Cathedral during this transition.”

“And I’m grateful to be returning to the Episcopal church where I attended my first service 30 years ago, even before I became an Episcopalian. It’s been quite a journey.”

Webster received his Master of Divinity degree in 1996 from the Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas. He has served congregations at bishops’ staffs in four dioceses—Utah, California, New York and Maryland. He has been a rector (pastor), interim vicar, director of communications, and specialized in congregational development the past ten years.

Prior to seminary Webster spent 25 years in broadcast journalism nearly half of that at NBC News in Burbank and Washington, DC. In 1986 he moved to Albuquerque as news director of KOB-TV. His last position before studying for the priesthood was director of television marketing for The Associated Press.

Webster is a practitioner and trained teacher of centering prayer. He’s also an associate of the Order of Holy Cross, an Anglican/Episcopal community of brothers in the US, Canada and South Africa. He’s married to Meredith Gould, Ph.D., an author, social media strategist and artist. He has two children from a previous marriage, his son Matt, a former member of the Cathedral, briefly served on its Vestry. He and his wife Sarah, who were married at the Cathedral, now live in Portland, Oregon. His daughter, Meghan, lives with her husband Sean Gallogly in Belen.

**The Rev. Monica Whitaker Installed as Rector in Sedona**

Sedona AZ — The installation of The Rev. Monica Whitaker as Rector of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Sedona was presided over by The Rt. Rev. Kirk Smith, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, on November 5.

The Rev. Canon Terrence Lee, previously of St. John’s Cathedral, Albuquerque, and currently Rector of St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, Hollis NY, and Priest-in-Charge of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Springfield Gardens NY, was preacher for the service. Canon Lee supported Rev. Monica in the early stages of her discernment process toward ordination to the priesthood.

Also participating in the service were The Revs. Lynn and Roger Perkins of Flagstaff who were fellow parishioners with Rev. Monica at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque, before all three were called to ordained ministry. Clergy, St. Andrew’s parishioners, and local community members presented Rev. Monica with symbols of their shared ministry during the festive liturgical celebration.

Rev. Monica earned a Master of Divinity degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific-Berkeley, an MA and Master of Music from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and a BA from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. She came to St. Andrew’s from Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo CA, where she served as Associate Rector. In the Diocese of California, Rev. Monica was Secretary for the Asian Commission and a facilitator for anti-racism training.

**Reformation Walk Marks 500th Anniversary**

By The Rev. Suzanne Brockmeier

Nearly 300 individuals, representing almost 20 Clovis Christian churches gathered on Sunday evening, November 29, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, marking the occasion with services, song, and a public promenade to three churches and the public library.

The Reformation Walk began with an introduction, song, and a skit recreating Martin Luther’s famous posting of the 95 Theses on All Saints Day in 1517. The educational and inspirational Walk ended at St. James Episcopal Church with the focus on sola Fide - by Faith Alone.

“It was thrilling to see the Sanctuary filled to capacity and the courtyard filled with the overflow of the faithful.” The Servers of St. James provided cookies and beverages at the concluding fellowship time, along with Reformation ‘treats’ for the young in age and young at heart.

**Ft. Wallens Welcomed to Marfa**

The Welcoming and Installation of the Rev. Michael G. Wallens as Vicar at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Marfa, Texas, on Saturday, November 4, was celebrated with worship followed by a feast. Pictured are from left to right: Ft. Wallens, his wife Susan and Bishop Michael Vono, who officiated at the service.

**Laying on of Hands**

Bishop Michael Vono lays hands on the Rev. Charles “Chuck” Jones at St. John’s Cathedral, Albuquerque, on Saturday September 16 to ordain him priest. The Rev. Jones was raised up out of the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels, Albuquerque, and now serves at the Cathedral.

**Delayed Diaconal Ordination**

Bishop Michael Vono traveled to El Paso December 9 to ordain Skip Bambrook as a Deacon. Skip was to have been ordained in June, but was unable to attend the service at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, because of illness. He has been struggling to recover and Bishop Vono recognized the ministry he provided to those who ministered to him.

**Participating in the ordination and surrounding the Rev. Deacon Skip Bambrook in his wheelchair are: (from left) his brother Bruce Bambrook, his Rector the Rev. Lin Lilley, Archdeacon Patty Soupuck, Bishop Vono, Skip’s wife Teresa, and the Very Rev. Canon Michael Perks.**
Imagine a time and a place when people came together to learn from each other, to learn about their culture and their lives, and what that would be possible. Imagine a time when you could learn about our differences without allowing those differences to divide us. When we could open gates through the walls that divide us, and walk through those gates with appreciation and love for what and who we meet on the other side?

St. James Taos, in partnership with the Taos Interfaith/Intercultural Alliance, was challenged to develop the "Peace Camp for Adults" that would help us look beyond what separates us, to find the common ground. Fr. Olivo Murillo, Rector of St. James Taos, and co-facilitator of the Taos Interfaith/Intercultural Alliance, invited Jill Cline, Bette Myerson and Barbara Sheppard to help define the theme of the camp. We gathered at the Taos Inn and participants in facilitated exercises designed to help us get to know each other. The group decided, Episcopalians, Unitarians, Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists who came from different cultures including Native Americans, Cubans, Hispanic, Pakistan, and Anglo.

Through the month of September several events were planned for us to learn about our neighbors. We visited the Taos Mosque to learn about their beliefs and experience the call to prayer. Many of them learned about the worship practices. We practiced together, Jew, Christian, Muslim, Buddhists and those with no faith traditions.

On October 11 we went to the Taos Mountains and presented a brief history of Theravada Buddhism, and led us in guided meditations, both a sitting and a walking meditation.

The Lama Foundation was started in 1967 and is an interfaith intentional community that celebrates and supports all religious faiths and beliefs. We had a tour of the area, which includes more than 150 acres. Some of us walked the labyrinth, some of us assisted the kitchen crew with dinner preparations and helped wash the dishes. We shared a vegetarian dinner with residents, stewards, and other visitors. Then we joined in the wonderful Shabbat service that they celebrate every Friday night. Our group of Muslims, Christians, Jews and non-denominational participants dined, sang, and prayed together and shared the challah and wine.

We gathered at Martinez Hacienda, a historic Spanish Hacienda now serving as a cultural museum. Brother David Fernandez of the Convento de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, a representative of the Monastery of the Holy Cross, led us in the blessing of our group. Brother Fernandez explained that the purpose of the blessing is to support our intentions and prayer. We then gathered in the main room of the Hacienda and had a session of meditation, with everyone closing their eyes and sitting in silence with the intention to connect on a deep level with one another.

After the meditation, we opened the floor to discussion. By this time we had been meeting every week for a month and a half, and we were all beginning to feel a sense of community. We talked about what had been most helpful to us in our own lives, and how we could support each other in our efforts to understand and respect each other. We also discussed the importance of finding ways to bridge our differences and build understanding and respect.

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First Christmas Open House at Bishop’s Ridge

The First Annual Christmas Open House at Bishop’s Ridge welcomed more than ninety to the Lodge on Old Santa Fe Trail. Clergy and lay from the Northeast and Northwest deaneries joined guests from the local village of Cañada de Los Alamos for an evening of treats and Blue Grass music by Rori Halle and a pick up band of the organizers of the Santa Fe Music Festival held earlier in the year at Bishop’s Ridge.

The event was organized by the Director of Hospitality for Bishop’s Ridge, Christopher Jewell with assistance from Mary Jewell. The Diocese has expanded the mission of Bishop’s Ridge to a year-round facility under the direction of Christopher.

Looking for that special gift?
Thinking about sending someone special to Camp Stoney this summer?

We have gift certificates available.

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Camp Stoney
2018 Summer Camp Schedule
@Bishop’s Ridge: Stoney Camp & Recreation Center

Family Camp – June 14-17 (All Ages)
Great introduction to Camp Stoney and a wonderful way to unplug and spend time with your family!

Adventure Camp – June 17-23 (Ages 13-18)
Small excursions to nearby historical sites, white water rafting, sleep under the stars for a night, have an adventure!

Summer Fun Camp – June 24-30 (Ages 8-12)
Wonderful time doing all things camp! Arts & Crafts, swimming, hiking, archery, games, and wonderful unplugged activities!

Harry Potter Camp – July 8-14 (Ages 8-13)
Welcome to Harry’s 1st year at Hogwarts! This theme camp encourages campers to become Hogwarts students for a week.

Campers will explore their inner Captain America, Wonder Woman, and Guardian of the Galaxy. A camp exploring the leadership and symbolism with cosplay.

Narnia Camp – July 22-28 (Ages 8-12)
Campers become Kings and Queens of C. S. Lewis’ Narnia! Come be a part of our longest running theme camp!

Small excursions to nearby historical sites, white water rafting, sleep under the stars for a night, have an adventure!

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Guests gather round the fire place.

The Rev. Cara Constans Hedges, her husband Michael talk with Fr. Richard Murphy and Deacon Lane Purdy at the Christmas Open House at Bishop’s Ridge.

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