LENT 2019
A time for planting, pruning and preparation

As we have been settling into our new home, a priority for us Hunns is to get our garden planned. Winter is a great time to plant new trees in the garden. You plant trees in winter because they arrive in their dormant condition, happily sleeping and waiting for spring so any time in transit doesn’t stress them out. Meg and I spent a winter evening sitting on the couch and looking through the online catalog, choosing trees that would pollinate each other and bring us a variety of fruit.

We ordered bare root fruit trees from an online nursery because bare root trees tend to acclimate to your soil more quickly, we understand. So after ordering we got to work in the garden diggin the holes where the trees would go. And then we waited and waited for the trees to arrive. When the day finally came the trees were bundled together in a long rectangular box. They say you’re supposed unwrap those trees immediately and make sure to keep the roots damp until you’re ready to plant. Then you soak the roots overnight to get them ready for planting. Meg hauled out our wheelbarrow, filled it with water and laid the trees in, roots submerged. The next day we put them in the ground one by one, gently welcoming them to their new home.

When you plant a new tree they say you’re supposed to prune it to about thirty inches above the ground, which seems a cruel thing to do. Our trees were already so tiny, like sticks really with roots on the end. Still, we took a deep breath, and snipped here and there like we were told to do. The idea is that when spring comes and the trees awake from dormancy, if there aren’t too many branches, the tree can grow four times as many roots while getting acclimated and puts its energy into growing roots. An appropriately pruned fruit tree can grow four times as many roots while getting acclimated and comfortable in its new soil.

Canon Raney to Retire
The Rev. Canon Raymond Raney will be retiring this spring as Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of the Rio Grande. In announcing the retirement, the Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn, Bishop Diocesan, wrote: “The job of Canon to the Ordinary is not an easy one, but for the past three years Canon Raney stepped in and has served our beloved Diocese. His service is characterized by grace, humor and integrity."

“Shortly after my election, he graciously agreed to help guide me through this transition even though we all knew that his 72nd birthday and mandatory retirement from this position was inevitable. I have not known Raymold long but I am deeply impressed and often surprised by the breadth of his creativity and talent. Almost weekly there is evidence of some new skill or expertise that he was hiding under the proverbial bushel basket.”

Canon Raney was appointed the Canon to the Ordinary by Bishop Michael Veno in 2018 following the election of the Rev. Canon Daniel Gutierrez as Bishop of Pennsylvania. As Canon he guided congregations in transitions to new ministries, oversaw the operations of the diocesan staff, as well as the Bosque Center and Bishop’s Ridge. Prior to his appointment as Canon to the Ordinary he served for nine years as rector of Church of the Holy Cross in Edgewood.

Canon Raney will remain in the position during the transition period.

Which get me thinking about Lent.

Lent is the season of our church year that is about pruning. We prune back those parts of our lives that have gotten overgrown — those ways we’re living which are not contributing to fruitfulness. Unlike new years resolutions, which are focused on self-improvement, the point of Lenten pruning is to grow our relationship with God.

Like bare root fruit trees we are fragile things. And many of us focus our energy on growing in ways that are visible from the outside. We want to live fruitful lives and so we focus on growing in ways that look fruitful. Like a tree putting out lots of tiny apples – “see look how fruitful I am!” We get involved in lots of things. We serve in our churches and communities. We drive the kids all over town. And all that busyness sure can be impressive. And it sure can be fruitful. But it can also wear us out, leaving us exhausted at the end of the day, as we collapse in front of one screen or another just needing a break! We can work so hard and be so busy trying to be fruitful that we forget that our true strength and resilience come not from the fruitfulness everyone can see but from the deep roots of our spiritual lives.

Lent is the time to get out our pruning shears, take a good solid look at our lives. Perhaps we need to cut back on some things. Perhaps we need to take on a spiritual practice designed to grow our spiritual roots. Whatever we do, it’s about growing our relationship with God by spending more time focused on God!

This Lent I’d like to invite you to read a book with me. You are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of a Habit is a book by James K. A. Smith about how what we love makes us who we are. Dr. Smith reminds us that being human means we love, and what we love we worship, but he also tells us that “we might not love what we think” Much of our time can be devoted to loves which we’re only half conscious of.

This Lent I’m going to be thinking about my life what I love, what I worship, and how I might deepen my relationship with God. You can read along with me by listening to the podcast we’re rolling out called “Simply Christian Life” which is available wherever you get your podcasts. You will find details on diocessary.org! We’ll see if this podcast is a good way for us to talk about God together. I’m asking for your feedback. What do you like about the podcast? What would you like to change? As your bishop I’m looking for ways for us to keep in touch and talk about God together. I’m hoping the Simply Christian Life podcast will help us do that, so let me know what you think!

Wishing you a Holy and root-growing Lent!

Bishop’s Schedule

Ash Wednesday Cathedral Church of St. John, ABQ Saturday, March 9 Consecration and Ordination, Diocese of Arizona March 11 - 15 House of Bishops Saturday, March 23 Budget Road Show, El Paso Sunday, March 24 St. Christopher’s, El Paso March 29 - 30 Lenten Retreat, Camp Stoney Wednesday, April 3 Diocesan Council Saturday, April 6 Budget Roadshow, TBA, ABQ Saturday, April 6 St. Mark’s, Tucumcari Sunday, April 7 Trinity, Portales Wednesday, April 10 Standing Committee/ Trustees of the Property Sunday, April 14 Palm Sunday, Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe Tuesday, April 16 Mass of Mass of Collegiality, St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces Wednesday, April 17 St. James’ Mesilla Park Thursday, April 18 St. Luke’s, La Union Friday, April 19 St. Paul’s, Marfa Friday, April 19 St. Stephen’s, Fort Stockton Sunday, April 21 Easter, Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso

Simple Christian Life podcast will help us do that, so let me know what you think!
There is no Place for Sexual Harassment in the DRG

In recent years the #MeToo movement has focused all of our attention on the pain sexual harassment, in all of its forms, has inflicted on women and some men, and also on the aspects of our culture which tolerate and many times are deaf and blind to the incidents and victims.

As your bishop I want to make it clear that sexual harassment in all forms will not be tolerated in this Diocese, and I am personally committed to making sure that our diocesan culture is one which respects the dignity of every human being. This includes equal pay for equal work. This means making sure that Diocesan House, all of our churches, and every gathering in this Diocese are safe places in which every person is treated with respect and there is no hint of sexual violence.

Below is a letter written by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President Gay Jennings, which, among other things announces that the statute of limitations has been lifted for the next three years, allowing cases of sexual misconduct by clergy against adult members of the church to proceed no matter how long ago the incidents took place. There is no statute of limitations on reporting sexual misconduct by clergy against children and youth under 21 years of age.

Letter to the Episcopal Church from the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies

Suspension of the Statue of Limitations for Clergy Sexual Misconduct Reports Extended to General Convention 2021

Dear People of God in the Episcopal Church:

Nearly a year ago, we issued a call for the church to examine its history and came to a fuller understanding of how we have handled or mishandled cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse through the years. In particular, we asked to hear voices from the wider church at General Convention so that deputies and bishops might consider how to atone for the church’s past and how to shape a more just future. As followers of Jesus of Nazareth, as children of God with all people, we could do no less, and we must do more.

In July, General Convention considered 26 resolutions and one memorial addressing issues which the #MeToo movement has brought to light, many of them developed by the House of Deputies Special Committee on Sexual Harassment and Exploitation. One of these resolutions, D034, suspends for three years the canon (church law) that places a time limit on initiating proceedings in cases of clergy sexual misconduct against adults. There is no time limit on reporting clergy sexual misconduct against children and youth under age 21.

As a result of this resolution, from January 1, 2019 until December 31, 2021, those who wish to bring a case of sexual misconduct against a bishop to the church can proceed no matter how long ago the incidents took place. There is no statute of limitations on reporting sexual misconduct by clergy against children and youth under 21 years of age.

Since the publication of the letter, the Diocese has been assembling a response mechanism and this is the first issue of Together in which we could publish our plan. Those wishing to report misconduct by members of the clergy should know that the church is obligated to respond appropriately to every report of misconduct, “by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected” (Title IV, §11)

Reports can be made to any one of the Intake Officers listed below.

Faithfully,
The Rt. Rev. Michael HunnBishop of the Rio Grande
bishophunn@diosercog.org

Intake Officers
Mr. Kip Purcell
The Very Rev. Michael Perko
Ms. Martha Francis

Reports may be made by emailing Clergymisconduct@dioceserg.org

The Rev’d Canon Kathryn “Kaf” Ryan was elected on the first ballot as Bishop Suffragan for the western region of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas on February 28.

The Rev’d Canon Kathryn “Kaf” Ryan has spent a good part of her ministry in Texas, in parishes in both Dallas and Austin, and since 2014 as the Canon to the Ordinary in Bishop Andy Doyle’s office in Houston.

Canon Ryan is mostly certainly a child of the Rio Grande as well. Born in Raton, New Mexico, she and her family moved to Albuquerque where they were members at St. Mark’s on the Mesa. Canon Ryan was confirmed from that parish in 1976. She was a counselor at Camp Stoney throughout the 80’s and in 1986 was the Director, along with her husband Tim. Stoney alumni throughout the Episcopal Church and beyond have been blessed by the witness and ministry of Canon Ryan.

We pray that the Lord will continue to use her gifts for the building up of His kingdom and we couldn’t be more pleased with the newest Bishop Suffragan of our church! Canon Ryan will be seated and consecrated as Bishop Suffragan on June 1 in Austin, Texas.
Deanery members tour Teen Coop

Northwest Deanery members toured the Taos Teen Coop following the first quarterly meeting were Jo Moore, Lynn Finnegan, Cathy Walters, and Karen Humphrey, from Trinity on the Hill, Los Alamos. They were hosted by Marilyn Farrow of St. James, and Condy Dominguez, Taos student and part of the Coop. This project received funding this year from the Poverty and Outreach Board.

My little friend Elly is 6. She is what an older generation would call, “a pistol”! She has energy for miles, and she talks a mile a minute. She has lots to say, and she really likes to sew. She didn’t know that until recently. Her sisters were in a sewing class, and she wanted to learn too. But was told she was too young to be in that class. When I heard this I thought of when I was her age. I learned to sew on my mother’s lap at the age of 4. As far as I was concerned, Elly was old enough. She had the yearning, and I had the learning! I was asked to help with this sewing class that Elly’s older sisters were participating in, and I said I would help on one condition, that Elly got to learn too. So my mom and I both went to the class, and helped the big girls, and we took turns helping Elly. That little girl lit up like Christmas at her new-found talent. The blanket look on her sister’s faces told it all. They were there trying not to look too enthusiastic about what they were doing, and watching for the reactions of the other participants, and Elly was loud and proud. I like loud and proud. If you do something you love to do, and you do it well, why not be proud? And Elly couldn’t wait to share what she had made with others. The rest of the class was working on stuffed animals. Elly, being a small beginner, needed to be able to do something she could complete quickly and have a use for. So we made a little dolly blanket and taught her how to hand-embroider her letter E on it. She did it in one lesson, she didn’t lose interest, and now she wants to do more!

This is how we all learn. We learn best on the things that we have a personal interest in. And if you don’t strike while the interest is hot, you might never learn it later. Elly wasn’t jealous of her sisters, that wasn’t what was driving her. She was fascinated with the idea of her hands being able to sew something. It looked grown up to her. She wants people to know she is valuable, not just someone who needs babysitting. I know that feeling. I want people to know my value too. I try to share my talents with charities and with others who want to learn what I know. And I’m always looking up new things on the internet to keep my interests varied and growing. That is one thing the internet is good for: sharing your talents and teaching others. I’ve learned new talents that have helped me refine other talents that I have. You are never too young to learn, and never too old. It’s true you need a safe learning environment, and that’s what I’m trying to give to Elly. I would never expect her to go out on her own to learn something that uses sharp things like needles and scissors. We make a lesson on the safe use of these necessary items in sewing.

What is great about Elly, is how she shares. The moment she finished her dolly blanket, she wanted to tell everyone what she did. And then she was generous in saying, “If I can do it, you can too!” She is very encouraging. We all need to be encouraging, and less competitive in interacting with others. In the sewing class I saw several different personalities at work. One was a girl keeping to herself, and only getting feedback from the teacher. One was competing with another for getting her job done first, best, and prettiest. A couple kids were complimenting each other on how cute the other person’s project looked. I liked that! Elly’s project wasn’t like the rest of the class, and the kids that impressed me the most were the ones that complimented Elly’s work. They made her feel like she was part of the class, like one of the big girls. wanted and valuable. That’s what I like to see. That’s how I help with the lessons. I tell the kids what I like about their good work, and help them with their rough work. Criticism in sewing class only needs to be focused on the attitude of the student, not their work. And we tell them if you love what you are doing, it shows in your work. If you hate it, that shows too, and you would probably be better off doing something else.

The atmosphere of the classroom can have such an impact on a student. If it is a tense atmosphere, the student isn’t going to learn much. But in an atmosphere of encouragement, the students bloom. That’s what church is like too. When you feel warm, and in an environment of encouragement, you grow. When the environment doesn’t make you feel like you have value, you are probably better off finding a better environment for you. Elly was looking for someone to teach her what she wanted to know. That is like the search we have for God. We are looking for someone who can teach us what we want to know about Him. We can learn about it for ourselves from reading the bible. But it takes a teacher to show us the practical application for what we read in the bible. That is what we search for in a church.

Elly wants to share her new talent with her baby sister. So this week, she is making her baby sister a dolly blanket. I bet Elly becomes the dolly blanket queen. Elly is so much like me. She wants someone to share with. She wants her talents to benefit others, and I like that! I love to teach other kids to sew, but I really love teaching Elly, because I know she is going to do the very same thing – teach others.

I am going to challenge you to find someone that wants to learn your talents, and teach them. Little kids may have to have some special consideration given, but find what is appropriate for them and keep their spark lit. The world is full of child prodigies, you may be one of them, or you may be able to teach one. God gave you a talent at something and it’s your job to share it. That’s one way of showing God how thankful you are for the talent. He gave you, and for showing thankfulness to the person who taught you how to use your talent.
Women's Ministry is walking President Bishop Curry’s Way of Love in 2019. We will discover various ways of living into the disciplines of Pray, Worship, Rest, Bless, Turn, Go, and Learn.

Pilgrimage, the annual Lent retreat, includes an optional, mini-pilgrimage to Santuario de Chimayo on Friday, March 29. On Saturday, Bishop Michael and the Rev. Meg Hunn will lead talks and discussions. There will be opportunity for quiet reflection and the chance to explore personal labyrinth making with Meredith Gould (www.meditativemosaics.com).

Blessed to be a Blessing are one-day events for women planned this summer across the diocese. We will ponder the influence of our faith fore-mothers and how our own actions encourage one another, in and outside our church walls. Watch for information about locations, dates, and times in the Loop and on the Women's Ministry website (www.VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com).

Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent Available in Spanish
The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving and death, then we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, faith communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life.

Adult Forum: This set of seven Adult Forums, suitable to diverse settings, ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven disciplines of Pray, Worship, Rest, Bless, Turn, Go, and Learn. The forums draw participants to reflect on salvation history, living as a Christian disciple, known as the catechumenate, and the influence of our faith fore-mothers and how our own actions lead talks and discussions. There will be opportunity for quiet reflection and the chance to explore personal labyrinth making with Meredith Gould (www.meditativemosaics.com).

The Way of Love in Lent
We are baptized into his life, self-giving and death; then we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, faith communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life.

Welcome Lent
An afternoon & evening to empty and be filled, an ecumenical gathering for healing and wholeness… An afternoon & evening to empty and be filled, an ecumenical gathering for healing and wholeness…

Sponsored by: Ecumenical Institute for Ministry
Saturday, March 9 from 3 - 8:30 pm
Covenant Presbyterian, 9315 Candelaria Rd NE, ABQ

Three prayerful options, a simple meal, and Taize worship

Option #1: Contemplation
Silence is a rare experience in our busy lives. Lent offers us a time to return to the desert experience of self-emptying. In this workshop we will explore the life giving practice of surrendering our lives to the loving Presence and Action of God that brings us back to Center. It is in this Heart place that we are present to ourselves and others.

Option #2 - Yoga
We’ll explore yoga as a deeply contemplative framework and inner environment for the Jesusen Lover invites—the self-emptying dying to self that serves a fuller participation in the Paschal mystery and resurrection life. Bring a mat or blanket and be ready to engage your body and breath as a way of letting go into the deep, solid, healing Ground of Life.

Option #3: A Journal for Lent
This workshop aims at creating a guide for your Lenten journey. We will work in five different genres (free writing, critical review, poetry, visual expression, and text associations) preparing you to follow these paths through each week of Lent. Empty your busy mind and remain open to God using this 5-path process. The Journal you design will lift you up. Materials will be provided, bring a pen!

Three prayerful options, a simple meal, and Taize worship

Come alone or with a friend. Deepen your praying: stretch and calm your body; design a journal to guide you through Lent. There will be two sessions as a whole community; three workshop options: a simple meal and a Taize Service of Wholeness to conclude.

Register at EIMNM.net under Current Courses Cost: $20 before 03/01; $25 at door
Episcopal Church in Navajoland Awarded Major Grant for Restoration of Historic Church

The Episcopal Church in Navajoland has been awarded a grant of $262,500 from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations for the restoration of the historic John Gaw Meem Chapel at Good Shepherd Mission in Fort Defiance, Arizona. The grant will enable The Episcopal Church in Navajoland to make essential renovations to the Chapel, including an updated heating and cooling system, electrical work, and restoration of the exterior masonry.

The Meem Chapel was built in 1954 by renowned architect John Gaw Meem, considered the father of the Pueblo Revival or “Santa Fe” style. It is a gem of Southwestern ecclesiastical architecture and a spiritual home to hundreds of Episcopalians in the area, the majority of whom are Navajo. It is also the largest and most frequently visited Episcopal Church in Navajoland, drawing thousands of visitors each year. The Rev. Davis Given, a relative of Mr. Arthur Vining Davis, the founder of ALCDA, was the priest at Good Shepherd Mission from 1949 until 1983.

“arthur vining davis foundations have long supported good shepherd mission and the early work of the reverend mr. davis given in support of the people of navajoland,” said mr. j.h. daw davis, chairman of the board of the foundations. “in making the recent grant to the episcopal church of navajoland for the restoration of the chapel at good shepherd mission, the foundations are honored to meet an immediate need for the parish, invest in the long-term health of the mission, and honor the legacy of the reverend davis given.”

The Rt. Rev. David Bailey, bishop of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland added, “the restored building will provide an inspirational and safe space for members of the community to come together and worship for many years to come. we are grateful to be able to honor the legacy of arthur vining davis and his prior support for the navajo people through this partnership with the foundations.”

Peace Fellowship Travels to Big Bend

This week the Holy Spirit moved us from lovely San Angelo westward to Fort Stockton, Alpine and Marfa, Texas. I had the opportunity to share what EPF can do to support parishes and peace ministry.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be the Season of Nonviolence. It’s not a liturgical season that we recognize in the Episcopal Church, but it seems worthy of mention here. I hope it’s a season we can adopt for purposeful action in the coming years through EPF.

What did I manage to learn at St. Paul’s is that this progressive community is interested in and committed to finding ways to show hospitality, kindness and life-giving support to those struggling to find safe harbor in our country. In fact, St. Paul’s vicar, Rev. Mike Wallens, has already participated in the Border Ministries Summit, comprised of representatives from all the Episcopal Dioceses which border Mexico, held in El Paso last November, and has frequent opportunities to minister to both immigrants and law enforcement. In addition to trying to connect St. Paul’s with resources to empower them to advocate for compassionate immigration policies and to offer hospitality, I hope that I can secure a way for EPF to participate in the 2019 Border Ministries Summit, which will happen in Tucson, AZ later this November. I am grateful to St. Paul’s for their warm welcome and generous hearts.

Partners in Welcome

Episcopal Migration Ministries, an affiliate of the Office of Immigration and Refugee Resettlement ministry of The Episcopal Church, is proud to announce an innovative new program called Partners in Welcome (PiW). Through this program, Episcopal Migration Ministries is building a mission-driven community rooted in loving God and our shared value to love our neighbor. This network is open to all organizations and individuals dedicated to welcoming newcomers, educating communities, and developing advocates.

“Partners in Welcome is a community where we – individuals, groups, churches, communities – gather to learn from one another, support one another, and inspire new people to become part of the refugee and immigrant welcoming movement,” said Allison Duvall, manager for church relations and engagement. “Through a creative online gathering space featuring a resource library, shared programming, and connected community, Partners in Welcome members will gain knowledge in core areas of their ministry and grow as allies and advocates in the work of welcome.”

The PiW online portal will officially launch on February 28, offering network members the opportunity to access resources, exchange ideas, and connect with others involved in refugee and immigrant welcome. The PiW program is made possible by a generous grant from the United Thank Offering.

“Partners in Welcome is exactly the sort of innovative program UTO is excited to support and bears witness to our ongoing commitment to Episcopal Migration Ministries’ important work with refugees. UTO is a mission of the whole Episcopal Church and Partners in Welcome will be an asset for the whole Church as we all strive to do our best to love and welcome all people,” said Sherri Dietrich, UTO Board President.

Visit http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/partnersinwelcome to learn more about the PiW program and to apply for membership. For more information on the program, contact Allison Duvall at aduvall@episcopalchurch.org.

Since the 1980s, Episcopal Migration Ministries has resettled over 36,000 refugees through a network of 13 partner offices to welcome refugees and assist with housing, employment training, language services, medical services, and more.

Bishop Announces Co-Chairs of Borderland Ministries

The Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Michael Wallens and the Rev. Susan Hutchins as co-chairs of the Rio Grande Borderland Ministries board. Rev. Wallens is vicar of St. Paul’s in Marfa, Texas, and Rev. Hutchins is vicar of St. Luke’s in Deming, and both have been serving on the Borderland board, and Rev. Hutchins was one of the founders of the diocesan ministry.

These two priests follow in the well-worn path of the predecessor as chair, the Rev. Paul Moore, who recently resigned as rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver City, to answer a call to ministry in the Diocese of West Texas. Additionally, members of the RBGM board are working with Bishop Hunn to respond to the humanitarian crisis along the border.

The Borderland Ministries of the Diocese ministers to the needs of person on both sides of the 800-mile border with Mexico within the Diocese. Additionally, members of the RBGM board are working with Bishop Hunn to respond to the humanitarian crisis along the border.
Absalom Jones Day: Fund Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities

I write today to invite you to join me in remembrance and celebration of Absalom Jones and to consider dedicating an offering at your church or making a donation to support the Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Funds collected through this offering will be divided equally between two HBCUs that were founded by the Episcopal Church: Saint Augustine’s University (SAU) in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina.

You will find instructions for this offering, including bulletin inserts and additional resources on the website that we have established for year-round giving to our two HBCUs founded by the Episcopal Church: www.episcopalchurch.org/development/HBCU. To give directly today, visit: www.episcopalchurch.org/give-absalom-jones-fund-episcopalhbcus.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Cecilia Malm in the Office of Development at cmalm@episcopalchurch.org.

In 1804, Absalom Jones became the first African-American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. The observance of his feast day in February is an appropriate occasion to support these two colleges of the Episcopal Church. Much of his witness to the way of Jesus included efforts to abolish slavery and to lift up all those cast down. In particular, he understood that education is a key to emancipation. He himself, while a slave, learned to read. This education enabled him to secure his and his wife’s freedom.

Education was and is a key to emancipation, then and now!

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

Sacred Ground: New Dialogue Series from The Episcopal Church Exploring Race and Faith

Sacred Ground is a film-and-reading-based dialogue series on race and faith. Participants will walk together through America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in the threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. It’s an invitation for small groups to gather to learn, share, and prepare to become Beloved Community.

Built around a curriculum of powerful documentary films, videos, and readings, this 10-part series considers some of the major chapters of the United States of America’s history of race and racism. It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to challenges and divides in the present day — all with a deep foundation in faith and love.

“Sacred Ground is a time and opportunity to hear the story of our past with regard to race, to hear our stories of our pasts,” said The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. “By listening to those stories and hearing them, and then telling our own stories together, and then looking possibly at the stories of our very faith, somehow, from the travel and the reality of all of those stories may emerge hope for a new day.”

Created by Katrina Browne, producer and director of the documentary Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North, this small group resource is part of Becoming Beloved Community. The Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. Sacred Ground is especially targeted to help white people talk with each other about racism past and present, their own racial identity, and the interwoven issues of class, region, and ideology.

“I’m excited to share some powerful, thought-provoking films and readings with groups eager to take next steps on this collective journey,” said Browne. “I’m convinced that dialogue, especially among white people, can be a key, healthy step on the road to transformation.”

The Dioceses of Fond du Lac, Iowa, Rhode Island, Southern Ohio, and Southwestern Virginia, as well as The Episcopal Church in Mississippi, are among those that have already expressed interest in sharing the word about Sacred Ground and encouraging congregations to form dialogue circles. More information is available at https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground.
The narrative budget categories refer to the line items on the 2019 budget. The Bosque Center and Bishop’s Ridge 2019 budget is also available on the DRG website. www.dieocesang.org/
ForCongregations/Clergy/budget-process
To view the budget “roadshow” presentations, go to Bishop Michael Hunn on Facebook.

Bishop Taking the Budget on the Road

In the coming weeks the Bishop, members of Council and our Treasury Committee will be hosting a series of meetings to answer those questions and gather your ideas and feedback about our Diocesan budget priorities for 2020 and beyond. The “roadshow” Budget Presentations will be part presentation and part conversation, so please come prepared to ask questions and offer reflections. Each will be available in real time via Facebook – live – Bishop Michael Hunn – Home | Facebook with an expectation that the conversation will evolve with each presentation. Below you will find the current schedule for these events:

- **Saturday, February 23** 2:00 pm St. Andrew’s, Roswell
- **Thursday, February 28** 6:00 pm St. Bede’s, Santa Fe
- **Saturday, March 23** 1:00 pm St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso
- **Saturday, April 6** 10:00 am TBA, ABQ
- **Saturday, May 4** 10:00 am St. John’s, Alamogordo

### Our Resources:

One of the greatest sayings in the Gospels is found in Luke 12:34. Jesus says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The context is one in which Jesus teaches his disciples that God supplies their needs. As a result, they do not need to worry, but rather live life in generosity that gives to those to who need. The people of the Diocese of the Rio Grande are living into this spirit of generosity. According to the data available from the Episcopal Church national office derived from the St. Bede’s recent construction and a series of Parochial Reports prepared by parishes and missions within the Diocese, the DRG ranks 33rd of the 99 domestic dioceses in the average pledge of its members. However, in the ranking for the total amount pledged, the DRG ranks 52nd. Though this may seem to foster a feeling of scarcity, our true vocation comes from the DRG’s mission: to assist the churches and mission endeavors in the Diocese to accomplish the Great Commission. As a family, we are committed to fulfilling the ministry of the Church through a variety of activities and programs. These include: central administration, education, outreach, and a variety of other missional diocesan activities. Not having extensive endowments, the Diocese depends heavily on Fair Share Contributions to support its programs.

### Bishop’s Appeal

Currently the Bishop’s Appeal asks congregants to contribute funds, over and above their usual pledge, to fund outreach work in the diocese.

### Rental Income:

81% of projected income in 2019 will come from Fair Share Contributions that exemplify the Diocesan family. As a family, we are committed to fulfilling the ministry of the Church through a variety of activities and programs. These include: central administration, education, outreach, and a variety of other missional diocesan activities. Not having extensive endowments, the Diocese depends heavily on Fair Share Contributions to support its programs.

### Bishop’s Appeal

Bishop’s Appeal: $20,000 [3]

Customarily the Bishop’s Appeal asks congregants to contribute funds, over and above their usual pledge, to fund outreach work in the diocese.

### Rental Income:

Rental Income: $12,000 [6]
The former church of St. Mary’s in Loving is being rented, and also is on the market for sale. This rental income will cease upon sale of the property with proceeds from the sale being deposited into the operational budget.

### Endowment Funds:

Endowment Funds: $50,000 (4-5)
The Endowment Fund is up to a portion of the investments held by the diocese managed through Morgan Stanley. The Endowment Fund was established in 2000 to support the Episcopal Church, the Bishop and the Bishop’s staff. Income from the fund must be reinvested and use of the funds is governed by the Investment Board of Directors. The Endowment Fund is limited to four percent of the year-end value over a three-year rolling average. The draw for 2019 will be $50,000.

### Wellspring:

Wellspring: $55,044 [28, 26]
The Wellspring Fund was established by Bishop Terence Kelshaw in the 1990s to provide funds for new ministries in the Diocese. The fund provides support for the operational budget of the diocese for mission and ministry. For 2019 the Wellspring contribution to the budget was just over $36,000. The draw from the Wellspring Fund is currently limited to five percent of the year-end value of the fund.

### Settlement Reserve:

Settlement Reserve: $132,000 [17]
The Settlement Fund was established through the sale of the St. Clement’s property to the congregation in 2007. The $2 million sale price was to provide relief from the loss of the Fair Share Contributions by St. Clement’s for ten years. The life of the fund was extended to two years for planning for an additional two years, and it will be exhausted in 2019.

### Advance Contribution:

Advance Contribution: $15,000 [27]
The Advance Fund was established to provide support for new construction among the congregations of the Diocese. The Advance Fund holds mortgages for nine congregations (Diocesan total: $2,291,267, which are being repaid at a rate of just over $200,000 a year. Of those, eight hold mortgages totaling $1,501,638, which is being repaid at $46,073 a year. In addition, the Hope in the Desert had a mortgage of $1,789,629 forgiven by the Advance Fund. The mortgage has been paid down and the house is negotiating a refinancing in the reduced balance. The Advance Fund is temporarily bearing the interest on a $500,000 line of credit with Morgan Stanley for St. Bede’s recent construction.

### Transfer from Savings

Transfer from Savings (Deferred Expenses): None [9-16]

### Our Expenses:

- The Diocese of the Rio Grande is engaged in a variety of programs to support the local congregations, and has a large number of groups and organizations ministering in the Diocese.
- The DRG conducts several programs throughout the year to support local congregations’ officers, Treasurers, Vestry members, Parish Administrators and clerical staff, Christian Educational staff and representatives to larger organizations such as the Episcopal Relief and Development, Jubilee Ministry and other Social Concerns.

### Clergy and Rising Clergy Support:

Clergy and Rising Clergy Support: $141,500 (64-74) [142-146]

We tend to demand much from our clergy and thus are obligated to provide them with the necessary educational, spiritual and emotional support they so deserve. In this budget category is also the education and formation of those rising to the ranks of the clergy in the Bishop’s School for Ministry in partnership with the growing Iona Collaborative. Persons for whom the time and monetary demands of traditional seminary education would otherwise prevent them from ordained ministry are now being given the opportunity to have comparable educational and pastoral training opportunities here in the Diocese. So, for our clergy who are in transition to a new cure need financial assistance to make those moves with their families, and money is set aside for their transition.

### Support Groups:

Support Groups: $9,350 [75-81]

A large number of groups and organizations minister throughout the Diocese and across the nation in financial support in this area, such as the Brotherhood of St. Andrew’s, Recovery and Support Groups:

- **Support Groups**: $9,350 [75-81]
- **Clergy and Rising Clergy Support**: $141,500 (64-74) [142-146]

### Diocesan Programs:

Diocesan Programs: $6,900 [82-89]

The DRG conducts several programs throughout the year to support local congregations’ officers, Treasurers, Vestry members, Parish Administrators and clerical staff, Christian Educational staff and representatives to larger organizations such as the Episcopal Relief and Development, Jubilee Ministry and other Social Concerns.

### What We Value: Investing in Building Christ’s Body

- **Ministries in the Diocese**: The fund provides support for local inter-congregational community development, and coordination in mission incentives in their respective areas of the DRG. The Poverty and Outreach Board seeks to assist ministries across the diocese and along its boundaries to supply food, clothing and shelter to disadvantaged individuals and families and to provide services to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Awards are made to food pantries, school clothing programs, community dinner programs, homeless shelters and other programs designed to address the areas of priority set by the Board.

### Diocesan Convention:

Diocesan Convention: $6,100 [55-58]

An essential characteristic of The Episcopal Church is the participatory nature of its governance, including lay and clergy, to set missional goals and approve budgets for the coming year. The hope is negotiated a robust means of gathering representatives from all our congregations spread across our super-sized diocese to worship together learn from each other’s experiences and discover a path forward, and to adopt a robust means of gathering representatives from all our congregations spread across our super-sized diocese to worship together, learn from each other’s experiences and discover a path forward.

### Canonical Bodies and Services:

Canonical Bodies and Services: $49,500 [59-65]

### The Budget Process

The 2019 budget vs actuals and the approved 2019 budget are available on the diocesan website, www.dieocesang.org. The narrative budget categories refer to the line items on the 2019 budget.
Dear Members of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church,

On behalf of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, its Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, I ask for a waiver allowing the Diocese of the Rio Grande to delay our Fair Share of the Ministries of the Episcopal Church (DIROS) from 2018 to 2019. As a waiving diocese, the Diocese of the Rio Grande and its clergy will make a partial contribution to the Ministries of the Episcopal Church in 2018. The DRG values our membership in various bodies of the larger church and the benefits that we receive from our participation in the larger church. Each year we are incrementally increasing our contribution to The Episcopal Church's Diocesan Program. The DRG participates in The General Convention of the Episcopal Church every three years, in the Church's periodic Province VII meetings and programs, and in joint efforts ecumenically with other church bodies in New Mexico and beyond. Note that, unfortunately, the Texas Council of Churches has suspended its operations, hence it has no funds designated for this coming year.

We are a strong and diverse Diocese, and we feel blessed to be part of The Episcopal Church. We believe that nearly twenty congregations in the DRG receive financial assistance for their local operations and ministries, enabling them to do their work in ways that otherwise would not be able to do. Some congregations also receive subsidies for their property expenses such as insurance. The aided mission program requires congregations to draw up a five-year plan to provide for diminishing support. The majority of the aided congregations are missions. However, there are aided parishes that receive mission funding. They are: St. Francis, Rio Rancho; St. Christopher's, El Paso; and Holy Spirit, El Paso.

Communications: $86,500 [ISO-160]

Integrally to grow the Body is communication among the members of our diocese. Given the long distances between our mission stations, personal travel with its time and monetary costs would be prohibitive without the leveraging of contemporary media platforms that reduce the number of in-person meetings. An increasing number of gatherings are being conducted via media networks. This ability to have virtual meetings requires an investment in infrastructure. The Good News that is headquartered in Arlington is distributed by the DRG without the DRG being a subscriber among all diocesan members through electronic and print media, which also serves as an outreach for those not usually participating in our church’s life. Included in this category are the copying, the convention journal, pastoral, travel, staff travel and the formal communications through Together. In the Loop and the Website.

SUPPORTING OUR WORK TO RAISE UP THE BODY – MISSION IN THE WORLD:

Growing Church and Lifting up the Body: $80,950 [120-130]

The DRG has a number of initiatives that minister to those living beyond the walls of our church buildings: Native American Mission, Borderland Ministries, Hispanic Mission, Mission to the Displaced. Several clergy receive partial stipendary assistance through these funds that enable them to work expansively in their unique ministerial situations.

Youth, Young Adult, Camp Stoney: $45,200 [131-139]

These funds support the work among our younger members and reach out to those attending educational campuses, oftentimes at critical points in their lives, that benefit from the support and ministry of the Church. The Camp Stoney Summer Program and Bishop Ridge Summer Program are partially funded with these monies.

Supporting Our Work in the Larger Church: $48,300 [195-202]

The DRG values our membership in various bodies of the larger church. Each year we are incrementally increasing our contribution to The Episcopal Church’s “asking” of each diocese as we strive to meet the 25% Asking. The DRG participates in The General Convention of the Episcopal Church every three years, in the Church’s periodic Province VII meetings and programs, and in joint efforts ecumenically with other church bodies in New Mexico and beyond. Note that, unfortunately, the Texas Council of Churches has suspended its operations, hence it has no funds designated for this coming year.

CLARITY IN OUR LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE:

Personnel: $473,336 [163-170]

All organizations require the employment of persons with skill sets that meet the needs of the organization. The DRG is blessed to have a number of individuals who provide administrative support for the Office of the Bishop and the congregations of the Diocese, resources for the Clergy and Lay, and who interface with the wider church and communities within the Diocese. This category includes compensation for the administrative portion of the work the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary perform.

Dioecesan House: $65,000 [147-149]

The Bishop’s House provides a facility for Diocesan House – the Bishop’s and his staff offices. Currently the Diocese pays “rent” to The Bosque Center for housing the Diocesan House. The eventual goal is for The Bosque Center to be in such a robust state that this cost will be reduced to zero.

Administrative Costs: $82,500 [71-181]

This category includes office equipment maintenance, leases and supplies, staff continuing education, IT maintenance contract which is integral to providing the necessary communications methods, insurance, the Bishop’s auto reimbursement, audit fees, and other diocesan program and activities.

Supporting Our Work Tomorrow – Deferred Expenditures: $54,000 [195-206]

There are occasions requiring financial outlays that do not occur each year. This category represents setting aside monies for these future expenses, such as the 2021 General Convention Deputation, the 2020 Lambeth Conference, Information System upgrade, Bishop’s Sabbatical, and Building Maintenance Reserve.

The DRG waiver request below has been received and we are in conversation with the Assessment Review Committee. Below, we offer a proposal for a way forward, which we believe to be realistic, given the financial hardships. As you will see in the below, we face three immediate financial challenges:

1. In the year 2020, we face a 10% loss of diocesan income because the settlement fund created by the sale of St. Clement’s, El Paso, Texas, will be depleted in 2019. We must adjust our budget to compensate for this loss of revenue.

2. We are currently paying 6% of the required 15% of our Fair Share of the Ministries of the Episcopal Church.

3. We are a diocesan funded almost entirely by the Fair Share contributed by our congregations and most of those congregations are small and many are struggling. Those congregations need greater support. We must adapt our diocesan budget to provide more congruential development support.

We acknowledge that we are asking the other Dioceses of The Episcopal Church to help pay our way, and we are most grateful for the help and support of the wider church as we continue to recover from the decades of financial difficulty.

We are deeply committed to the life and ministry of the Episcopal Church, and intend to increase each year our Fair Share contribution until we have reached that goal of full financial participation in The Episcopal Church.

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we are asking for the support of the Episcopal Church as we seek to heal wounds from the past, rebuild trust for the future and learn how to become the strong diocese which this part of God’s world needs.

Faithfully,

The Right Reverend Michael C. Buerkel Hunn
Bishop, The Diocese of the Rio Grande

Aided Congregations: $180,488 [90-121]

As membership declines in many smaller churches, some congregations are less able to support full-time clergy, turning to part-time and bi-vocational priests. Nearly twenty congregations in the DRG receive financial assistance for their local operations and ministries, enabling them to do their work in ways that otherwise would not be able to do. Some congregations also receive subsidies for their property expenses such as insurance. The aided mission program requires congregations to draw up a five-year plan to provide for diminishing support. The majority of the aided congregations are missions. However, there are aided parishes that receive mission funding. They are: St. Francis, Rio Rancho; St. Christopher’s, El Paso; and Holy Spirit, El Paso.

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Treasurer Committee Organized

Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn is in the process of reorganizing the budgetary processes in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. One of the innovations approved by Diocesan Council and endorsed by the Standing Committee is the concept of the Treasurer Subcommittee. In addition to the Bishop, the members of the Treasurer Subcommittee are: Mr. John Perner, Diocesan Treasurer, Hope in the Desert, Dr. Vic Rizzo, Church of the Holy Cross, Edgewood, Dr. John Fortunato, St. Alban’s, El Paso; Ms. Nyea Haines, St. James, Las Cruces; Mr. Chuck Booth, St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces, the Rev. J.P. Arrasoa, St. Michael and All Angels, Albuquerque, Dr. Morag Smith, Holy Family, Santa Fe, the Rev. Suzanne Brockmeier, St. James, Clovis, and Mr. Tim Kruse, Church of the Ascension, Cloudcroft.

The members were assigned to subcommittees designated for Budget Development, Congregational Audits, Poverty and Outreach Board, Assistance for Administrators and Treasurers, Deanery Interface, and Investment Board Liaison.
Reflections for Legislative Representatives and Faith Leaders at the Bishop’s New Mexico Legislative Luncheon, February 6, 2019

by The Rt. Rev. Jim Gonia, Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA

Dear friends from the faith communities of New Mexico, respected legislators, staff members and all who serve the people of this wonderful state: it’s my pleasure to be with you again this year on behalf of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry here in New Mexico. Thank you for taking the time to be with us, and thank you for your work on behalf of all the people of New Mexico. Your service is deeply appreciated.

Usually when I’m preparing to address you, I’m asking myself the day before, “What should I talk about? What might make a difference to these gathered folks?” Not so this year. I’ve actually known what I want to share with you since November 17 at about 10 am as I sat in St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. I was attending the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry New Mexico Advocacy Conference, and Ruth Hoffman has just introduced Pastor Amy Reumann, the Director for Advocacy for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Reumann was reflecting on why Lutherans in particular have faith advocacy in our DNA, something I addressed at this luncheon last year. She quoted Martin Luther’s call to speak boldly, publicly, and honestly to seek the common good.

She quoted Luther’s writing on the Magnificat, dating to 1521, where he reminded both the faithful and those called to govern that the role of government is to see that the needs of all citizens are met, and when the government is failing in that duty, it’s the proper role of the church to call the government to account as part of our calling to seek our neighbor’s well-being. She recalled our own baptismal liturgy, a liturgy shared with many other churches, that calls upon us, as people held in the promises of God, to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

And then she said something that really stuck home. Not just for those of us who happen to be in the Lutheran part of the Body of Christ but for all of us in the Christian faith community. “Advocacy is an undeveloped muscle in the Christian life – a life in which we are called to be Christ to our neighbor.” Advocacy is an undeveloped muscle in the Christian life. I suspect Christians are not unique here. advocacy is likely an undeveloped muscle for most people of faith; regardless of their particular religious tradition. There is a reluctance for us as people of faith to step into the arena of advocacy, for lots of reasons. And yet once we do, it proves transformational.

Our theme for the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod this year is Be Transformed. And when I was sitting at St Paul’s back on November 17, I began to wonder about the relationship between advocacy and transformation: What happens when this underutilized muscle gets exercised? What really changes? What is the actual impact of our advocacy ministry? Does it actually have an impact?

I recalled at that moment what Ruth herself has often said about advocacy – it’s redwood farming. You have to expect to be at it a long time to see the fruits of your labors! It’s a slow-burn transformation. And yet, what I came to realize in that moment is that the external transformation of our world into a more just society is only one of the transformational aspects of advocacy. Perhaps the more important transformation is what advocacy does to us as people of faith when we engage in speaking up on behalf of our neighbors for the good of all God’s beloved people.

Turns out that the transformational power of advocacy isn’t found in the outcome alone, it’s also found within the process itself, in what happens to us as we engage. In that sense, advocacy is indeed a faith practice, a muscle we need to exercise for the sake of our own growth as people of faith.

I want to offer to you eight different ways that we are transformed when advocacy becomes a regularly exercised part of our lives of faith. These are all interrelated and in no particular order, but I hope you’ll begin to see the pattern.

1. In a culture of individualism, advocacy transforms us as people of faith from isolation to interconnectedness. As individuals and as communities of faith, we tend to operate in isolation. Oh, we may see the world out there and even understanding some of the critical problems being faced. But when it is so easy to say, “not my issue” we can then dismiss our inherent connectivity to the struggles being faced by our neighbors. Advocacy moves us from a place of “not my issue” to a place where we recognize that my well-being and my neighbor’s well-being cannot be understood apart from one another. We are inherently interconnected.

2. In a culture that promotes the understanding that everyone is responsible for their own life situation, advocacy transforms us from single problem diagnosticians to systems analysts. As people of faith we often still buy into the notion that someone’s difficulties are a product of their own making, that if they just made different choices they would have a different outcome. As we engage in advocacy, we begin to recognize the complex systems at work that keep certain of our neighbors locked into a prison of poverty or...
argonization or oppression having nothing to do with their individual choices. And that’s where we begin to ask about the systems at work, and our own role in them.

3. Advocacy transforms our posture as people of faith from one of blame to one of shared responsibility. Once we begin to recognize the impact of our own actions and historical patterns at work in creating injustice in our midst, we can’t simply point a finger and blame others; rather, we begin to recognize our own culpability and the systemic dynamics perpetuating the very systems that oppress our neighbors. And that creates a certain humility within us that hopefully tempers our tendency towards self-righteousness, thinking that the issues are simple and the answers easy. We know we’re getting closer to being truly transformed when our advocacy forces us to confront the question: What am I willing to give up that my neighbors are willing to give up?

4. Advocacy transforms us as people of faith from charity distributors to participants in God’s unfolding justice. I want to be clear that there’s a time and place for charity. When my neighbor is cold, I don’t begin with a discussion about the systemic issues that have led to them being cold. I do whatever is in my power to be sure my neighbor is warm. But if I stop at charity, as many individuals and communities of faith tend to do. I miss the larger picture and the opportunity to see my role in God’s unfolding work of justice and reconciliation in this world. My church likes to talk about “God’s Work, Our Hands” – and it’s true. But God’s work does not end at simple charity, it is the work of justice, of reconciling all things, of assuring life and life abundant for all creation.

5. Another transformational impact of advocacy is to move us from a place of individual impotence to collective impact. Look around you today and you see what I mean. Seeking change in our world for the well-being of all God’s people is a daunting task, and when we feel like we are the only ones working for a better world, it can feel hopeless. But advocacy is inherently relational and invites us into a larger community of possibility. There is power in knowing that I have a role to play and yet it doesn’t depend only on me. We are better together, and spending time in advocacy with one another brings that truth to light.

6. Because advocacy is inherently relational, it has the power to transform us from people who seek to do FOR others to people who walk WITH others. If we wish to speak on behalf of neighbors who are struggling, we never actually meet those neighbors, or listen to their stories and support them in speaking their own truth, we have missed the point of the whole endeavor. Anything we might have to say about the needs of my neighbor only becomes credible when I have been transformed by my journey with that neighbor.

7. Advocacy transforms us as people of faith by challenging our own dualistic thinking and teaching us to love our opponents. I credit Richard Rohr with equipping me with the language of dualistic thinking – this inherent tendency we have a dualistic thing in our minds into this/that, right/wrong, with me/against me, good/bad. The Divine Mind does not operate that way, but recognizes the paradox that each of us are at one sinner and saint, filled with both ignorance and insight, inherently connected to one another despite whatever differences might divide us. When we engage in advocacy, we are in relationship not only with those whose struggles we seek to represent, but with those who have diametrically opposing views of the situation or the solution. And we are called to love them, too – to see them in fullness of their identity as fellow children of God, and to engage in our debate and arguments without demonizing those with whom I disagree. Mind you, I didn’t say transformation was easy or painless!

8. Finally, advocacy transforms us as people of faith by inviting us to actually trust the God who calls us into this ministry in the first place. When we look at the long arc of history we see many times when the impact of those seeking God’s justice was only realized in the next generation. The outcome of our work is not in our hands and yet our participation in what God is seeking creates outcomes we can never imagine. I can’t help but think of Ruth when I think of this call to God. I are being transformed by our engagement in this ministry in the first place. When I look at the long arc of history we see many times when the impact of those seeking God’s justice was only realized in the next generation.

I close with these words from the Apostle Paul in Romans Chapter 12: “Do not conform to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

As you and I work for the sort of world that God desires for all creation, do not doubt that you and I are being transformed by our engagement in this faith-practice of advocacy, renewed in our own minds – and hearts and being – as God’s will for what is good and acceptable and perfect is done in and through us. To that we can say, “Thanks be to God.”

Thank you!
News from the Southwest Deanery

Human Trafficking Seminar March 16

Save the date! All are invited to a Human Trafficking Seminar; Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 9:00–3:00 at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, La Union. Keynote speaker will be Fr. Brian McVey along with others. More information will be shared via In the Loop. Contact Fr. Daniel Cave at revcave@gmail.com or Dr. Roy Benavides at rbenavides@gmail.com.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Christmas Eve was high holy night with Acyltes, Thurifer and Deacons Aileen Walther and Laurie Benavides process amidst the Congregation at St. John’s, Alamogordo. (Photo by Nancy Gregory)

Altar Guild Commissioned at Alamogordo

The Altar Guild for 2019 at St. John’s, Alamogordo, was commissioned on the Feast of the Epiphany. They are (from left) Bill Hensch, Kathie Hensch, Pam Lee, Matthew Grinberg, Jane Bedwell, Rick Bedwell, missing from the gathering was Louise Elliott (Photo by Ann Bagby)

Bishop Hunn Surprises Fr. Scott

On December 30, Bishop Hunn helped St. Andrew’s in Las Cruces and their Rector, the Rev. Canon Scott Ruthven, celebrate the 30th anniversary of Fr. Scott’s ordination. In honor of the occasion, numerous parishioners plotted in secret to have the Bishop sitting in the pews on that Sunday as a surprise to Fr. Scott. In fact, most parishioners knew about the Bishop’s visit in advance, and still they were successful in surprising Fr. Scott!

Fr. Scott didn’t realize until just into his sermon that the Bishop and his family were there. After the service, everyone enjoyed a potluck at the church. Pictured above are Bishop Hunn and Fr. Scott having fun at the potluck. St. Andrew’s is very grateful to have had a personal visit by our new Bishop!

News from the Northeast Deanery

Retablo Workshop explores vow of thanksgiving

Santa Fe Santero Juanito Jimenez guided members of Holy Faith through an Ex Voto workshop as a pilgrimage into thanksgiving for divine intervention. “These images, commonly called ‘ex votos’ because they were prepared ‘out of a vow of thanks’ for Divine intervention, or relatable to venerate particular saints, emerged from early faith communities as a form of folk art,” Jimenez explained to participants.

New Mexican santeros/santeras continue the tradition and encourage anyone who is thankful for God’s presence in their life to try their hands in this prayer of personal thanksgiving. The variety of ex votos prepared in the one-day workshop demonstrated the many ways God aids our pilgrim journey, explained Molly Lott, who organized the workshop and prepared participants for the workshop.

Holy Family Collects Shoes for Kids in Need

Members of Holy Family in Santa Fe recently responded to the need of children at El Camino Real Academy to receive new shoes. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, Holy Family collected dozens of new shoes for first through third graders.

Many children need warm, durable shoes for the winter season and halfway through the school year. The photo was taken by Gloria Durham, a teacher at El Camino Real and long-time parishioner at Holy Family.
News from the Southeast Deanery

Chili was served to 697 patrons at St. James, Clovis.

Chili Day support Outreach in Clovis

St. James in Clovis held their 53rd Chili Day to support Missions and Outreach on February 4. The warmer weather kept several folks from seeking the comfort of hot chili, but we were blessed to serve 697 patrons, including several Police Officers who took the opportunity to have lunch with local residents in appreciation for their service on our behalf.

News from the Northwest Deanery

With Tears and Sadness, San Gabriel Closes

On February 3, Bishop Michael Hunn gathered the faithful of San Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church in Corrales for the service of the secularization of a sacred space. The altar and sacred vessels were removed from the sanctuary of the church prior to the service.

Following the service in Corrales, Bishop Hunn led a caravan to St. Francis Episcopal Church in Rio Rancho where Rector Rev. Alex Lenzo and the congregation welcomed the members of San Gabriel to worship and share in the Eucharist. Newly installed members of St. Francis’ Vestry invited the newcomers into the church.

The Vestry of San Gabriel requested permission of the Bishop to close and of the Standing Committee to deconsecrate the church. The Bishop and Standing Committee agreed, however sadly, with plans to close the congregation. The closing comes after more than a year of intensive work by the congregation, the Rector, the Congregational Life and Development team, the diocesan staff, Bishop Vono and Bishop Hunn.

In announcing the closing, Bishop Hunn wrote: “I want to give thanks to God for the faithfulness of the Reverend Bonnie Edwards, who has faithfully led San Gabriel, and who is now seeking a new call for ministry in the church. I want you to know that she has my full support.”

Bishop Hunn also commended the members and Vestry of San Gabriel “whose maturity of faith, wisdom and love for the church deserves all of our respect. In all matters this vestry has made every effort to do the right thing in very difficult circumstances. They made sure to provide as much severance as possible to allow their Rector to transition to a new call in the church. Leadership sometimes means making difficult decisions with integrity, and each member of the Vestry and the Reverend Edwards did so.

San Gabriel was formed in 2006 as a parochial mission of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Albuquerque. In 2011 San Gabriel was granted parish status by Diocesan Convention as an experiment in establishing a parish without a permanent building.

On Monday night we’ll share the story of how Moses fashioned a “Snake on a Stick” to save people from poisonous snake bites. On Tuesday night we’ll remember how God quenched the people’s thirst with water from a rock, and filled their empty bellies with manna and quail from heaven. On Wednesday night we’ll celebrate the people crossing the River Jordan and entering the Promised Land.

And EVERY NIGHT we’ll share dinner. bible stories, songs, and explore amazing crafts and activities in our Market Place!

WHAT?

Food, Faith, Fun, Friends

Each year the Episcopal Churches in the ABQ area join forces and work together to plan and host a week-long, weekday evening Vacation Bible School (VBS) program for children in the community. Last summer we explored the early life of Moses, and the Exodus of the People of God from slavery in Egypt. This summer we’ll pick up where we left off...

On Sunday night we’ll review the stories of the Exodus and the 10 Commandments.

On Monday night we’ll share the story of how Moses fashioned a “Snake on a Stick” to save people from poisonous snake bites. On Tuesday night we’ll remember how God quenched the people’s thirst with water from a rock, and filled their empty bellies with manna and quail from heaven. On Wednesday night we’ll celebrate the people crossing the River Jordan and entering the Promised Land.

And EVERY NIGHT we’ll share dinner. bible stories, songs, and explore amazing crafts and activities in our Market Place!

WHEN?

July 28-31
Sunday through Wednesday evenings
5:30-7:30 pm

WHERE?

St. Michael and All Angels Church
601 Montaño Rd. NW, ABQ

WHO?

Campers (Ages 3-11)
Youth Volunteers (Ages 12-18)
Adult Volunteers (Ages 19-109)

More info and registration at: www.nwdeanery.weebly.com/vbs.html
The Rev. Marion Lucille Canterbury, born May 3, 1927, died on January 11, 2019 at 7:50 am. The daughter of an Episcopal priest, she completed her Masters of Divinity at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, CDSP, and graduated in the spring of 1979. She was in the second group of women to be ordained into the Episcopal Church priesthood on May 9, 1980 when she was 53 years of age. Marion was ordained by Bishop Richard M. Trelease of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Marion began her ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico in 1980. She served as a “supply” priest at St. Luke’s in Deming. She assisted at St. Andrews in Las Cruces and was placed at Christ Church in Douglas, WY, her father’s old church and a place where she spent her childhood summers. After Rock Springs, at St. James, the Hassemers said farewell. After several years of helping to start missions around southern New Mexico, Marion’s daughter Katharine Lucille Sommers, Lucy, who shared much of her life with Marion, reports that she would provide services wherever and whenever requested in those tiny communities, “sometimes on the tailgate of somebody’s truck, in someone’s home, or in a favorite café.”

Marion held a memorial service for victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the victims of the development of nuclear weapons, known as downwinders, at the Trinity site. She had the pleasure of baptizing her grandson Isaac Tay Minler, granddaughter Sarah Fae Minler, and the son of a family friend, William Rhinehart. Marion officiated the wedding of her grandson Jector Perry and performed the homily at her granddaughter Katharine Harmeyer’s wedding.

She worked in the Diocese of the Rio Grande until she was forced to resign due to a new bishop’s traditionalist views of the priesthood. Following her resignation, Marion returned to Las Cruces and worked as a special education teacher with behavior disordered students at Lynn Middle School.

Marion relocated and began working in the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, being hired by Bishop Bob Gordon Jones. She worked in Rock Springs at Holy Communion Episcopal Church as an interim priest. After Rock Springs, at St. George’s in Lusk. She came full circle when she was placed at Christ Church in Douglas, WY, her father’s old church and a place where she spent her teen years. She finished out her career in Worland, WY at St. Albain’s under Bishop Bruce Caldwell.

Marion was a member of the Mythopoeic Society. As you can see, much of my life has been given to serving others. I do not regret this.

In death, Marion would appreciate donations in her name to organizations supporting the legal rights of immigrants such as RAICES.

RIP: The Reverend Donald Cram

The Rev’d Donald Cram died Saturday, February 16, 2019. Father Cram served several churches in the Albuquerque area, Santa Fe and Lincoln County, including Church of the Holy Family in Santa Fe and the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque. No obituary has been available as yet, but in his blog, www.doncram.com he wrote the following about himself.

Retired secondary teacher of science and mathematics and retired minister, I live in New Mexico with the love of my life, Carol. Having been married to her for half of a century. Our children and grandchildren are all within a few hours drive, some just down the street. I write speculative fiction (Science Fiction and Urban Fantasy). Letting myth reveal truth to the reader’s imagination, my stories are set in Jemez Springs which I have re-imagined into Redondo, New Mexico. My wife crafts and is amazingly good at it.

You can reach me by using my full name, Donald O Cram (without the spaces) at me dot com.

I have worked in the shipping department of a radioisotope manufacturer, in secondary classrooms and college teaching maths and sciences, in churches, on non-profit boards, in clinical laboratories, as CFO and general manager of a greeting card manufacturer, in various roles with ServiceMaster; as a school bus driver; as a window washer, as development director and area director for the American Cancer Society, as a headmaster of a private school, director of diocesan communications, all while growing in being a spouse, parent, and grandparent.

My degrees include a B.S. (Chemistry) from the University of Southern California, an M.Div. from Northwest Baptist Seminary, and a P.D. from Brigham Young University (no, I’m not Mormon). I am a member of the Mythopoeic Society. As you can see, much of my life has been given to serving others. I do not regret this.

Feasting at the leaving in Silver City

The Rev. Paul Moore stands before the farewell feast at Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver City, with the message of “Vaya con Dios Fr. Paul.” The January 13 service of the ending of a Pastoral Relationship marked the end of his six-year ministry at Good Shepherd. Fr. Moore answered a call to ministry in the Diocese of Olympia.

Returning the keys in Socorro

The Rev. Linda Wilson hands the keys to Bishop’s Warden Bill Stone of the Church of the Epiphany in Socorro on January 27. The handing over closed the service of an Ending of a Pastoral Relationship at the church where the Vicar retired.
More than 50 youth, young adult volunteers and adult sponsors from Las Cruces, Taos, Gallup, Los Cruces, and Albuquerque gathered at Bishop’s Ridge over Presidents Day Weekend for SnowSlam 2019!

While the weather was certainly cold, the fellowship, worship and program was inspiring and fun. Snowboarders and skiers took to the slopes at Ski Santa Fe to enjoy the great snow, while others explored the mystery and wonder at Meow Wolf.

A big “Thank You” to Paula Mote who coordinated the event, Heather Gaume who kept everyone fed, the hospitality team at Holy Faith who provided sack lunches on Saturday, and to Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia who led inspiring and thought-provoking worship, Christopher Jewell who kept the fires burning and the cabins toasty, and to all the others who led activities, chauffeured kids, slept in cabins, washed dishes and offered logistical support! We are looking forward to SnowSlam 2020!!

As a large group we had worship, skits, Minute to Win It games, and fellowship. It was great to see so many youth attending. Steven Horn invited youth to consider EYE 2020 - Episcopal Youth Event. He explained what it was, what kind of experience he had in 2017, and encouraged them to consider participating in it next year. Each Diocese sends a delegation to participate in leadership workshops and how to share the Good News, as well as grow in communion with the larger church.

Please visit our Facebook pages Camp Stoney and The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande Youth Page where you will find more pictures and videos of Snow Slam 2019. Please “like” the pages. We are on Instagram as campstoneynm. Please follow us. Thank you for sharing your youth with us and supporting our future leaders of our Diocese.
SUPER HERO CAMP
July 14-20, 2019
For Grades 7th-12th (ages 12- 17)
Camp Cibola, Two Tree Stardom
Search for Biblical Superheroes
Enjoy swimming, archery, hiking, worship, and all the camp fun.
Register your Superfriends and Superhero Online at www.bishopsridge.org
Early Bird Discount Available Through April 15, 2019

HARRY POTTER and the
CHAMBER of SECRETS
July 7 - 13, 2019
Ages 8-13, Grades 3-6

A fantasy camp that explores the magical themes found in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter. Through Bible study and worship, day Quidditch, Visit Diagon Alley, Pot to Pans, make shimmering spell products, participate in magic, and more at Camp Stoney’s version of Hogwarts.
Harry Potter Camp fills up early! Don’t be disappointed.
Register now at bishopsridge.org/camp-stoney

NARNIA CAMP at
CAMP STONEY
June 27-July 6, 2019

Narnia Camp at Camp Stoney returns for 2019!

A weekend adventure for all ages!

We will be exploring the wonderful world of Narnia that C.S. Lewis created. We will spend time at The Great Oak Tree and the Beavers, Stag House, and the Enchanted Oak, and a great many new friends and memories will be made on the Magician’s secret road. Our campers will enjoy archery, swimming, making art, and more, as you won’t want to miss out!

For more information: To register, visit: pmote@dioceserg.org www.bishopsridge.org

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MAY/JUNE 2019
Submission deadline: April 5
JULY/AUGUST 2019
Submission deadline: June 7
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019
Submission deadline: August 9
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019
Submission deadline: October 11
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020
Submission deadline: December 6

TOGETHER PHOTO:
Photo by Carolyn Metzler

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