Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

Our family has spent this summer letting go of things. We have gone through closets, touching each item and asking ourselves – does this thing have a place in my new life? It wasn’t easy for any of us. Always, Meg said that there are many things in our boxes which we weren’t ready to let go of, or just didn’t have the time to let go of, things we’ll need to give away, recycle or pitch when we get to our new home. There are things we think we need that we don’t, and things that simply won’t fit into the cupboards (and shelves and closets) of our new life or our new home.

Meg and I spent two days together going through our library, and our many beloved books. She and I went to seminary in two different places, yet we still had many duplicate volumes. And there were books one of us had that the other hadn’t read, and books we each found and thought, “I need to read that again!” And there were novels, dozens of them. Some were fun the first time around but were not life changing, and some we will always carry with us.

We let go of many volumes. Nearly one-third of our books went to the library at NC State, in the hopes that others may find meaning and joy and wisdom in books which would otherwise be gathering dust on our shelves. And we needed to make room. There is a real sense that this transition for us is about making room, for new books along our shelves, new ideas, for our minds, new prayers on our lips, new relationships in our hearts.

Samuel was just a boy when God came calling, wanting to change his life. “Samuel,” God said in the middle of the night. And the boy jumped up and ran to his master, the priest Eli. “Yes, you called for me?” the boy said to the old man. As I remember the story, three times God spoke his name “Samuel!” The first two times Eli awoke from sleep to say, “I didn’t call you, boy, go back to sleep.” But then, the third time Wisdom cleared the fog of his sleepiness, and Eli gave Samuel some good advice. “Go back to your room, and when you hear the voice calling again, say ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening’ It may be God who is calling you this night.”

The wisdom of Eli is about making room for a new message and a new idea. It is about making room for the new life God is calling us into. Eli asks Samuel to let go of his own ideas about what is possible, who can call him in the middle of the night, and what might be asked of him.

Every transition in our lives is about letting go and making room. And God is always calling us to change, to make room for God’s new vision for our lives. And isn’t this also what listening is all about? To listen is to make room in your head and in your heart for a new message and new ideas.

Listening means letting go of whatever it is I’d like to say, and whatever it is I think you mean to say, in order to make room for something new, something I am not aware of and do not know.

Learning to listen is the path of discipleship. Listening is about making room for God’s input, direction and presence. Listening is about letting go of our need to speak, to fill our hearts and rooms and relationships with our stuff, our thoughts and our brilliant ideas, and rather to be still, to listen and receive.

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” – these words will be my constant prayer as we begin our life together as People and Bishop. Sometimes I’m sure I’ll need to bite my tongue to listen. Sometimes I’m sure I’ll miss what was being said. Please tell me when that happens! And I’m sure there will be times in the years to come when we will struggle together to hear God’s voice, when we will need to make room for some new gifts that God is inviting us to receive. And there will be many, many times when we will need to speak the Good News of God in Christ in our neighborhoods, villages, towns and cities. Only if we have listened carefully will we be able to speak the Truth.

Friends, let us make room in our minds for new ideas, room in our hearts for new loves and new commitments, room in our lives for new relationships, room on our shelves for new books.

God is calling us into new life. Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening!

Blessings

Michael
Floor Nomination Procedures

1. A biographical information (nomination) form is required from each person nominated from the floor. The form is available at: https://www.dioceserg.org/ForCongregationsClergy/diocesan-convention

2. 300 copies of the biographical form may be delivered to Diocesan House for inclusion in delegate packets or provided at the registration table at Convention.

3. At the time of the report of the Nominating Committee, the floor will be opened for other nominations.

4. All required signatures of clergy, senior warden or bishop’s warden must be included on the form, all clergy candidates must have the endorsement of their area dean.

5. No candidate may stand for election to more than one of the following positions:
   • Standing Committee
   • Diocesan Council
   • Commission on Ministry

6. No supporting speeches for candidates will be permitted, either for those nominated from the floor or those nominated prior to convention.

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Registration

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM 2019 Camping Season Forum for Deans and Deaneey Representatives (Ms. Paula Mote)

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Community of Deacons Meeting with Bishop Vono

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Medical Insurance Rollout for 2019 (Ms. Jackie Quamburg, Church Pension Group)

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Finance & Budget Open Forum (Dr. Guy Gronquist)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

7:00 AM Registration & Morning Coffee

7:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Convention Convenes, Opening Prayer, Address to Convention (The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D.)

Welcome from Host Churches – St. Francis, Rio Rancho and St. Michael & All Angels, Abq.

Announcements, Procedures, Nominations, First Ballot for Election to Office

Borderlands Ministries Report (The Rev. Dr. Paul Moore)

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM Refreshment Break


Bishop’s Report (Ms. Catherine Lind)

Bishop’s Ridge Report (Mr. Christopher Jewell)

Budget Presentation for 2019 (Dr. Guy Gronquist)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Luncheon

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Clergy Spouse Lunch with The Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn

12:45 PM Convention Reconvenes

Camp Storey/Youth Ministry Report (Ms. Paula Mote)


Treasurer’s Report for 2017 (Dr. Guy Gronquist)

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM Refreshment Break

2:30 PM Medical Insurance Rollout for 2019 (Ms. Jackie Quamburg, Church Pension Group)

Constitution and Canons Commission (The Very Rev. Cn. Mohav/Pavlak)

Ballot on Canonical Change


4:15 PM Altar Party Rehearsal

4:30 PM Clergy Gather and Vest (White Stole)

5:00 PM Convention Eucharist (The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D., Celebrant; The Rev. Cn. Michael Buerkel Hunn, Hamilt)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7 AM Coffee

7 AM Morning Prayer

8 AM Convention Second Session Convenes (The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D.)

Report of Ballot of Canonical Change, Third Ballot for Election to Office (if necessary) (The Rev. Cn. Raymond Raney)

General Convention Report (The Very Rev. Cn. Carole McGowan and Dr. Guy Gronquist)

Courtesy Resolutions Voice Vote (The Rev. Cn. Raymond Raney)

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM Refreshment Break

9:45 AM – 11: AM Acceptance of 2019 Budget (Dr. Guy Gronquist)

Closing Comments (The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D)

Closing Announcements (The Rev. Cn. Raymond Raney)

Closing Prayers (The Rt. Rev. Michael L. Vono, D.D)

11:15 AM Standing Committee Meeting for Election of President

Embassy Suites
1000 Woodward Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

The room block and room rates expire on Monday, October 1, 2018.

Hotel rooms must be reserved directly with the Embassy Suites:
1-800-EMBASSY (1-800-362-2779) or 505-245-7100

The name on the room block is “The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande” and the room rate not including tax:

Single Occupancy $129.00

Double Occupancy $139.00

Triple Occupancy $139.00

Quad Occupancy $149.00

Included in the room rate:

• A two-room suite featuring a separate living room with a sofa bed, WFR, large desk, mini-refrigerator, microwave, and television sets in both rooms

• Complimentary made-to-order breakfast

• Complimentary evening reception

Get driving directions to the Cathedral of St. John: https://goo.gl/1UHV7r

66th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande
November 1-3, 2018 • Embassy Suites• Albuquerque, New Mexico

Deep Roots Broad Reach

...LIKE TREES PLANTED BY STREAMS OF WATER
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CATHEDRAL CHAPTER (Canon 18)
One Lay Person or Clergy for a three-year term

Patricia Soukup
Cathedral Chapter The Venerable Patricia Soukup St. Chad’s Episcopal Church Albuquerque, New Mexico Years in present congregation: 1 Ordained in 2006

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?
I have been in the Diocese of the Rio Grande my entire life and served at the Cathedral of St. John for a total of 18 years as Acolyte Director, Eucharistic Minister, Subdeacon, Eucharistic Visitor, Verger, Coordinator, and Deacon. I have held liturgical leadership positions in the diocese for more than 40 years and currently serve as Archdeacon and Canon Liturgist. I have served on Cathedral Council, and I am currently the Deputy Chief of Staff in the diocesan office. I hold a master’s degree in public administration and have 25 years of leadership experience in New Mexico state government.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?
The challenges facing our diocese today are the same challenges faced by the Episcopal Church worldwide: declining congregations, budgetary constraints, and growing needs in the world around us. But these challenges are also our greatest opportunities. Together we are the Body of Christ and his hands and feet in the world. Rio Grande Borderland Ministries, the Bishop’s Initiative, and the Poverty and Outreach Board are examples of how we as a diocese can change thousands of lives by combining resources and working collaboratively to provide food, clothing, and shelter to those in communities across the diocese who lack such essentials.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?
A personal relationship with God is a life-long endeavor, and I rely on a Rule of Life to direct me in this regard. Through personal prayer, the study of Scripture, and praying the Daily Office, I seek to discern the Lord’s will in all that I do. My participation in the liturgy is a reinforcement for me of what God calls each of us to do in the world, and I am honored to serve at his altar. For me, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is a constant reminder of the oneness that we have with him.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY OF THE BISHOP (Canon 16)
4 members elected by convention for a 4 year term; 2-term limit; odd years elect 1 clergy; even years elect 1 lay.

Christine Johnson Commission on Ministry of the Bishop Ms. Christine Johnson St. Bede’s Episcopal Church Santa Fe, New Mexico Years in present congregation: 36 Confirmed in 1866

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?
I have been on the DRG Standing Committee and their liaison to the COMB for the last eight years. At St. Bede’s, I serve as Eucharistic minister; lector, and altar server, and served as Coordinator on the Altar Guild for 25 years. I am retired from the USPSH Commissioned Corps, an instructor at Santa Fe Community College, and Indian Health Service Nursing Consultant for the Albuquerque area. Presently I serve as Treasurer of the Santa Fe Branch NAAACP, Immediate Past-President of the Santa Fe Road Runner Chapter, Military Officers Association and Team Captain for St. Bede’s American Cancer Society Relay for Life Walk.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?
The greatest opportunity and challenge facing the Episcopal Church and the DRG is the enriching of God’s love to each person in the world. Our PB Michael Curry’s earnest, Jesus Movement must take hold in and within ALL persons and Christians! LOVE lifts us all, for LOVE is of God (1John 3:7-9).

We must reach out to all, and especially the Youth and Marginalized – BE OPEN. Think out of the Box. Candidates for Holy Orders must be be OPEN to God’s Will and purpose in their lives as they answer God’s Call to Serve ALL!

What sustains you in your spiritual life?
Prayer and quiet time sustain and guide my relationship with Jesus Christ. Participating in weekly services of Contemplative Prayer, Cursillo Reunion prayer time, Morning Prayer, Healing service, Holy Eucharist, and Lectio Divina, keep me focused on what I should be doing daily in my Walk of Love with all persons with whom I interact. Smiling in the face of unpleasantness, gives me a chance to show the Light of Christ. I believe and know, my God is Awesome, and has a sense of humor. Sustaining Bible Verses. Psalms 121--- Romans 8:31, 37-39 --- Philippians 3:5-8

The Diocesan Positions Open for Nomination
Cathedral Chapter – Though by Canon this body functions as the governing body for the Cathedral, the Cathedral Vestry is responsible for the ordinary operations of the Cathedral parish. The Chapter is the canonical body that serves in the capacity of the search committee when the office of Dean of the Cathedral is vacant. The Cathedral Vestry and Wardens are members of the Chapter, as are the Bishop and Dean, along with three (3) at-large members, elected for three-year terms. This Convention we will elect one (1) lay or clergy person for a three (3) year term. Meets as called.

Commission on Ministry of the Bishop – Shall advise and assist the Bishop with the implementation of Title III of the Canons of The Episcopal Church, determine the present and future opportunities and needs for ministry of all baptized persons, and in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry and assessment of readiness therefore. This Convention we will elect one (1) lay person for a four (4) year term. Meets 3 times a year, as or called.

Diocesan Council – Reviews diocesan mission, vision, plans, programs and goals, determines Fair Share policy and levels, prepares and presents the budget to diocesan convention. It consists of members at large (two clergy and two lay persons elected by Convention), the Diocesan Treasurer, a member of the Standing Committee appointed annually by the Standing Committee, the Deans and Vice-Deans of each Deanery and the Bishop. The Canon the Ordinary, or the Assistant to the Bishop, if there be one, as well as the Cathedral Dean, are members with voice but no vote. The two-year terms of the members at large are staggered. The Lay members must be adult communicants in good standing for at least one year prior to election. There is a two-term limit. This Convention we will elect (1) clergy person and (1) lay person for two-year terms. Meets 5 times per year, or as called.

Diocesan Treasurer – The Treasurer receives and disburses all funds collected under the authority of the Convention, supervises, reports and publishes the accounting of the Fair Share of giving of the congregations, presents to each Convention statement of accounts of the congregations for the previous year; maintains custody of all funds assigned to the Treasurer’s keeping by the Bishop, the Convention, and the Finance Commission, and file an account of such funds at the Convention. (3) clergy elected for four year terms. This Convention we will elect one (1) lay person and one (1) clergy person for four-year terms. Meets once a year, or as called.

Standing Committee / Trustees of the Property – the council of advice for the Bishop. Consists of equal numbers of lay (3) and clergy (3) members with staggered terms, with a two-term limit. Lay members must have been adult communicants in good standing in this Diocese for at least one (1) year. If there is no bishop, this body governs the Diocese and arranges for an election. It determines certification of candidates for Holy Orders according to the Canons, supervises secular legal functions. Advises on diocesan personnel decisions, and carries out work asked of it by Diocesan Convention. This Convention we will elect one (1) lay person and one (1) clergy person for three (3) year terms.
Jim Gordon
Diocesan Council, Clergy
The Rev. Jim Gordon
Church of the Holy Faith
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Years in present congregation: 16
Ordained in 2010/2011

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?

Serving in the DRG as vicar of St. Paul’s in Marfa, and then as an associate rector at The Church of the Holy Trinity, has taught me the importance of building a community through worship. My experience as a member of the Diocesan Council has provided me with a perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our diocese. I believe that my background as a journalist is helpful in dealing with the media, and my experience in various leadership roles has taught me the importance of collaboration and decision-making.

Faith, I’ve been able to see firsthand the strengths and challenges of both small mission churches and large parishes. My service on the Bishop Search Committee has increased my knowledge of the needs of churches throughout the entire diocese. My background as a journalist is helpful in dealing with people and being able to read between the lines.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?

Holding together in Christ, then growing together in Christ—I emphasize both the together and the in Christ—in the face of forces that would tear us apart.

Standing in the truth of the Gospel and proclaiming that truth to an increasingly unbelieving world is a challenge we must embrace. The Diocese must develop a vision for the future, build on the solid foundation developed over the last several years, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve in this role.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Our community of faith at St. Michael and All Angels is calling me to do. The Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?

There is a new awareness of a need for healing and reconciliation in the life of the Episcopal Church and there is a renewed spirit of enthusiasm and energy in the DRG as we welcome Bishop Hunnings. I am so excited and I can feel the strengthening of purpose that is present in congregations.

Many of our congregations and the budget crunch that many parishes are feeling. We will need to focus on growing the programming for our youth, young adults, and families and think hard about how to construct a budget that reflects these programs. Without diversity of programming and approaches to ministry, we will not be able to sustain our mission churches and our larger churches will also continue to suffer budgetary losses. As we look at our future, we know will have less income from the St. Clement Settlement and we will need a budget that supports ministry and minimizes fair share increases.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Our community of faith at St. Michael and All Angels sustains me. It grounds me in my relationship with Jesus Christ and reinforces the important spiritual principles expressed in the liturgy, the scriptures, and in The Book of Common Prayer that guide me as I serve the church and the others in my life. I know that the prayers of my congregation strengthen me in times of doubt and help me to do the work that God is calling me to do.

Cathy Bailey
Diocesan Council, Lay
Ms. Catherine Bailey
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Years in present congregation: 16
Confirmed in 1976

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?

I have been a member of the Episcopal Church my entire life and I served on YCRG as a youth. As an adult in the Church, I was elected to the Vestry of St. Michael and All Angels and served as a Vestry Warden for three years and as Rector’s Warden for three years after the Reverend Brian Taylor retired. I served on the New Life Team from 2007 to 2009 as a facilitator, and was selected as a facilitator for the “Walk Abouts” during the search for Bishop Vona. I was elected to two terms on Diocesan Council, 2010 to 2014, and have been serving as Co-Chair of the Congregational Life and Development Team since 2015. I was elected a Delegate to Diocesan Convention and have served as a delegate for eight years. In 2012, I was elected as deputy to General Convention and re-elected to that position in 2015. I have also served on the Youth Task Force and on the Task Force for Camp Stoney.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?

There is a renewed spirit of enthusiasm and energy in the DRG as we welcome Bishop Hunnings. I am so excited and I can feel the strengthening of purpose that is present in congregations.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

The prayers of my congregation strengthen me in times of doubt and help me to do the work that God is calling me to do.
STANDING COMMITTEE - LAY (Canon 4)
6 members elected by Convention for 3-year terms; 2-term limit; 1 clergy and 1 lay person elected each year.

Roy Benavides
Lay, Standing Committee
Mr. Roy C. Benavides, Ed.D.
St. John’s Episcopal Church
 Alamogordo, New Mexico

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?
I am a member of St. John’s in Alamogordo where I participate in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (BSTA) Chapter’s Bible Study. I am BSTA Province VII President. I’ve participated in choirs, been a senior warden and vestry member at several parishes, and served as a vestry member and president of the Vestry of St. John’s. I have also been a member of the Diocesan Council, the Bishop’s Search Committee and the Standing Committee.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?
Our diocese is experiencing growth and financial issues with limited resources. The complex nature of the Diocese will benefit from strong leadership at all levels with a focus on leadership development, data analysis, ministry development, communications, and transparency at all levels. The Diocese is like other large organizations and must look forward to say we don’t have enough, but how to be fruitful with what our Diocesan needs are.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?
I am nourished for my day ahead and for what God chooses to place before me. I also try to take time meditate. My spiritual life includes “Believing, Belonging, and Behaving” as my personal testimony.

John Gaige
Lay, Standing Committee
Mr. John K. Gaige
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?
I have held multiple positions within the Church at both the local and Deanery/Diocese level. I joined St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Las Cruces, in 2009. Since then I have served in the following capacities: Acolyte, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, and Worship Leader. Served two years as Convention Delegate. At the Deanery/Diocese level, I have been in the Southwest Deanery, one year as a Deaconry Board Member at Large, three years as Vice-Dean, and I sat on the Diocesan Council for three years. I served Borderland Ministries (RGSIM) as a Board Member and am currently Treasurer. I had been an Electronic-Missile Engineer, Active Army and DOD Civil Service, for more than 20 years, retiring in 2014. Military Awards include Bronze Star, Army Commendation, Army Achievement, National Defense Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Southwest Asia Service, and Iraq Campaign. Veteran of Operation Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?
Our greatest challenges in the Diocese of the Rio Grande, and probably will continue to be an issue, is the annual Diocesan Budget. We all know we are not a wealthy Diocese, but we are a very fruitful Diocese. This Diocese goes above and beyond when comes to those who require assistance. We as congregations need to look at our funds and re-evaluate them, not to say we don’t have enough, but how to be fruitful with what our Diocesan needs are.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?
Collective Prayer where we gather weekly to pray. Walks give you the time to absorb the realities of our neighborhood and hold our community to God. Individual Prayer is so important in my life. My personal participation in the BSTA is critical for our Diocese.

STANDING COMMITTEE - CLERGY (Canon 4)
6 members elected by Convention for 3-year terms; 2-term limit; 1 clergy and 1 lay person elected each year.

Robin D. Dodge
Standing Committee, clergy
The Rev. Canon Robin Dodge
Church of the Holy Faith
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Describe experiences and positions you have held, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?
Chaired the Transition Team’s Walk-About Committee, traveled around this great Diocese and heard the questions across the deaneries for the bishop candidates. I’m excited by Bishop-Elect Hunn’s answers and want to assist him on Standing Committee in forming his vision for the Diocese. I serve as Canon for Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue, which brings a broad perspective of what best to carry out God’s ministry through our congregations and share the good news of Jesus Christ to all. Before ordination, I practiced law for eleven years, so I would bring that experience to the more legalistic duties of Standing Committee.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?
We must empower our smaller and struggling congregations to carry the ministry that God calls them to in their communities, by either funding resources to support them or reducing the burden of their fixed costs. We must become more welcoming to those who aren’t like us – the seeker, the young, the stranger – so that we can share the Episcopal celebration of the Jesus movement. We must raise up leaders, both lay and clergy, who can do this. I believe we have stakeholders in this diocese who are committed to achieving these goals and bridging the gaps that separate us.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?
Prayer and sacraments. I begin each day with Morning Prayer, either in community or alone. This grounds me for the day ahead and for what God chooses to place before me. I also try to take time each afternoon to center myself in God’s presence with contemplative prayer. I am nourished for my ministry by the frequent reception of the Body and Blood of our Lord. I feel privileged to bring the ministries of the Church to those who are hurting, as well as those who are celebrating God’s blessings.
Rod Hurst
Standing Committee, clergy
The Rev. Rod Hurst
Grace Episcopal Church
Carlsbad, New Mexico
Years in present congregation: 9
Ordained in 2008

Describes experiences and positions you have held or currently hold in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?

My ministry experience includes nine years as Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Carlsbad, New Mexico. For the past three years, I have served as a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee and Trustees of the Property. I am a current member of the Board of Examining Chaplains (since 2014). In years past, I have served four years on the Commission on Ministry of the Baptist, two years on the Camp Staley Board of Directors (beginning in 2009), and Ecclesiastical Court (partial term during canonical changes). I am a member/director and recent past president and vice president of the Board of Directors of Carlsbad Transitional Housing and Homeless Shelter, Inc. that includes 13 church groups from the greater Carlsbad area. Additionally, I serve on the board of the Carlsbad Rotary Club and have served as club chaplain for the past several years. My previous employment experience includes ten years government service in managerial, supervisory and administrative roles in large state government agencies, primarily in the areas of health care and Medicaid finance for the states of Washington and Arizona.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?

As a diocese it is imperative that we gather around our new bishop, supporting his ministry of reconciliation in our midst and contributing to it by seeking to reach common goals focused on the gospel. We will grow and move forward together as a vibrant missional community as we continue to create varied opportunities for diocesan-wide communication and conversation, fellowship and outreach. In this way, we seek to dialogue and understand each other’s diverse viewpoints, and appreciate the diverse contributions of each to our diocesan life together.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

My spiritual life is nourished by fellowship and gathering with the people of God at Grace Episcopal Church, and with the wider faith community of Carlsbad and of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. My faith is nurtured in the Holy Eucharist and daily Morning and Evening Prayer. Spiritual reading and spiritual direction are also key components of my spiritual life, in addition to my spiritual journey as an Obitate of the Order of Saint Benedict since 2012. To foster meaningful spirituality and spiritual vitality in my own life and among the people of God, and to equip us for service in the church and the world, I ground myself in the timeless, incarnational elements of our Episcopal/Anglican tradition that intersect with this sensory experience—such as bread and wine, water and oil, as well as human conversation, friendship, sacramental hospitality, spiritual formation, outreach, gathering, caring, mutual instruction and shared learning—all in concert with our baptismal covenant.

TREASURER (Canon 9)

Guy Gronquist
Diocesan Treasurer
Mr. Guy Gronquist, Ph.D.
Church of the Holy Faith
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Years in present congregation: 14
Confirmed in 2009

Describes experiences and positions you have held or currently hold in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position?

I have been honored to serve the diocese since 2012, sitting on Trustees, Council, Investment Board, POB, Finance and Audit Committees. Elected to represent the diocese at General Convention 2015 as an alternate and 2018 as a deputy, I have served my parish on the Vestry, Investment Committee, and as Senior Warden and Treasurer. Other relevant experience. Board member and Chair, Interfaith Shelter; Trustee and Vice Chair, Museum of New Mexico Foundation, serving on the Executive, Finance and Investment Committee. Prior to retirement, 20+ years in investment banking in London, where I served my C of E parish as Treasurer and Parish Council Lay Chair.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Rio Grande at this time?

The greatest opportunities facing TEC and the DRG remain constant: Christian formation in what the Episcopal/Anglican tradition that intersect with this sensory experience—such as bread and wine, water and oil, as well as human conversation, friendship, sacramental hospitality, spiritual formation, outreach, gathering, caring, mutual instruction and shared learning—all in concert with our baptismal covenant.
2018 Hollyberry Arts & Crafts Fair

Fine Art, Food, Fun
Seasonal Gifts & High Quality Crafts

Set-Up: Friday, November 16th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fair: Saturday, November 17th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fair: Sunday, November 18th
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, In Nob Hill
431 Richmond Place NE, ABQ, NM 87106
www.stmarksabq.org/hollyberry

St. Andrew’s Hospitality House Anniversary

Second Anniversary Celebration and Fund Raiser Dinner for St. Andrew’s Hospitality House will be held September 29 from 6-9 pm at the Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Avenue in Las Cruces.

In addition to dinner, there will be a cash bar, silent auction and music by Travis Manning.

Tickets are $50 per person and $475 reserves a table for 10. For tickets call 575-649-0593 or 575-526-6333, or visit St. Andrew’s at 518 N. Alameda.

Proceeds benefit the St. Andrew’s Hospitality House which provides housing for families of medical patients.

Octoberfest

You are Invited to a seniors’ Octoberfest With the Bishop
Join the Bishop for German Cuisine and Die Polka-Schlingel Bavarian Style

Friday, September 14, 11:00am -2:00pm Bosque Center Albuquerque

St. Andrew’s

St. Andrew’s Hospitality House

Admission: $1.00
Friday, October 26th, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 27th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Many Vendors:
- Hand-Crafted Gifts
- Decorations
- Baked Goods
- Artists & Artisans

Lunch for Sale:
- Hot Dogs
- Soup
- Homemade chili

Come One, Come All

Admission: $1.00
Friday, October 26th, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 27th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Many Vendors:
- Hand-Crafted Gifts
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Lunch for Sale:
- Hot Dogs
- Soup
- Homemade chili

Come One, Come All
Have Courage, Be Kind and Keep Praying

By Ms. Madeleine Fazenbaker

I don’t watch much daytime television. I’m usually doing my schoolwork online during the day. But I heard one of the most disturbing statements from a daytime television host while back. A co-host on “The View” said, in response to a statement made about Vice President Mike Pence talking to God as a part of his Christian faith and his daily life, “It’s one thing to talk to Jesus. It’s another when Jesus talks to you.” She followed that up with the statement, “hearing voices qualifies as ‘mental illness.’” This lead to a debate about whether people who talk to God are mentally ill, as this co-host alluded to. The argument among the panelists was flippant, bickering, and disrespectful on many levels. This is the main reason I don’t watch daytime television programs like this. These so-called panel programs that are promoting “healthy debate” are more often divisive. They aren’t bringing people together to co-exist, they are lighting the fire of the extreme ends of the spectrum.

Let me tell you what I did when I first heard this. My mother reminded me that I needed to watch the entire piece before they took a statement taken out of context can be dangerous. Which is what social media does all the time. I watched the piece on-line and saw how this co-host made the statement, but by the end of the piece, she took a completely different stance and was not behaving professionally, or even adult-like. It was childish and petty. By the end of the piece she had gone from saying he was mentally ill for listening to Jesus to a defense that he would be a better president than what she had now. This led me to believe that this woman will do anything for attention, and she does not care if it is good or bad attention. There is an old saying, “There is no such thing as bad publicity” meaning if the media is paying attention to you, it’s all good. But it’s not. Stirring up trouble to keep the media focused on you is more than self-centered, it is the complete opposite of truth seeking.

This kind of behavior does not teach people how to resolve anything. We worry all the time about getting one wish in his prayer. I think God has answered Joe Biden’s prayers too. On “Big Bang Theory”, a show I do enjoy watching, the characters took Sheldon’s mother, the bible thumper, on a tour of churches around Pasadena. They went into a church, and she was encouraging them to talk to God and pray. Jokes were made about Howard Wolowitz trying not to burst into flames for being there, because he was Jewish, and Raj Koothrapoli, a Hindu character, only gets one wish in his prayer. I think God has a sense of humor, and laughs with us when he hears stuff like this episode from Big Bang Theory. These things are not said to hurt people, but to get people to laugh at themselves as well as with others. It’s a fine line between comedy and hurtfulness. The question is: are you willing to listen? Do you want to hear the answer? Isn’t that why we pray in the first place? It is unfortunate that such a salacious statement was made that equates prayer with being ill. Prayer is the key to our salvation as Christians. Prayer is the cornerstone of all religions. Prayer is warship.

The current church teachings in our denomination teach inclusion. I see inclusion as believing that everyone is valuable enough to be prayed for, even if they themselves don’t pray. We are taught to pray for our enemies as well as our friends and family. We should be praying for the well being of all people, peacefully co-existing on this earth, as well as the salvation of those we share a denomination with. If someone says to me that they are praying for me, I take that as a compliment. Usually when I pray, I pray for others first, then maybe for myself. Sometimes I feel praying for myself is a little bit selfish. But I ask Him to help me make wise decisions and do the right thing to please Him first and me second.

Retaliating hurtful speech is a result of not going to God first. Yes, I’m a person who talks to God. I’m not ashamed for you to know it. And in my opinion, I am not mentally ill for doing so. When you ask God for guidance to a question, you are talking to a living heavenly being, not the wall. His answer may come to you through speech, music, in scripture or something that passes by your sight or touches you in your normal day. Some people think He speaks to them in dreams. His answer may come from the most unsuspecting places. The question is: are you willing to listen? Do you want to hear the answer? Isn’t that why we pray in the first place? It is unfortunate that such a salacious statement was made that equates prayer with being ill. Prayer is the key to our salvation as Christians. Prayer is the cornerstone of all religions. Prayer is warship.

The vocabulary words for this week are: salacious, flippant, retaliating, bickering, co-exist, stance, alluded, divisive, riotous, inclusion, and inciting. I hope God answers my prayer for you, that you find peace in what you do, and do what pleases God first, and not worry about attention seekers trying to find fame in stirring up trouble. God will sort them out in His own way. Meanwhile, have courage and be kind, and keep praying! He’s listening, and likely to respond!

My most recent sign sighting on the “Tour de Church signs” is “If you are living the golden rule, you don’t need any other rules.” The vocabulary words for this week are: salacious, flippant, retaliating, bickering, co-exist, stance, alluded, divisive, riotous, inclusion, and inciting.

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Harry Potter & the Sorcerer’s Stone
Worship, Music, and Bible Study Resources

At Camp Stoney’s Harry Potter Camp 2018, in addition to enjoying Quidditch, swimming, archery, hiking, crafts, potions, spells, and Hogwarts fun, we also enjoyed singing, praying, and exploring important stories from the Harry Potter books, the Bible, and our own lives.

These worship and bible study resources were compiled with care by our team of Hogwarts Professors, with special help and inspiration from Diane Taggart, Father Christopher McLarren, Deacon David Martin, and Mother Sylvia Miller-Muta.

We have created a webpage with bible study, prayer, and music resources for Harry Potter campers, counselors, and professors, their families, their home churches, pastors, youth group leaders, and Sunday School teachers, and anyone else in the Diocese of the Rio Grande and beyond who might like to extend the spiritual exploration we began this summer at Hogwarts into the spiritual life of their family, parish, mission, or school in the coming months. Enjoy! Link to our webpage:  www.bishopsridge.org/harry-potter-2018.html

Photos by Paula Mote

Hagrid takes the lead
Learning Archery

The Dye Traditions
Diane Figge cooks up a storm
Playing at Tail Tag

Worship and Prayer
Singing the Songs
"Welcome to Camp Stoney! We will start the check in process in about five minutes. Please help your camper settle in and thank you for coming." Camp parents and responsible adults of campers heard this from me and the staff as they arrived to drop off of their camper. Check-in is at 4 pm on Sundays during camping season but if you have traveled from a significant distance or have come to the camp for the first time you probably arrived earlier than that. The front porch is where the staff can be very warm, who am I kidding? It is hot! So this year we put out a cooler of bottled waters in ice and invited everyone to help themselves while they waited for the doors to open.

The first camp of the summer is Family Camp, and the Dean of this camp is Mary Jewell. This camp is a wonderful way for families to learn about Camp Stoney, meet the staff before sending their camp age children to their first camp later in the season, and alumni to have a moment to remember what they did as campers and sing some camp songs. This year we had Thomas Powers come with his forge and show how to make “S” hooks, marshmallow roasting forks, and other items. The families made their way to the ropes course and enjoyed the rope swing. Families come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. To come to this camp you do not have to have a child who has few steps on the earth, you can be 25 and bring your mom just to have a fun-filled weekend.

What happens when you put two camps together in the same week? An Adventure in Grace Ba-dum-bum! This summer Adventure Camp and Grace Camp shared the same week and it worked out well. Since the retirement of the previous Adventure Camp Deans the camp has changed into more of an excursion camp where the campers sleep in cabins and have their meals outdoors. Adventure campers then travel to different places and have experiences that they may not be able to have at Camp Stoney. This summer they went to Tent Rocks National Monument, Bandelier National Monument, the Randall Audubon Center, and white water rafting. They also volunteered at a soup kitchen in Santa Fe. If you are wondering how we transported a large group of campers the answer is 24 campers to transform the campus into the area the Dean of Grace Camp, Mother Suzanne Brockmeier, her family. Katrina is an alumni of what happens at Camp Stoney is through the doors to open.

The first year for this camp and the League for Christ”, a wonderful group of superheroes who are encouraged to help other superheroes find their way to the league. The Dean, Father Alan Brockmeier, and his trusty Side Kick, Mother Suzanne Brockmeier, put together some very awesome superheroes. The crafts for this camp created the costumes that were needed at the end of the week for the campers to change from their public personas to their superhero in a phone booth! It was spectacular! The campers at this camp were the first campers to use the new Ga-Ga Ball Pit that was built outside of the lodge. They also played many different games to hone their super powers. The greased watermelon was most entertaining. This was the first year for this camp and the League and I will be on the lookout for more people to join us next summer!

How do you close out a Camp Stoney season? You have Aslan visit! Welcome to Narnia Camp, our longest-running theme camp. Many thanks to the wonderful Dean, Katrina Colwick, and her family. Katrina is an alumni who returns to Camp Stoney every summer from Dallas to transform the campus into the books of Narnia. We welcomed 24 campers to Narnia this summer and a talented group they were, as they acted out “The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe.” In between downpours the campers were able to partake in the camp games of Ga-Ga Ball, 4-square, and swimming. As well as learning a few more fun songs led by Aaron Colwick. Narnia Camp also visited to a close with the large battle over Narnia and Aslan moving on to visit Camp Stoney next year. Once a King or Queen of Narnia, always a Camper of Camp Stoney.

Participation in Camp Stoney 2018 was a joy. The support you have for your camp and the young people of our Diocese is heartwarming. Your continued support of this ministry to guide and share the love of Christ with our future leaders is greatly appreciated. Much of what happens at Camp Stoney is through volunteers, donations, and you. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year and hearing your stories. Planning for Camp Stoney 2019 starts today!
Welcome to Camp Stoney 2018

Joyful Summer

Superhero Camp at Tent Rocks

Pool Summer Fun

Summer Fun at Bible Study

Grace Camp with the Prayer Book

Family Camp with Bishop Vono

Narnia Camp 2018

Superhero Camp 2018

Family Camp at the Forge

Narnia on the Ropes

Photos by Paula Mote
During the Installation of Officers, Chaplain Rev. Jan Hosea asked God’s blessings on the following Daughters:

- President: Dona Ace. St. Chad’s, Albuquerque
- Vice President: Marna Gallegos, Grace Church, Carlsbad
- Vice President: Johanna Binneweg, St. James’ Mesilla Park
- Secretary: Linda Brown, St. John’s, Farmington
- Treasurer: Margaret Edwards, St. Chad’s, Albuquerque

A Memorial Service for Departed Daughters was also part of our worship. The following departed were honored:

- Lois Decker (Santa Rosa Chapter, St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces)
- Evelyn Jenkins (Maranatha Chapter, Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso)
- Arleta Joyner (Santa Rosa Chapter, St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces)
- Joy McFarland (Santa Rosa Chapter, St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces)

Each Daughter received her vows during the Service of Rededication. Rev. Hosea, Dr. Pat Kirk, and Dr. Patty Soukup celebrated the closing Eucharist.

The Daughters of the King of the Rio Grande held their annual Assembly August 3-4 at the Bosque Conference and Retreat Center in Albuquerque. Nearly 100 women were present to welcome our retreat leader, Deborah Smith Douglas, speaking to us on the topic, “Deepening Prayer, Strengthening Communion.”

On Saturday, Ms. Douglas gave a series of three meditations: “Blessed Communion: Praying in the Company of Women,” “Thanks to God: Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice,” and “Close to the Heart of God: Clinging to the Rock: Intercession as Contemplative Practice.” With gentle humor and great kindness, she spoke with conviction and authority about deepening our relationship with our Lord Jesus.

Ms. Douglas shared with us the story of how she used to be “God’s Executive Secretary,” offering Him a daily to-do list, and firing off desperate memos all day long, until she realized that God already knows all that stuff, and all she had to do was offer people and problems up to him, through her heart, in tenderness and compassion. Words are not really necessary.

An ablate of the Camaldolese Benedictines, Ms. Douglas is devoted to silence, the greatest gift the monasteries have to offer the world. The Silence she speaks of is not just the absence of external noise, but also calming the internal “tree of chattering monkeys,” to access the Silence of God, which, paradoxically, is not emptiness, but the fullness of God himself. Thus, intercession means carrying a person to the heart of God through my own heart, a contemplative activity.

Deborah Smith Douglas has degrees in literature and law, and is a spiritual director, writer, retreat leader, and a member of St. Bede’s in Santa Fe. She is the author of The Praying Life: Seeking God in and beyond the Monastery, winner of the 2003 Christianity Today Book of the Year Award, and the 2004 Catholic Book of the Year Award, and is the author of the全国 bestselling spiritual classic Praying (more than 3 million copies sold worldwide).

The Daughters of the King, the Order of the Daughters of the King® (DOK), is an international order of girls from ages 7 to 107 who follow vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. The Daughters of the King believe that the opportunity to listen to the Silence of God is a gift to be shared with their fellow Daughters. The Daughters of the King have 22 chapters in the diocese and includes women and girls from ages 7 to 107 who follow vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. The Daughters of the King feel honored to have had her among us.

Together

Deborah Smith Douglas
Concerning the ECW Logo
By Rosie Sherrill, DHG UTO Coordinator

At the Triennial Convention, The Rev. Cathy Nydall Boyd, now a rector St. Martins, Williamsburg, VA, spoke to the UTO delegates about the UTO/Episcopal Church Women’s logo. Here are a few of Cathy Boyd’s perceptions from the logo. “I love the movement of the design, the way it evokes the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit. As I spent time looking at this great curve, this visual representation of the movement of the Holy Spirit, I started seeing something else as well. Life and ministry is not just about going, is it? We also return home. How see it is implied in the swirling? “It is a spiritual truth that we never stay in one place. St. Benedict says: ‘always we begin again.’ We will never fully arrive, at least until we come to that heavenly kingdom where there is no pain or grief. So for now we must embrace the journey. In mythology and other great stories, there is a phenomenon, a pattern. The hero and heroine’s journey is a common template in literature… the Odyssey, the Bible, the Hobbit, the Chronicles of Narnia, Harry Potter and Star Wars. The hero and heroine always follow a pattern; they leave home, have adventures, fight and win hard battles, learn things and return home transformed. This is a universal pattern in all great stories.”

And we return home! I started thinking at this point if I should return to Dallas or San Antonio. Alas, it came to me that returning home is about love, faith, forgiveness, grace, peace and importantly for me gratitude for all these other God-given gifts. Holy Spirit, bring us to our spiritual home.

UTO Ingathering at General Convention
The triennial UTO Ingathering ceremony held at the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Austin, TX, took place on July 6. It brought in $3,738,989.47. UTO funds are granted on an annual basis to support missions across the worldwide Episcopal Church. The nine Episcopal provinces, as well as Ingatherings from groups not associated with a province, gathered the following amounts to support the United Thank Offering:

Provinces
Provincial Gene - $298,435.39
Province Two - $1,108,107.00
Province Three - $739,638.33
Province Four - $7,922,922.02

Other Ingatherings includes the following contributors: The Episcopal Church of Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, the Office of Development’s booth in the General Convention, the Presiding Bishop, the Episcopal Church of Liberia, Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico, Iglesia Anglicana del Cono Sur de America. The total Ingathering for the 2015-2017 triennial is $3,738,989.47.

Other Ingatherings- $511,227.26
Province Five - $286,315.39
Province Nine - $424,264.84
Province Six - $1,968,793.61
Province Seven - $2,623,595.99
Province Eight - $3,281,920.89

An Outpouring of Generosity: Giving at the 79th General Convention
Over $20,000 raised in support of ministries of the Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church Office of Development celebrated and gave thanks for the many donors who contributed to the offerings of daily worship service at last month’s 79th General Convention in Austin, Texas. Over $20,000 was raised in support of missions throughout the Episcopal Church. The ministries designated as recipients of the daily worship offerings include:

• Episcopal Migration Ministries
• Episcopal Relief & Development (a 501(c)3) non-for-profit from the Episcopal Church
• Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) of the Episcopal Church: Saint Augustine’s University located in Raleigh, NC and Voorhees College, located in Denmark, SC.

During each service, worshippers were invited to designate their gift for one of the above worship offerings as designated by the UTO, by visiting the Office of Development at www.episcopalchurch.org/development and make a gift online.

Women’s Ministry Moves “Boldly Forward”
Women’s Ministry of the Diocese of the Rio Grande recently revised their mission statement. It now states, “The mission of the Women of the Diocese of the Rio Grande is to connect and support all women in the Diocese in prayer and witness. We do this by offering opportunities to gather for studying, re-creating, and celebrating who we are as women of Faith, Hope and Love.”

This was very evident at the Boldly Forward weekend on August 17-18 held at the Bosque Center. The more than two dozen attendees explored how the lives of Mary Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Judith, Ruth, and Esther inspire our ministries in the 21st Century. We discussed how these women are in fact our strong, godly faith mothers with attributes like courage, loyalty, dedication, strength, and trust in God. The final hour of the event was spent visioning ways to follow the mentorship of these women by stepping out in faith in our diverse ministries in the diocese.

The lively discussion produced ideas ranging from a pilgrimage to Chaco Canyon during the meteor showers, to offering training events, and diving into some form of hands-on mission project Bishop Elect Michael Hunn spoke briefly to the women before the closing worship. He noted that women have been the driving force behind ministry throughout history, and stated he looks forward to working with the women of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

You can view the opening portions of the Saturday Eucharist, including the sermon by the Rev. Pat Green. She noted that the one thing all five of the Bible women have in common is that they were ordinary, just like we are. Find this at www.facebook.com/cindy.davis.3139/videos/102153698903829286/ Looking ahead, the Women’s Ministry is planning an Christmas parties in each of the deaneries this December. Women’s Ministry will be connecting to women about these events which will support a local outreach project in each area. Coming in 2019, we are planning a one-day Lenten retreat and a summer event. Mark your calendars now for the 79th Annual Bosque Center Weekend on November 17-18. As it becomes available, information about all these events will be on the Women’s Ministry website, www.varietiesofgifts.com.

If you have ideas for speakers, topics, and even locations that would be fun and inspirational for upcoming events, contact Cindy Davis, Coordinator of Women’s Ministries at cynthiaadhaviasouther@gmail.com.

Photos by Ann Bagby
News of the Northeast Deanery

Holy Faith, Santa Fe, Donna Lukacs

Holding the Memory, Beginning Again: Retreats for Those Who Grieve
Discover your resilience after losing a loved one through expressive arts and exercises in a private retreat setting. The healing journey challenges us as we cherish the gifts and memories of our lives, feel the dark emotions that can wash over us, and have to relearn our lives to begin anew. Even after death, our relationships continue and can bring us comfort. Grief can also be a time for personal growth and transformation, as all the great spiritual traditions have taught. Led by a team of facilitators who are experts in loss and will guide participants in developing resources for living a new full life.

Retreats are held Friday evenings from 5:00-8:30 and Saturdays from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The retreat dates are September 14-15 and December 7-8. All retreats and sessions are held in the Kinsolving Room at The Church of the Holy Faith. The charge is $30. For more information or to register, contact Molly Lott at 505-983-6424 or matl44@gmail.com.

St. Bede’s, Santa Fe, Rev. Catherine Volland

The Rev. Pedro Cuervas has resigned as Associate Rector of St. Bede’s in order to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Holy Family, Santa Fe, Camille Donoghue

Holy Family holds a knitting/crocheting group on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Join us in making squares for prayer shawls! Materials and snack provided, and instruction, if needed.

We will be holding a book group to discuss “The Book of Joy” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama on Wednesday, August 29 at 6:30 pm. You may bring your own snack. As always, NMAS autism family support group is held the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Scripture at Tribes will resume Sept. 6 at 6 pm. Bring your Bible.

Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos, Claire Singleton

The TOTH Vestry and Discernment Committee have been working through the Strategic Visioning process for our church and have formulated Core Values, Goals, and Next Steps in the areas of Worship, Community of Faith, and Outreach. This is an ongoing process that will significantly affect the way the Vestry makes decisions about our parish life and its activities.

One of the major fundraising events of the TOTH year is the Tea and Fashion Show, which raises funds for the House of Hope’s house-building mission work in Ciudad Juarez. This year’s event is scheduled for August 25 and promises to be an elegant, stylish, and tasty afternoon, as always. Clothing for the fashion show is selected from Shop on the Corner, TOTH’s thrift store, and most of the food is locally sourced and homemade. Proceeds will go towards the next retreats and sessions are held in the Kinsolving Room at The Church of the Holy Faith. The charge is $30. For more information or to register, contact Molly Lott at 505-983-6424 or matl44@gmail.com.

St. Jerome’s celebrates new Parish hall

The doors of the new Parish Hall at St. Jerome’s Episcopal Church, Chama, were opened to the community for a celebratory concert in August. The project of the church was designed to provide space for events and the use of the congregation.

Living in a Challenging and Chaotic World: The Drama of the Soul’s Choice with Dante as Guide.

This is the title of the annual Scheffler Lecture, presented by the Holy Faith Library, which will take place on Friday, September 28 at 3 p.m. in Palen Hall. The speaker will be the Very Rev. Alan Jones, the retired Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Dr. Jones is a prominent lecturer, educator, and a prolific writer, and as well as being an honorary Canon of Chartres Cathedral, he was awarded the OBE in 2002. Refreshments will precede the lecture.

The Church of the Holy Faith is located at 311 E. Palace Avenue in Santa Fe. For questions or information, please call Donna Lukacs in the Parish Office (505) 982-4447.

Holy Family, Santa Fe, Celebrates 25 years

Holy Family Episcopal Church, 10A Bisbee Court, Santa Fe, will be celebrating its 25th anniversary, October 13-14, 2018.

On Saturday, October 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, there will be a Grace Workshop, with reflections based on the book, The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning. One need not read the book ahead of time. The workshop will be led by the Rev. Corinne Hodges, who is a certified Level I and II yoga instructor. A few simple yoga moves will be incorporated into this workshop, proving that we can and do move with grace.

Bring a journal, if you so desire. For more information, call Holy Family at (505) 424.0095.
The Blessings of Light: Wells Cathedral Choir Tour, 2018

By Tanner Gay
Member of Cathedral of St. John

This choir tour was quite different from the past three St. John’s tours we have attended. Instead of two weeks, with a week in each venue, the choir had one nine-day stay at Wells Cathedral. This simpler, shorter tour enabled more young families to participate, and it worked. There were 11 singers under 18, the youngest 9, and since each one was accompanied by at least one parent, we had the largest group ever on a choir tour, exactly the right number to fit on the coach for the tours. It was a terrific and diverse group that got along very well.

As always, Director of Cathedral Music, Canon Maxine Thévenot did an excellent job of organizing the music for 6 Evensongs, one choral Eucharist, and canticles such as Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. The choir sounded wonderful at every service, and one Sunday Matins service of mostly music. Maxine Thévenot did an excellent job of organizing the choir rehearsal in the afternoon, and Evensong at 5:15. We all enjoyed guided tours of Wells Cathedral and the Bishop’s Palace, and coach trips to Bath, an elegant Roman city where, in the rain, we all saw the gorgeous Royal Crescent and then people visited Bath Abbey and/or the Roman Bath; Glastonbury Abbey, the monastery, with an amusing guide in costume who recruited our Choral Scholar, Lars Fabricius Olsen to play the role of a monk, that was once wealthy until it was looted by Henry VIII and his cronies. Glastonbury today is a highly romantic ruin that attracts people of many faiths. Cheddar Gorge, including a tasting tour of the only cheese maker still operating in Cheddar. Briania Enriquez and Annie Kennedy both bought little toy rubber cows, and Annie has posted on FaceBook many photos of “Moontilda” in this place and that; and, Bristol, where we walked across the famed Clifton Suspension Bridge and visited the historic ship, the SS Great Britain. The designer of both the bridge and the ship was Isambard Brunel. His ship, built in 1843, was the first propeller-driven, ocean-going iron ship, and it made many successful voyages, carrying passengers, livestock, and freight, until it was caught in a storm and left in the Falkland Islands in 1884. After that, it was used for storage for years, until 1937 when it was allowed to sink and be declared a permanently abandoned vessel. However, in 1970, funding was found to raise the ship and return it to Bristol to be restored. The SS Great Britain is now one of southwestern England’s top attractions.

Thursday was a so-called “dumb day” when the choir did not sing, so we had a full-day tour of the beautiful Cotswolds. We visited Cirencester, an ancient Roman town with a bit of Roman wall remaining, and two more luminous villages, Bibury and Burford. All the places we explored that week had interesting parish churches, and at least three of them were named for John the Baptist.

Wells Cathedral was, of course, the focal point continued on page 19.
The God of our Redeeming is the God of our Action

By The Rev. Dr. Paul Moore
Rio Grande Borderland Ministries

To Cain’s retort to God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” God responds that the blood of Abel cries out from the earth itself. If Cain is not Abel’s keeper, who is? The Beloved Community starts with our creation in the image of God.

Throughout the Old Testament tradition God reminds the Hebrew people that they are to take care of the orphan, widow and alien among them, for they were aliens in Egypt and God redeemed them from the land of slavery. Their memory of Egypt and God’s acts in the Exodus informs their ethic concerning the vulnerable in the land. The nature of the God they follow becomes the nature of their own beloved community—one predicated on liberation of the oppressed. The Beloved Community is built by living in this world as God lives with us. The God of their redeeming is the God of their action.

Jesus borrows from Isaiah 61 to describe his own ministry as one of healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, liberating captives and proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord. Exodus themes are expanded to include all who are oppressed. If this is what Jesus does for us, in Matthew 25 we are enjoined to care for the least of these, the vulnerable ones, for in doing so we care for him. The Beloved Community is lived in self-giving love, following the example of Jesus. The God of our redeeming is the God of our action.

St. Paul describes the Church as those who are called out of death into life. That life is expressed in the freedom of loving service, which is the only life consistent with the grace we have received. The writer of Hebrews reminds us to welcome the stranger, for in doing so we entertain angels. The Beloved Community is a life of freedom in love. The God of our redeeming is the God of our action.

Bonhoeffer, Thurman, King, Gutierrez, De Chardin, Brueggeman, the Roman Catholic Bishops in the Declaration of Medellin of 1968, Richard Rohr, the number of writers of our own age resound the same theme. All of God’s creation has been invited into the Beloved Community, and the duty of that community is to reflect the God of its creation. The God of our redeeming is the God of our action.

The Beloved Community is faithful to itself to the degree that it attends to the needy. The God of our redeeming is the God of our action. The tradición de las sagradas escrituras de recibir al forastero y extranjero como expresión de la Comunidad Amada es antigua. El Dios de nuestra redención es el Dios de nuestra acción.

The Via Media of Ricardo Hooker seeks a middle way that respects both extremes. The Beloved Community is everywhere, but we must have eyes to see and ears to hear. The God of our redeeming is the God of our action.

Richard Hooker’s Via Media sought to embrace opposite positions that saw themselves hostile to one another. The Caroline Divines’ quiet piety emphasized a humble approach to the other. Activists like F. D. Maurice built a socially sensitive Gospel and laid the foundation for later writers.

The Via Media of Ricardo Hooker buscaba una manera de extender una bienvenida a los que se miraban con antipatía. Los divinos carolinos, cuya piedad tranquila, enfatizaban un acercamiento humilde al agnóstico. Activistas como F. D. Maurice construyeron un evangelio sensible a la realidad social y establecieron fundamentos para otros escritores. La Comunidad Amada es fiel a sí mismo a medida de que atiende a los necesitados. El Dios de nuestra redención es el Dios de nuestra acción en Bonhoeffer, Thurman, King, Gutierrez, De Chardin, Brueggeman, la declaración de los obispos Católicos- Romanos en Medellin de 1968. Ricardo Rohr—cuantos escritores de nuestros tiempos resuenan el mismo tema. A toda la creación se la ha extendido la invitación a ser parte de la Comunidad Amada, y el deber de esa comunidad es reflejar el Dios de su creación. El Dios de nuestra redención es el Dios de nuestra acción.

Jesus presta palabras de Isaías 61 para describir su propio ministerio en sanar al enfermo, abrir los ojos del ciego, liberar a los cautivos y proclamar el año aceptable del Señor. Temas del Éxodo se expansan a incluir a todo oprimido. Si esto es lo que Jesús hace a favor de nosotros, en Mateo 25 nos mandará cuidar de los más pequeños, los más vulnerables, porque en cuidar de ellos cuidamos de él. Al Comunidad Amada se vive en amor sacrificándose, siguiendo el ejemplo de Jesús. El Dios de nuestra redención es el Dios de nuestra acción.

San Pablo describe a la iglesia en términos de lo que son llamados de la muerte a la vida. Esa vida se expresa en la libertad de servicio en amor, que es la única vida consistente con la gracia que hemos recibido. El escritor de hebreos nos recuerda que debemos recibir al extranjero porque así recibimos a ángeles. La Comunidad Amada es una vida en la libertad del amor. El Dios de nuestra redención es el Dios de nuestra acción.

La tradición de las sagradas escrituras de recibir al forastero y extranjero como expresión de la Comunidad Amada se anticipa en la obra de Agustino de Hipo. La Ciudad de Dios, y se ha tejido íntegramente en la tela de la tradición benedictina de dar la bienvenida al extranjero, sea quien sea, con lo que sea.

El Paso March

Bishop Michael Vona marches with an ecumenical gathering of clergy and laity through the streets of El Paso July 20 to protest the treatment of immigrant families along the border. The march and a day of teaching was organized by the Bishop of El Paso Mark J. Sietz. Many clergy and laity from the Diocese of the Rio Grande participated.

United families

In Silver City, about 100 people turned up for the March to keep immigrant families together on June 30th. Ten or so of them were from Good Shepherd Church, including the Rev.’s Sarah Guck and Paul Moore.
The Blessings of Light: Wells Cathedral Choir Tour, 2018

Continued from page 17

The Blessings of Light:
Wells Cathedral Choir Tour, 2018

of the choir’s week-in-residence for both choir and related persons. It is so beautiful and unusual that it’s hard to describe. In my old, treasured guidebook, here’s England, author Ruth McKenney wrote: “Wells is a union of the sensuous and the curious. As you approach the west façade, you are first stunned by its glory, and then fascinated to discover its history. It is the first twin-towered façade in England. As you will see by walking around it, the west front is a mask, concealing a narrow nave, an ingenious scheme to give the cathedral grandeur far beyond its modest interior size. There is no other nave like this. As you stand at the west doors, your eye travels first to the transept crossing, a great stone curving figure eight. You will discover that the three famous figure eights at the Wells crossing are ingenious engineering schemes. Not long after the cathedral was built, it was discovered that the grand central tower was in danger of falling down. An unknown 14th century builder came up with the idea of the inverted figure eight arches, now commonly called scissor arches, to prop up the tower. Though some had their doubts, the Dean thought it was worth a try, and so far the scissor arches have held up the central tower for more than 600 years.

The octagonal Chapter House is especially captivating. It’s up a flight of scary-looking, worn-through-the-ages stone stairs – thank heaven for a hand rail most of the way! The surround sound in the Chapter House is incredible, as we learned on a hand rail most of the way! There is no other nave like this. As you stand at the west doors, your eye travels first to the transept crossing, a great stone curving figure eight. You will discover that the three famous figure eights at the Wells crossing are ingenious engineering schemes. Not long after the cathedral was built, it was discovered that the grand central tower was in danger of falling down. An unknown 14th century builder came up with the idea of the inverted figure eight arches, now commonly called scissor arches, to prop up the tower. Though some had their doubts, the Dean thought it was worth a try, and so far the scissor arches have held up the central tower for more than 600 years.

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General Convention responds to Women

Melodie Woerman

[Episcopal News Service – Austin, Texas] The voices and stories of women played a significant role in the workings of the 79th General Convention, from a liturgy where bishops offered laments and confessions for the church’s role in sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, to Resolution D017 that allows deputies to bring infant children on the floor of the House of Deputies to feed them.

On the night of July 4, before the convention officially opened, a liturgy of Listening featured stories from women and men who were victims of sexual misconduct perpetrated by someone in the church. Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe of the Diocese of Central New York, who plans on using the service, said it was designed to help set a framework for General Convention’s consideration of resolutions dealing with sexual misconduct, exploitation and gender disparity. As part of a response to that liturgy, the House of Bishops on July 6 adopted a covenant that commits them to seek changes in their dioceses to combat abuse, harassment and exploitation.

The document, which applies only to bishops, is entitled “A Working Covenant for the Practice of Equity and Justice for All in The Episcopal Church.” Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves of the Diocese of El Camino Real said the covenant grew out of the Liturgy of Listening because it was clear that “there is no way we can do this and not see women.” She said, “Sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation are part of the system. This is about acknowledging and accepting that.”

Special House of Deputies committee offered resolutions

In February, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, appointed a 47-member special committee to draft proposed legislation on sexual harassment and exploitation. This followed a letter to the Episcopal Church in January from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Jennings, calling for the church to “examine its history and come to a fuller understanding of how it has handled or mishandled cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse through the years.”

The special committee, sometimes dubbed the “MelTelos Committee,” proposed more than two dozen resolutions on topics ranging from changes to the canons on clergy discipline to issues of clergy compensation and pension equity for lay employees. Other resolutions touching on issues of gendered language and clergy employment were proposed by deputies from outside the committee.

The convention adopted many of the proposals. Changes to Title IV canons on clergy discipline:
• D033 eliminates the statute of limitations for victims of clergy sexual misconduct for three years between Jan. 1, 2019 and Dec. 31, 2021.
• D074 amends the start of the process for filing charges.
• D117 protects people who file charges against a member of the clergy from retaliation and allows confidential filings for those who fear retaliation.
• Several resolutions dealt with changes to structures inside the church.
• D017 creates a Task Force on Women, Truth and Reconciliation to help the church “engage in truth-telling, confession, and reconciliation regarding gender-based discrimination, harassment and violence against women and girls.”
• D032 removes from the materials that clergy file with the Office of Transition Ministry any reference to gender or current compensation, since statistics show women in the church are paid less than men of comparable experience.
• D105 creates a task force to track resolutions from this convention that relate to challenges of women in ministry and to report findings twice a year to the Executive Council.

D025 creates a task force on clergy formation and continuing education, especially regarding preparation for ordination.
• D026 adds family status, including pregnancy or child care plans, to the list of things for which no one in the church can be denied rights, status or access to an equal place in the life, worship, governance or employment of the church.
• D037 directs the Church Pension Group to expand its Clergy Compensation Report to include more specific items relating to gender.
• D045 affirms that pension plans for clergy and lay employees need to be more equitable and calls on the Church Pension Group to study how to make that happen.
• D046 continues reauthorizing the expansive-language rites in the Enriching Our Worship series and calls on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to create principles to use in developing additional resources in that series.
• D051 encourages the use of inclusive and expansive language for God and humanity, offering examples of how to do that based on the stylebook of the Society of Biblical Literature.

Addressing the needs of women in society:
• A173 calls for a halt to inhumane and unjust immigration policies that are harmful to migrant women, parents and children.
• D017 calls for policies that reduce sexual harassment, assault and exploitation in the workplace.
• D031 encourages clergy and congregations to educate themselves on resources to combat and deal with domestic violence.
• D038 advocates for equal access to qualify health care regardless of gender.

‘Way of Love’ – Living Into the Jesus Movement

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry spent much of his first three years as head of the Episcopal Church talking about Episcopalians being part of the Jesus movement. He has called them to follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving communion with God, with God’s creation and with each other. “Pretty early on, people started saying, ‘How do we do that?’” said the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, the presiding bishop’s canon for evangelism, rectoral, and creation care. “So, the presiding bishop really took that to heart.”

Curry provided an answer last month by launching a “rule of life” framework dubbed The Way of Love, featuring seven practices for Jesus-centered living. The church-wide response to the initiative has been overwhelmingly positive, Spellers said, and efforts to promote The Way of Love have just begun. “You want to be people of the Jesus movement? You want to follow Jesus and to live his way? Well, his way is the way of love,” Spellers said. “And if we as a whole church commit to living a set of spiritual practices with conviction and in community, we can do more and more as Jesus’ people in this world.”

Curry first spoke of The Way of Love in his sermon for the opening Eucharist of the 78th General Convention in Austin, Texas. Since then, Spellers and her staff have produced more than 100,000 wallet cards for the initiative and posted additional print-ready materials to The Way of Love website.

Those materials have begun showing up in church bulletins across the church, and Episcopal partners, including Church Publishing, Forward Movement and Forma, are developing and releasing their own Way of Love resources for congregations. Some bishops, meanwhile, have issued personalized messages to their dioceses inviting them to follow The Way of Love practices.

Those practices, hardly revolutionary, should be familiar to most Christians.
• TURN Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus. 
• LEARN Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus’ life and teachings. 
• PRAY Dwell intentionally with God each day. 
• WORSHIP Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God. 
• EAT Share food selflessly give and serve. 
• GO Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus. 
• REST Receive the gift of God’s grace, peace, and restoration.

Curry’s staff, and a group of outside advisers known as the “Way of Love Cabinet” began working on the framework in December. “We realized that we already have what we need in the tradition of the church going back centuries,” Curry said in his July 5 sermon, citing monastic traditions that have long been a part of the Jesus movement.

The presiding bishop also drew a comparison to the set of practices followed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the civil rights movement to focus their efforts. The Jesus movement, then, is built on the practices of The Way of Love, and Curry’s initiative aims to refocus Episcopalians on what it means to be a Christian in today’s world. “I know and I believe that we in this church can help Christianity to reclaim its soul and re-center its life in the way of love, the way of the cross, which is the way of Jesus,” he said.

Spellers called this “an invitation to come home again. If you look at what it takes to really grow, spiritually vital Christian community, it’s not rocket science, but it does take commitment.” Spellers thinks The Way of Love has been an early success because church members are hungry for spiritual formation and eager as Jesus’ followers to work for justice. Church leaders also emphasize this isn’t a solitary journey. The shared commitment to The Way of Love echoes Episcopalians’ commitment to their baptismal covenant, a way of saying “yes” to God, to church, and “it’s what we do,” Spellers said.

Spellers’ team plans to begin a major push on social media soon in support of The Way of Love, while encouraging local congregations to share their experiences, using the hashtag #WayOfLove. The team also is developing Way of Love liturgical materials that will be ready in time for Advent in December. Wallet cards and brochures explaining “The Way of Love” will go online today from the website and printed for distribution locally, and Spanish-language resources are being prepared. Congregations also are encouraged to experiment in how they incorporate The Way of Love into their parish life, part of an “open-source” approach to developing the initiative.
Wrapping Up 79th General Convention: Following the Way of Jesus

Responding to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s call to “Follow the Way of Jesus,” deputies and bishops at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, July 5–13 in Austin, Texas, acted on a record number of resolutions on key issues such as immigration, prison book revision, Israel-Palestine, and re-reading the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese. The Convention also passed a $134 million budget that reflects for a further three years the priority of evangelism. Members of the House of Deputies overwhelmingly approved a heavily amended version of the resolution, and the House’s actions of the U.S. government in its enforcement of immigration policies continue to draw a crowd of more than 2,500 people who listened to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s rousing sermon about how God is love and gives life. In his opening sermon on July 5, Curry challenged every Episcopalian to embrace the Way of Love. Practices for a Jesus-centered life, as a way to help the church enter into a new era of spiritual growth.

Convention agreed in passing Resolution B012 to give all Episcopalians the ability to be married by their priests in their home churches. This resolution had gone from the House of Deputies to the bishops and back to the deputies on its road to approval. Deputies overwhelmingly approved a heavily amended version of the resolution, and the House of Bishops added a technical amendment that does not change the goal of giving full access to two trial-use marriage rites for same-sex and opposite-sex couples approved by the 2015 meeting of General Convention, via Resolution A054. Resolution B012 provides for:

- Giving rectors or clergy in charge of a congregation the ability to provide access to the trial use of the marriage rites for same-sex and opposite-sex couples. Resolution A054-2015 and the original version of B012 said that clergy could only use the rites under the direction of their bishop.

- Requiring that, if a bishop holds a theological position that does not embrace marriage for same-sex couples, he or she may invite another bishop, if necessary, to provide pastoral support to any couple desiring to use the rites, as well as to the clergy member and congregation involved. In any case, an outside bishop must be asked to take requests for remarriage if either member of the couple is divorced to fulfill a canonical requirement that applies to opposite-sex couples.

- Continuing trial use of the rites until the completion of the next comprehensive revision of the Book of Common Prayer. Convention adopted a plan for liturgical and prayer book revision that sets the stage for the creation of new liturgical texts to respond to the needs of Episcopalians across the church while continuing to use the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Resolution A068 originally called for the start of a process that would lead to a fully revised prayer book in 2030. The bishops instead adopted a plan for liturgical and prayer book revision for the future of God’s mission through the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. The bishops’ amended resolution calls for bishops to engage with worshiping communities in their dioceses in experimentation and creation of alternative liturgical texts that they will submit to a new Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision to be appointed by the presiding bishop and the president of the House of Deputies.

It also says that liturgical revision will utilize inclusive and expansive language and imagery for humanity and divinity, and will promote understanding, appreciation and care of God’s creation. Meanwhile, General Convention also adopted a resolution that allows all congregations in the Episcopal Church to use optional, expansive-language versions of three Rite II Eucharistic prayers in the 1979 BCP. Resolution D078 provides alternative language for Prayer A, Prayer B and Prayer D. The changes are available for trial use until the completion of the next comprehensive revision of the BCP.

The voices and stories of women played a significant role in the workings of the 79th General Convention, from a liturgy where bishops offered laments and confession for the church’s role in sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse to Resolution D087 that allows deputies to bring infant children on the floor of the House of Deputies to feed them.

If there was one issue that defied any expectation of controversy at the 79th General Convention, it was immigration. Bishops and deputies arrived last week on the heels of a national uproar over the Trump administration’s zero tolerance policy toward immigration, particularly the decision to separate children from parents in detention. And despite the administration’s reversal on family separations, immigration policies continued to be a hot-button issue, including here in the border state that hosted the Convention passed three resolutions on immigration issues. Resolution C033 puts the church on record as respecting the dignity of immigrants and outlines how public policy should reflect that belief. A178 takes a forceful stand against family separations and treatment of immigrant parents and children, and C009, titled “Becoming a Sanctuary Church,” encourages Episcopalians and congregations to reach out to and support immigrants facing deportation, including providing physical sanctuary if they choose. One of the defining moments of this General Convention was the prayer vigil held outside the T. Don Hutto Residential Center, an immigrant detention facility near Austin. A massive gathering of more than a thousand Episcopalians prayed for and sang in support of immigrant parents and children who had been separated.

General Convention wrapped up its consideration of resolutions relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with mixed results due largely to the unwillingness of the House of Bishops to take many of the bolder steps urged by the House of Deputies. Of the 15 resolutions committed on Israeli-Palestine at the beginning of Convention, only six passed both houses. The successful resolutions touch on the plight of Palestinian children, the status of Jerusalem, the disproportionate use of lethal force on both sides, and ways the Episcopal Church can press for peace through its investment decisions. Bishops and deputies, even those arguing for a tougher stance against the conditions of Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories, took pains to affirm Israel’s right to exist and to defend itself, citing longstanding church policy toward the region. And while the bishops rejected the most controversial resolution, D019, saying it amounted to a dangerous divestment from Israel, they did join the deputies in passing Resolution B016, which echoes D019 in its use of the phrase “human rights investment screen.” Unlike D019 however, Resolution B016 includes no timeline for action by Executive Council or any reference to church complicity in the occupation, though it ultimately could result in the church pulling money out of companies that do business there.

Convention voted to admit, or readmit, the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese by passing Resolution A238. The Diocese of Cuba is set to join Province II, which includes dioceses from New York and New Jersey, Haiti and the Virgin Islands.

Convention agreed to a plan to pay the president of the House of Deputies for the work of the office. Resolution B01 passed with no dollar figure attached but agreed to pay the House of Deputies president director’s and officer’s fees “for specific services rendered in order to fulfill duties required by the church’s Constitution and Canons.”
For Me General Convention Was:
The Very Rev. Canon Carole McGowan, Co-Chair & Clergy Deputy

EXHILARATING — Only at General Convention have I seen so many Episcopalians in the same space. At the daily Eucharist the House of Deputies (HoD) or the House of Bishops (HoB) or Episcopal Church Women Triennial (EWT) volunteers (200 or so) exhibitors and guests, came together to hear inspired preaching and to participate in moving worship.

EXHAUSTING, BUT WORTH IT — Legislative Committee meetings started at 7:00 or 7:30 am. Their task was to perfect the more than 400 resolutions that were submitted before Convention came together to consider them. In addition to “wordsmithing” the resolutions, the Com—mitteemen held public hearings where those concerned could provide information and insight.

During our deputation’s lunch break, we reported on the work of our respective commit-teens and on the issues we were tracking. There was no way that any one of us could follow every piece of legislation, so we divided the task.

It was just as well that we had one another to rely on. Usually the plenary sessions ended by early evening, to allow time for the worship following, but one evening a session was scheduled with a 9:30 pm end time. It was an especially long day.

FILLED WITH UNEXPECTED MOMENTS OF GRACE — I confess that there were moments, as we crafted legislation in Committee, that my eyes started to cross. Was all of this effort worth it?

At the Rev. John Henry Newman’s memorial service, whom I knew he was in seminary, and who is the priest on the North Dakota side of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, brought home the implications of what we were doing. After John gave his straightforward and thoughtful witness, the question to ask was why we were proposing the resolution we had worked on.

The Navajoland Area Mission invited our deputation to pray with them five minutes be—fore the start of each plenary session. The Blessing Way prayer, in Navajo, proved to be deeply centering as we dove into the unpredictable legislative waters.

Sometimes our deputation voted on the matters before us in exactly the same way. And sometimes we definitely didn’t. The grace was that our disagreements were respectful. They seemed meaningful — a reflection of a healthy deputation from a healthy diocese in a healthy wider Episcopal Church.

As first clergy alternate, I was given the opportunity to sit in on the House of Bishops as they deliberated the resolutions before them. I was heartened to hear the loving and thoughtful way the bishops came to consensus when they could and the grace when they couldn’t come to a single mind.

The floor of the house of deputies was a learning experience to say the least. President Jennings juggled the movements of resolutions with the professionalism that comes with time and prayer. Discussions and debate on the floor were full of the passion one would expect when discussing matters of justice. It was good to see the grace of Christ in action.

I sat in several committee meetings and saw where the nuts and bolts of the crafting of resolutions happened. It was enlightening watching the give and take as different viewpoints were offered and heard. The congress of the US senate, which we could learn a thing or two in how to work together for the greater good.

Finally I would say that the Holy Spirit was moving throughout the convention, guiding and directing our Church. May she continue to move towards the cross of Christ.

To attend, I would then check the items on the consent calendar — any three deputies can request that an item on the consent calendar be withdrawn and scheduled for debate on the floor — as well as the items on the legislative calendar coming to the floor of the HoB. Preparation involved reading the current draft of the resolution and supporting materials, including a review, if applicable, of Blue Book reports.

The range of topics coming to Convention is vast: from resolutions on immigration to the Prayer Book and supporting minority rights, from the Book of Common Prayer and resolutions concerning marriage for same—gendered couples. It was gratifying to work with both deputies and bishops who held strong opinions, yet were able to reach mutual agreement on issues at hand and to do so with respect and consideration for one another.

Other outstanding moments include being present with over 1000 deputies and bishops at a prayer service for women detainees at the Hutto Detention Center, and their overwhelming response of thanksgiving for our work — a commission of the La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba to The Episcopal Church, after having been separated by the HoB in 1966, and sharing with our entire deputation grace—filled times of respectful discussion. The Convention was offered to one another during grueling days of work, and the learning that we offer our gifts and then let go and allow the greater body to discern what is best for the whole church. Thank you for providing me this incredible opportunity to serve our beloved church.

A Few Thoughts from a First—time Deputy
The Rev. Daniel Cove, Clergy Deputy, First Alternate

First let me express how honored I felt to be elected to attend and represent our Diocese this year. In joining with the other members of the delegation, we participated in the sharing and forming of the Episcopal Church for the next triennial and beyond. If given the chance, I will attend the 80th GC and further the work begun this year.

I was amazed at the diversity of attendees from across the larger Church. One truly gets an idea of just how far the Episcopal Church reaches around the globe. There were visitors from just about every continent. I lost count of the different languages spoken during the reading of the lessons at the services. It shows that the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement is taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

There is Nothing Quite Like General Convention
Dr. Gay Drenegast, Co-Chair & Lay Deputy

When I reflect on it, the two words that come to mind immediately are exhaustion and exhilaration. Exhilaration because The Episcopal Church comes together in the two houses, the House of Deputies (HoD) being the senior house founded in 1785, four years prior to the founding of the House of Bishops (HoB), in order to debate and deliberate on matters of importance in the life of the church. Exhaustion because that accomplish that work, most days start by 6:00 am and rarely finish before 11:00 pm, leaving little time to do such mundane things as answer emails, eat or sleep. Fortunately, the exhilaration helps overcome the exhaustion. And we were blessed by adequate hot water in the hotel and the absence of fire alarms ringing regularly in the middle of the night.

When I finally returned to my room each evening, I would review the legislative committee hearings scheduled for the following day and plan the next day accordingly, prioritizing the hearings I wished to attend. I would then check the items on the consent calendar — any three deputies can request that an item on the consent calendar be withdrawn and scheduled for debate on the floor — as well as the items on the legislative calendar coming to the floor of the HoB. Preparation involved reading the current draft of the resolution and supporting materials, including a review, if applicable, of Blue Book reports.

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General Convention 2018 — An Observer’s Point of View
Dr. Vic Rizzo, Lay Deputy, First Alternate

As a past Treasurer for the Diocese, I’m a “numbers” guy. Here are a few numbers that might be of interest.

First, General Convention, like Congress, is divided into two chambers — senators and bishops and the House of Deputies. The HoB consists of roughly 200 bishops, the HoD has roughly 420 clergy and 420 lay deputies or a total of 600+ clergy votes and 420 lay votes. In contrast, the U.S. Congress has 100 Senators and 435 Representatives.

The 1000+ voting members of Convention represent 111 dioceses. All floor actions are offered in English and Spanish. Translations are available in French, Chinese, Creole French, and other indigenous languages and dialects.

The Convention costs around $14 million dollars. This includes Convention facilities, audio equipment, chairs, and everything needed for the event. Our Diocese allocates $45,000 to support the Diocesan delegation consisting of eight deputies and two alternates.

Much of the work of the Convention is done in committees — there are more than 20 committees comprised of 30 or more members. Committees address issues ranging from modification of the Prayer Book and supporting minority rights to the Palestine—Israel conflict, funding world missions, investment policies to thwart gun violence, environmental stewardship, and more.

Committees are reviewed before consideration by the Convention. In all, over 500 resolutions were addressed. Each deputy receives an iPad containing over 1200 pages of information supporting these resolutions. The Convention also adopted a 2019—2021 budget of $138+ million dollars with several unfunded items.

Folks in the pew might not see how they benefit from this investment of money and energy, but at least, they have a voice in their Church — something that many other faith traditions don’t have.
Together

For this sort of thing. I guess I am!

the updates throughout the convention and know that the 79th BCP is enshrined and that our traditional ances
tal the start as we begin the long process of revision, all can now
mination, Title IV continues to be refined and due process protections are strengthened for clergy and

Every convention has its star issues and this one was no different. As always, the budget for the next the next three years involved our prayerful discernment. We made clear the real priorities of the church by the decisions we made regarding funding. I’m sure you followed the updates throughout the convention and know that the 79th BCP is enshrined and that our traditional ancestors are honored as we begin the long process of revision, all can now

Also I found this to be a very prayerful event, respectful and all views were heard with a prayerful and collegial atmosphere is the prayerful and collegial atmosphere of our beloved Church to the concept of shared governance. A process which empowers all orders: laypeople, deacons, priests and bishops, to be involved at all levels of governance of the Church. Our coming together and debate openly is cause for celebration.

as the Diocese of the Rio Grande and to have served and remained open for those who have complaints and our Cuban sisters and brothers once again are a full members of our church. One of the things that stands out most to me is the prayerful and collegial atmosphere at this convention. We Debates were vigorous and respectful and all views were heard with a full appreciation of the positions of those of contrary mind and a respect for the diversity of our church. Worship reflected a variety of styles, some of which I would like to experience again, and some I am not so eager to revisit. Also I found this to be a very prayerful event, whether it was praying with our bishops to end gun violence before this longest legislative session each day, or praying with our sisters and brothers from Navajoland in Navajo, before our floor sessions. I felt constantly drawn to prayer and a focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit as we went about the business at hand. Of course our Chaplain Leonard McKenzie provided innovative and spirited prayers to keep us spiritually on track.

As I settled into my hotel room for the ten-day stay, I told myself that there was much important work ahead and I gathered my strength for that work. I was not wrong - there was a lot to do. It was a very busy ten days. We opened the week with a special liturgy designed to focus the whole church on a need for healing and reconciliation. This was led by Presiding Bishop Curry and included moving music, letters from women and men who had been sexually assaulted by members of their own parishes or by clergy in the Episcopal Church, and Bishop Curry led us in prayers for healing and reconciliation. Then, in his opening sermon on July 5, Curry challenged all Episcopalians to embrace the “Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life” as a way to help the church enter into a new era of spiritual growth. We all received cards with these practices to help us employ them during our time at convention and in our daily lives. They are:

1. Turn: Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus.
2. Learn: Reflect daily on scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus.
3. Pray: Spend time with God in prayer every day.
4. Worship: Gather in community for worship every week.
5. Bless: Share one’s faith and find ways to serve other people.
6. Go: Move beyond one’s comfort to witness to the love of God with words and actions.

such attention to detail on such a grand scale as this. I had the privilege of working along side some of the most competent, passionate, and spiritually-minded people that made up our DRG Deputation.

I would say that our diocese was well-represented, diverse, and united in our actions. One outstanding thing about what we bring to such a large table known as The Episcopal Church. Our passion and love for Christ’s Church along with our individual skill sets allowed us to track and take part in every conversation that impacts the mission of the Church and its ability to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ - to be the face of Jesus Christ to the world.

as I personally tracked legislation in committee and in both houses, I was deeply moved by the thoughtful conversations, the sincere listening, and the shared commitment to discerning God’s will. At times the listening was louder than the words spoken. All in all, this experience has moved me, inspired me, to be more committed to using my voice in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. You definitely have to be wired for this sort of thing (I guess I am!).
This is a joyful and exciting time for the Diocese as we celebrate a new ministry in our diocese. Questions or concerns about Ordination may be directed to The Rev. Canon Jean Campbell, jccampbell1990@gmail.com or the Venerable Patricia Soukup, psoukup@dioxide.org.

For more information check www.drbishoptransition.org.