MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Here in the Diocese of the Rio Grande “taking a bus” is a phrase that has taken on new meaning in recent weeks. In El Paso, Las Cruces, and now even Albuquerque, as the border patrol and ICE deliver busloads of asylum-seekers each week to cities in our Diocese. Episcopalians are working with ecumenical and interfaith partners to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison because Jesus told us to.

I’m already worried that you think this is going to be a politically partisan dispute. These days our political life is so polarized and border issues are becoming more and more of a political football as the next election comes into clear focus, it can be difficult for us in the Church to talk about what’s happening in our Diocese without the politics. But that’s what we need to do.

The Church to talk about what’s happening in our Diocese when the border situation, and the asylum-seekers entering our country, and what we should do about that in the name of Jesus.

As your bishop, you can expect me to tell you what those Christian values are, not from a partisan political standpoint but from a Biblical, prayerful and theological perspective. I don’t even watch the TV news — any of it. I’m just going to tell you what the Bible says and encourage us to read it together.

As good Anglicans, I do not expect us to agree all the time, but I do expect us to pray together all the time, and that our common prayer will so infuse our conversation that our common values will become clear. I expect us to pray together all the time so that we may discern together what God is calling us to do as we face a situation which is dominating the headlines and focusing the attention of the entire world on the southern border of our Diocese. I’m going to tell you what the values of the Christian faith are as I see them, because that’s my job. I’m a bishop not a politician.

A couple of weeks ago my phone rang and I was asked if it might be possible for the Diocese of the Rio Grande to house a bus full of asylum-seekers for a few days. The space was available and the place would have been vacant otherwise those particular days. It seemed to me an obvious choice: that if there are people in need and we have the capacity to help, this is what Jesus would want us to do. The gospel is very clear on this point: Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Visit those in prison. Bind up the wounds of those who are wounded. Whatever you do to the least of these you do to me, Jesus said.

And so a group of 100 volunteers led by members from Saint Michael and All Angels in Albuquerque, volunteers from many of our churches as well as ecumenical and interfaith partners who were Roman Catholic and Presbyterian and Mormon and Jewish were ready and waiting as two buses drove by ICE agents pulled into the parking lot. When the doors opened 55 human beings who had been sleeping under a bridge behind chain link fences in El Paso the night before shuffled off the bus with their Mylar blankets. These were families with small children, some babies in arms, others toddlers or elementary school kids holding their mother’s and father’s hands. They carried no luggage. They looked weary to me, and a bit frightened and had not bathed or eaten well in many days. We were told that some were ill because they had eaten whatever water they could find. The ICE agents were happy to hear that we had physicians and nurses available to do medical checks for our new guests.

The asylum-seekers had no shoes, as their laces had been removed when they were in government custody. It is hard for me to imagine how desperate they must have been to cut their shoes off so they could run. I will tell you I have many questions about this whole experience, and thus my work as bishop is to proclaim the values of the Bible and to nurture and encourage our Diocese to do as Jesus commanded.

For the record, I do believe that our faith calls us to be good citizens of this great country of ours – and as your bishop I will be encouraging you to vote your conscience, and to vote your values and to do what you can to make this world more like what God wants it to be: “Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar”, Jesus said.

In order to board that bus, each had met with an agent of our government and passed what is called a “credible threat interview.” Each of these families is seeking asylum because they fear for their lives and their safety if they were to return to their home country. Out of desperation and fear, they gathered up their children and whatever belongings they could carry, to begin the uncertain multi-week journey that brought them to the United States border.

Our border patrol and ICE agents determined that there was a credible threat that these families might be harmed or killed if they were to return to their home country, and thus they were given ankle bracelets and permission to reside within the United States pending a formal hearing before a United States immigration judge. When they appear in court before one of the 80 (only 80 in the whole USA) immigration judges, they will have a chance to make their case to the judge, who will decide whether they may be granted asylum or sent back.

And I think that means we should be good citizens and participate fully in the democratic process. But Jesus also said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” And what out what we owe to God in this particular situation in our Diocese is why we need to be able to talk about the border situation, and the asylum-seekers entering our country, and what we should do about that in the name of Jesus.

As your bishop, you can expect me to tell you what those Christian values are, not from a partisan political standpoint but from a Biblical, prayerful and theological perspective. I don’t even watch the TV news — any of it. I’m just going to tell you what the Bible says and encourage us to read it together.

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Our border patrol and ICE agents determined that there was a credible threat that these families might be harmed or killed if they were to return to their home country. Out of desperation and fear, they gathered up their children and whatever belongings they could carry, to begin the uncertain multi-week journey that brought them to the United States border. They were released into our care, legally present in the United States with ankle bracelets tracking their movements.

Just a day later, after a hot shower, a few good meals and a good night’s sleep where each family finally had a room to themselves, where the entire family was safe for the night, the mood of our asylum-seeking guests had changed dramatically. There were smiling faces, laughter from the children and although they must have still been worried about their uncertain future, you could tell that for the moment they were safe and loved and they knew it.

We invited our guests to celebrate the holy Eucharist with us, and many did so. The exchange of the peace was deeply moving as Episcopal volunteers and asylum seekers speaking different languages shook hands and the peace of God which passes all understanding filled the room. After the Eucharist one man and his young son knelt before the altar for twenty minutes before going in for lunch. I cannot imagine the prayers that were on his heart and on his lips as he knelt there, but I too have knelt before the altar in times of great need and in times of thanksgiving. I have knelt before the altar when God has brought me safely through one wilderness or another.

A day or two later the place was empty except for the bustle of volunteers cleaning and doing laundry. The asylum-seekers had all been shepherded onto Greyhound buses headed for other cities in the United States. There, distant relatives or family friends were waiting each family as their official sponsors. Each family’s sponsor had purchased the bus tickets and had taken responsibility for each asylum-seeking family until the time that they appear before the immigration judge, which, given the backlog of cases, could be 18 months to two years from now.

The time the asylum-seekers spent in our care was just a few days of their long journey. I hope that in those moments they experienced the love of God and also the loving care of our country. I did find myself wondering what a child would think of a country that would lock them in a cage under a bridge. But then I thought what that same child might think of a country that neglected them as they had been treated under our roof. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

I will tell you I have many questions about this whole situation in general. What can be done to help people stay in their home countries without living in fear? What is the role of the US government in a global crisis like this? What is the best border policy to provide both the security our country needs and the moral leadership the world needs? Do we need more of a Wall? More agents? More immigration judges? (We absolutely need more judges!) How do we as a global superpower effectively engage a crisis like this? What happens to children or teenagers who are turned away at the border after fleeing violence in their own countries? Do they become desperate enough to lash out against the United States like terrorists? Do they lose hope and join the gangs? Do they resort to violence? And what is the relationship between our responsibility to our citizens and our responsibility to our neighbors across the border?
Immigration and Migrants in Our Midst - One Family’s Journey

By Ms. Jane McGuire, St. Michael and All Angels

When I think of the differences between the people who said the Eucharist together on that day and how they were treated as family, I have hope for humanity. I have just witnessed the community of St. Michael’s “Takes a Bus” and I know the power of God.

We learned from and with mentors at Albuquerque Interfaith and Catholic Charities by watching them and working with them on buses they hosted in March.

Within 24 hours of arrival, maybe 15% of the guests were in a different place and the numbers of a few families were left.

We did not provide legal advice, therapy, or entertainment. Our purpose was to get them on their way in the best and fastest way we could.

People who have traveled 2,000 miles in difficult circumstances are survivors and are strong. They will do fine in the US.

We provided toys and crafts for the children. Those who were in residence long enough to relax, enjoyed soccer, art projects, bubbles and building toys.

The Bishop conducted a mass in Spanish. An interpreter translated.

We threw away标准 by changing the sheets at a shelter near you or any actions we can take that is in line with the values of the Bible and our Christian faith.

City Network in Albuquerque

• Catholic Charities has worked closely with Annunciation House in El Paso. They received the first bus of migrants in February.

• By the end of March, 1400 migrants had been welcomed in Albuquerque and moved on to their sponsors by many faith-based and non-profit organizations responding to the humanitarian crisis. By May over 2,000 will have come through. Buses are scheduled to come to Albuquerque into the summer.

• Organizations involved in supporting bus services: Faith-based - including Catholic Charities, Albuquerque Interfaith, Lutheran Family Services, Congregation Albert, The Center for Peace and Justice, and St Michael’s.

• Organizations providing support include: the civic group Indivisible Nob Hill – central list of volunteers.

• The LDS church opened the Bishop’s Storehouse for food.

• The Baptist church and many restaurants in town provide meals.

• The Quakers have provided housing in two bedrooms at the Meeting House for people at the end of hospitality to reduce hotel costs.

• The City of Albuquerque is working with all groups to facilitate migrant passage through TSA and to locate other sites that could be used to scale the hospitality operation.

• The Red Cross has provided cots and dignity bags.

• Hospitality sites include motels providing government rates, churches, school gymnasiums with kitchens and showers, resort centers and camping.

• A central donation center hosted at St Francis Xavier provides clothing and supplies to all groups taking buses. Current needs are posted on their site: www.ccasfnm.org/uploads/2/2/1/9/22190466/ Flyer_4.22.19.pdf

• Fund-raising sites to pay for hospitality costs include: Indivisible: indivisiblenobhill.com/#6c9d8b7a-a652-4b1c-a8d3-41e412515906

• Catholic Charities: www.ccasfnm.org/ companions.html

• Diocese RG: http://secure-q.net/Donations/ BosqueCenter/18839

• Each group hosting a bus uses their own tweaked version of the Annunciation house model of teams: intake, travel, departure, transport, clothing, food, medical. Variations are site-specific to where guests are being housed and availability of local resources.

THE DIocese “TAKES A BUS” at THE BOSQUE CENTER, continued

The Right Reverend Michael B Hunn
Bishop
The Diocese of the Rio Grande

Do not have the answers to those questions, but what I know for sure is, however these vulnerable children and their parents arrived at our doorstep, Jesus’ command to “care for them” still stands. I am also absolutely sure that the human connections between human beings across language and culture and politics are transformed by the love of God. I have just witnessed the community that has been reached out to in Albuquerque and charity to their neighbors and it was truly beautiful to behold.

When I think of the differences between the people who said the Eucharist together that day and how those differences melted away under the power of the prayers that we said together, I have hope for humanity in this world. And I know the power of God.

This kind of ministry is happening all over our Diocese and Episcopalians are involved in it on a daily basis. You can get involved too, whether it’s donating money or clothes or water or baby formula or food. Whether it’s by changing the sheets at a shelter near you or kicking a soccer ball with asylum-seeking children. You can say your prayers day and night for those who are journeying in search of safety, for the ICE and Border Patrol agents who do a difficult job every single day on behalf of the United States of America. You can pray for the migration judges who must balance the needs of desperate people with the needs of a country, and decide who stays and who gets sent back. And you can pray for our leaders, our President and the members of Congress who write and enforce the laws of our country, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. None of us is to blame for the situation, but as Christian people, all of us are responsible for taking what action we can that is in line with the values of the Bible and our Christian faith.

Bishop Hunn and the Rev. J.P. Arrossa want to greet Asylum seekers

Volunteers sort clothing for later selection by Asylum seekers

Together
The agenda for Convention has not been finalized and tentatively is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct 17</td>
<td>9 am – 4 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Oct 18</td>
<td>8 am – 5 pm</td>
<td>Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct 19</td>
<td>8 am – 12 pm</td>
<td>Convention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2019 Positions for Election

Quality Inn
1210 E US Hwy 180
Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 534-1111
Preside 2 for the Front Desk to make this reservation
COST: $84.99 + tax
CUT-OFF DATE for Block Rate / Availability: October 1, 2019
• Close to conference center
• 3 Stories • Elevator • Breakfast
• Fitness Room • Fringe and Microwave

Comfort Inn
1060 E US Hwy 180
Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 534-1883
Preside 2 for the Front Desk to make this reservation
COST: $84.99 + tax
CUT-OFF DATE for Block Rate / Availability: October 1, 2019
• Close to conference center
• 2 Stories • No Elevator • Breakfast
• Fitness Room • Fringe and Microwave

Holiday Inn Express
1033 Superior
Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 536-2525
COST: $109 + tax
(Additional rooms at regular rate of $239.00 across street from Conference Center)
CUT-OFF DATE for Block Rate / Availability: October 15, 2019
• Close to conference center
• 2 Stories • Elevator • Breakfast
• Fitness Room • Fringe and Microwave

Murray Hotel
200 W Broadway St Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 956-9400
COST: $74 + tax (Single queen bed)
CUT-OFF DATE for Block Rate / Availability: September 15, 2019
• Downtown • Street parking only; exploring potential for park and shuttle from Good Shepherd Built 1930’s art deco refurbished
• 4 Stories • Elevator • Continental Breakfast

Motel Six
1040 E US Hwy 180 Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 388-1883
COST: $74.99 + tax
CUT-OFF DATE for Block Rate and /or Availability: August. 1, 2019
• Close to Conference Center; separate bldq. 8 floor for smokers, inside access
• 2 Stories • No Elevator • Fringe and Microwave
• No Breakfast, Coffee Only

Palace Motel
106 W Broadway St Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 388-1311
COST: 15% discount off of $59-126 + tax
• 4 small rooms with one full bed and shower
• 58 (less 15%), 2 rooms with one queen bed and full both 57b (less 15%), 3 rooms with one king bed and full bath 57h (less 15%), 8 two room suites (one king or one queen or 2 beds) $94 (less 15%), 1 downstairs suite with one king bed $126 (less 15%), 1 downstairs suite with one king bed $15
• Downtown • Street parking only
• 2 Stories • No Elevator • Continental Breakfast

Gila Mountain Inn
3420 US-180
Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 538-3711
COST: $75 + tax
• Close to Conference Center
• Exterior access
• 2 Stories • No Elevator
• Continental Breakfast
• Fringe and Microwave

Bear Mt. Lodge
60 Bear Mountain Ranch Rd
Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 538-2538
COST: $160-270 + tax
• 10 Miles from Downtown

Bear Creek Cabins
88 Main St
Pinos Altos, NM 88053
COST: $119-169 + tax
• 7 Miles from Downtown

About the Diocesan Positions Open

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 will elect one (1) lay or clergy person for a three (3) year term. Meets as called.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIZED – Shall advise and assist the Bishop with the implementation of Title III of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Briefly, the Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected. Proceeds represent the responsibility of the Church to determine who shall serve as Members of the Clergy of the Church, reflecting the parity and order of this hierarchical church. The Board is composed of nine (9) members, four (4) Lay and five (5) clergy elected for four-year terms. This Convention we will elect one (1) lay person and (1) two clergy persons for a four (4) year term. Meets once a year; 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, there is a two-year term. 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, manages diocesan properties, 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 (1) Clergy person for a three (3) year term. Meets 6 times per year; or as called.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL – Reviews diocesan mission, vision, plans, programs and goals, determines Fair Share policy and levels, and 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 of 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 of this Board are staggered. The Lay members must be adult communicants in good standing for at least one (1) year prior to election, there is a two-term limit. This Convention we will elect (1) clergy person and (1) lay person for two (2) year term. Meets 6 times per year; as called.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD – The specific duties, functions and responsibilities are set forth in Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Briefly, the Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected. Proceeds represent the responsibility of the Church to determine who shall serve as Members of the Clergy of the Church, reflecting the parity and order of this hierarchical church. The Board is composed of nine (9) members, four (4) Lay and five (5) clergy elected for four-year terms. This Convention we will elect one (1) lay person and (2) two clergy persons for a four (4) year term. Meets once a year; as called.

GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTIES – At the Convention occurring two years prior to each General Convention of the Church, the Convention shall elect clerical and lay deputies, plus alternates, to represent the Diocese at the succeeding General Convention and any Synod of the Province. Each clerical deputy must be canonically and actually resident in this Diocese for at least one year prior to election. Each lay deputy must be actually resident and an adult communicant in good standing of a congregation of this Diocese for at least one year prior to election. The deputies shall serve until their successor are elected or designated. This Convention we will elect four (4) lay persons and four (4) clergy persons for three (3) year terms as Deputies, and four (4) lay persons and four (4) clergy persons for three (3) year terms as alternates.
There Is Strength In Thankfulness!

By Madeleine Fazenbaker

Recently I had to say goodbye to a long-time family friend. Peggy was an extraordinary person. You wouldn’t have known it, and she wouldn’t have told you her stories unless she knew you for a long time. She had a favorite saying when it came to encouraging you to do something: “It’s not rocket science, and I should know!” Peggy was a veteran, one of the first women in the U.S. Air Force to work on rockets and missiles. She knew hard times in her life, but never told the story as though it was hard; she told it as if it was an adventure. She had an Irish Catholic mother and a Mennonite father and was raised in a farm house with no plumbing. She went to a one room school until high school, and then rode a school bus to school. Her friends were the young Catholic novices nuns that lived next door to her school in Pennsylvania. She won a science scholarship by building a model of a nuclear reactor at her high school science fair. She had adventurous stories about working her way through college, waiting tables at Howard Johnson’s and waiting on a famous black boxer. He liked her and would look for her table when he came in to eat. It was in the day of segregation, and he was partial to her because she didn’t live by that mind set.

When Peggy graduated from college, she joined the Air Force and had more adventures, in the days when women were most likely seen on a military installation only if they were a nurse. She told stories of testing missiles on Eniwetok Atoll during the Vietnam War era, and being the first woman to do that. She was my idea of a real model of walking women’s history. Peggy was my friend in particular because I liked to sew – we had that in common – and I also loved science like she did. Peggy was old enough to be my grandma, and she was like a grandma to me.

I learned a lot from listening to her stories, but I didn’t know at the time how important she would become to me. In the last few years of her life, she taught me bravery, strength, love and compassion, and so many more things. Peggy was diagnosed with cancer four years ago, and she fought it bravely. She had such dignity and grace. We all believed she would be healed, and we prayed for it constantly. She died in February, and she died happy, because she decided to do so. When she knew she was at the end, she decided she’d had a good life, and she wanted to meet Jesus in a thankful way and with a smile on her face. She was in a lot of pain at the end, but she did just that – smiled to the very end. I took communion with Peggy at her last communion, just two days before she died. She believed in God, she had become an Episcopalian after she got married, and joined the church at St. James in Claws many years ago. She was not active in church activities when she moved from Texas to Cloudcroft when she and her husband retired, but she lived every day as a Christian, and as a good example. She knew how to turn the other cheek when people weren’t nice to her, and her Texas friends said she would have made a good Southern Lady! She raised two sons, and besides being a graceful lady, she was also a good boy scout den mother, taking the special education boys on hikes and camp outs when other dens had brushed them aside. She believed in treating everyone in the world with dignity and respect, even if they behaved badly and didn’t deserve it. I know she blessed many people in her life.

Robert Fulghum said in his book, “All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten,” that we take for granted the everyday people in our lives. We do not realize that while we are watching and learning from others, they are doing the same with us. We are the sum total of all our experiences. “You may never have proof of your importance, but you are more important than you think. There are always those who couldn’t do without you. The rub is that you don’t always know who.” Peggy was important to me, she may not have realized it, but she was a good example of so many things. I was raised around people of all ages, and I believe we are blessed to know “extra grandparents” in our lives. We can learn from those older than us, as well as those that are younger than us – we can learn something from everyone.

Students Support Four Paws

Pet Pantry

Sierra Middle School Honor Society in Roswell has been supporting St. Andrew’s Four Paws Pet Pantry throughout the school year. During March the Honor Society bagged 2,000 lbs. of dog and cat food which is distributed on the third Wednesday of every month. During the 2018/2019 school year the Honor Society has bagged over 16,000 lbs. of pet food.
May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Mrs. Laura Brown Lynch de Vries
Laura Brown Lynch de Vries, wife of the Rev. Canon Charles de Vries, beloved priest of the DRG, who died in 2011, completed her own baptismal journey on Easter Sunday evening, after a long illness. She is survived by her youngest son, Paul de Vries, her sister, Frances Lynch, her grandson and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Laura devoted her life to the Church, typing every one of her husband’s sermons over the years and being active in several parishes as a Daughters of the King. She was a school secretary for many years in the Las Cruces public schools, and was known especially for her gifts as an amateur actress, with her participation in numerous community theatre and university musicals wherever she and Charlie lived.

Canon de Vries was rector of All Saints, El Paso, and of St. Andrew’s, Las Cruces, and was Interim Rector at St. James’, Las Cruces, as well as dean of the Southwest Deanery. Funeral services for Laura were held at St. James’ Church, Las Cruces on Wednesday, May 1 at 10:00 am. Condolences may be sent to Paul de Vries at 3050 Morningstar, Unit 309, Las Cruces, NM 88011.

Mrs. Janet L. Kirkpatrick
Mrs. Janet L. Kirkpatrick, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, most recently of Harpswell, Maine, and formerly of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, died peacefully on January 17, 2019, at almost 85 years of age.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was married to the Rev. Canon James Kirkpatrick. Following his graduation from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, they served our Diocese beginning in 1959, while it was still known as the Diocese of New Mexico and South Texas, at St. Mark’s, Pecos, St. Thomas a’ Becket, Roswell, briefly as manager at Camp Stoney, at St. Matthew’s, Albuquerque, and finally as Canon to the Ordinary until his death in 1978.

Following her death, Mrs. Kirkpatrick worked for many years at Diocesan House as receptionist and as secretary to the Canon to the Ordinary. She was also the Convention Journal Editor during that time. She retired in 1989.

She is survived by three sons, Mark, Bruce, and Brian; five grandchildren, Jenna, Ashley, Lauren, Austin, and Michael; and a great-granddaughter, Maria. She is also survived by two sisters, Nancy and Anne, and a large extended family. She was preceded in death by her husband, her sister, Barbara, and her parents, Walter and Annie. Interment of her ashes, joining those of her husband, Charlie, will take place in Albuquerque at St. Thomas of Canterbury on Wednesday, May 1 at 1:00 pm. Condolences may be sent to Paul de Vries at 3050 Morningstar, Unit 309, Las Cruces, NM 88011.

Women’s Ministry as Pilgrims and Guides

The Women’s Ministry of the Diocese hosted three dozen women and men at Bishop’s Ridge for the Lent Retreat: Pilgrimage. Bishop Michael and the Rev. Meg Hunn were the retreat leaders for two days of reflection and renewal in the beauty of the mountains. The focus was on how life is a pilgrimage to our true home. Throughout the retreat there was plenty of time for participants to spend time with God by hiking, journaling, making Anglican prayer beads, and visiting with new friends. Read a complete overview of the event and see pictures on the Women’s Ministry website (www.VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com).

Our pilgrimage journeys for women of the diocese will continue this summer with one-day gatherings at various parishes around the diocese to consider how we are Blessed to be a Blessing. By looking at ways our faith foremothers provide spiritual guidance, and considering ways we are blessed by women in our lives, we will explore ways to reach out in love to other women and girls in our parishes, communities, and beyond. Events are in the planning stages for St. Paul’s/Peace in Las Vegas, St. John’s in Alamogordo, and Holy Spirit in Gallup. Watch for information about dates in The Loop and on the Women’s Ministry website.

Women of the Diocese of the Rio Grande are part of the National Episcopal Church Women. All women in the Episcopal Church are ECW, whether we have meetings or not. Some parishes have active ECW chapters. Others do not. In our work as Women of the DRG, we follow the Vision of ECW which states, “As the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ in the world, we will persist in the work of healing, justice, and peace.” Women’s Ministry of the DRG continues to do that through our outreach at various events, by inviting women to come to events, and by working individually and corporately for healing, justice, and peace.

This fall we will have our 7th Annual Boaque Center Weekend on November 15-16 to consider how we Entertain Angels Unaware. Building on the conversations started at the Boldly Forward event in August 2018, we will brainstorm what we may want to do to more actively empower women inside and outside of our church walls. Start thinking about ways that Women of the DRG can personally, and as a community, live the ECW vision.

Information about all events is on the Women’s Ministry website. Sign up from the website to get regular e-news. Follow us on Facebook (Women’s Ministry of DRG) to keep up with news. Contact Cindy Davis, Coordinator of Women’s Ministries (cynthiaadavisauthor@gmail.com).

Where are you on your Spiritual Journey?

The Spiritual Journey at Ghost Ranch creates time and space to be still and listen, and cultivate deeper meaning in your life.

The Spiritual Journey at Ghost Ranch

MONDAY, JULY 29 - MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019
Ghost Ranch Retreat Center • Abiquiu, New Mexico

We live in an age of frenetic energy, a non-stop news cycle, never-ending to-do lists, an over-scheduled family life, and global concern regarding the future well-being of our planet. When do you prioritize your spiritual life? We need to strengthen our personal connection with God/Spirit now more than ever.

The Spiritual Journey at Ghost Ranch creates the much-needed time and space for you to be still and listen, and cultivate deeper meaning and Sabbath in your life, under the guidance of Stillpoint staff. Accept this invitation to take time for yourself and the spiritual nourishment in your life, all within a landscape celebrating God’s creation.

If you would like to speak to someone in the Diocese who has completed the program, you may contact Kay Veal (kveal@comcast.net), Brenda Worsham (brendaworsham@umn.edu), or Mary Anne Flannagan (mf@fannaenga@umn.edu). Please let us know if we can assist you, and blessings for your Journey!
Together

THE JOURNEY TO EASTER

Ashes to Go for Commuters

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent for many Christians. It is a season of 40 days of spiritual reflection and preparation before Easter that includes fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline. Ashes to Go is a community outreach effort to commuters who might not have time to attend an Ash Wednesday service.

All Saints Episcopal Church, El Paso, had its first Ashes to Go, with drivers or pedestrians wanting to receive ashes driving by or stopping by the church parking lot. The day care center in our building asked that Father Phil stop by there afterwards and administer ashes. Pictured here are Melanie Thomas, Fr. Phil Dougherty, Andrea Carter, Thomas Carter.

The Rev. M. Catherine Volland, Rector of St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, marks the ashen cross on the forehead of a Railrunner commuter at the Station in the Santa Fe Railyard. (Photo by Njeri Nuru-Holm)

Preparing the Ashes

The Rev. Canon Robin Dodge, Rector of Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe, and two children of parishioners, watch as the palms of 2018 are burned to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday. (Photo by Jim Overton)

Clergy Retreat to prepare for Lenten Journey

The Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn gathered the clergy of the Diocese at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, the first Friday of Lent for a retreat to contemplate the journey through the Wilderness.

The time apart for the clergy provided a respite before the first Sunday of Lent to wander the grounds of the Cathedral in silence and contemplation.

Acknowledging his many years of service with the Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, an avowed extrovert, Bishop Hunn provided a space for those who wished to talk during the silent retreat, which was called the “Curry Space.” This was truly appreciated by the less than extroverted among the clergy.

The luncheon was prepared by diocesan staff members in the well-appointed kitchen of the Cathedral.

The Rev’ds Dale Plummer and Alan Brockmeier take advantage of the “Curry Space.”

The Rev. M. Catherine Volland, Rector of St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, marks the ashen cross on the forehead of a Railrunner commuter at the Station in the Santa Fe Railyard. (Photo by Njeri Nuru-Holm)

Preparing the Ashes

The Rev. Canon Robin Dodge, Rector of Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe, and two children of parishioners, watch as the palms of 2018 are burned to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday. (Photo by Jim Overton)
Becoming closely associated with each other in the Chrism Mass, the two elements have been anointing of the sick, the Chrism Mass has played a crucial role in the popularity of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and dying.

Although it is not an integral part of Roman Holy Week rites in the mid-20th century, the consecration of chrism formed part of the evening liturgy of Maundy Thursday, and this rite has always been reserved to the bishop. The revision of the rites, however, separated the consecration of the oils from the proper liturgy, and moved it to a separate Eucharist, to be celebrated by the bishop in the cathedral, by custom. Since the restoration of official Holy Week liturgies in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and the rise in the popularity of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the Chrism Mass has become a standard celebration in the Church.

The rite for the reaffirmation of ordination vows is more recent. It became part of the ordination of a bishop.

The development of the liturgies of Holy Week, and of Maundy Thursday in particular, is a complex story. From antiquity until the modern reform of the Roman Holy Week rites in the mid-20th century, the consecration of chrism formed part of the evening liturgy of Maundy Thursday, and this rite has always been reserved to the bishop. The revision of the rites, however, separated the consecration of the oils from the proper liturgy, and moved it to a separate Eucharist, to be celebrated by the bishop in the cathedral, by custom. Since the restoration of official Holy Week liturgies in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and the rise in the popularity of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the Chrism Mass has become a standard celebration in the Church.

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The earliest evidence for the consecration of chrism comes from fifth century Syria, and the elements of the present Western rite date from the eighth century. In the Western Church three oils are used in worship: the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Chrism, and the Oil of the Sick.

The Oil of the Catechumens is used to anoint those who are seeking baptism at the beginning of their journey of preparation for the sacrament of initiation, but not at baptism itself, when Chrism is used. Chrism is used in all sacraments where sacramental character is bestowed: in baptism, in confirmation, and in the ordination of priests and bishops. It is also used in the blessing of altars and sacred vessels, as well as in the coronation of sovereigns, a rite that has often resembled the ordination of a bishop.

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### Chrism Mass Dates to Antiquity

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### Chrism Mass Brings Clergy Together in South and North

Nearly 100 clergy gathered at two locations in the Diocese on Holy Tuesday, April 16, to renew their Ordination vows and prepare for Holy Week. They were joined by about half as many laity who affirmed their Baptismal covenant.

Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn celebrated the Mass at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Las Cruces. The Rt. Rev. David Bailey, Bishop of Navajoland, celebrated at the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque.

About 35 clergy and about 20 lay people gathered at St. Andrew’s, and 60 clergy and 30 laity came together at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass which concluded with the blessing of the oils. Bishop Bailey spoke on the nature of ministry. Bishop Hunn spoke extensively about the four orders of ministry and the responsibilities that each type of minister has and how the orders relate to one another. He also focused on the three different oils and when each is used.

### Chrism Mass South

Deacon David Martin and the Rev. J.P. Arrossa collect their oils

Bishop and Archdeacon Patty Soukup prepare the oils for blessing

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### Chrism Mass North

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Bishop and Archdeacon Patty Soukup prepare the oils for blessing

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Bishop Blesses the Palms
Bishop Michael Hunn provides the blessing for the Liturgy of the Palms before the early service at the Church of the Holy Faith in Santa Fe. The Bishop continues the tradition of his predecessor in the procession to the Santa Fe Plaza. Holy Faith, First Presbyterian Church and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis process to the plaza where the Liturgy of the Palms expresses the ecumenical blessing.

Urban Way of the Cross - 2019
On Good Friday, people from all over Albuquerque gathered on the plaza of Immaculate Conception Church to walk the Urban Way of the Cross. Together they formed a community of the Cross—a community of more than 200 people from many different denominations. On the Urban Way of the Cross we remember that it was because of his solidarity with the poor, the overlooked, the pushed aside - women, lepers, children, strangers - that Jesus was nailed to the Cross. This year we will hear stories of Christ being crucified, in the lives of families and children seeking asylum, women and girls whose lives, deaths and disappearances have been ignored or overlooked, our earth put at risk, but we’ll also hear stories of ways people are reaching out to help one another through a budget built on compassion and concern, through efforts to welcome and help families at our border; through efforts to reverse the direction of climate change through little things. Stories of resurrection deeply embedded in stories of crucifixion. Each year we end where we begin the Urban Way of the Cross, in the courtyard at Immaculate Conception. There clergy from different denominations offered anointing and prayers for healing, prayers and oil and the sounds of a flute echoing in the background.

Photo by Carlos Navarro
News from the Northeast Deanery

Holy Faith, Santa Fe, Donna Lukacs
Artist, iconographer and teacher Susan Kelly von Medicus returns to Holy Faith for a weekend illumination workshop, May 31–June 2. Students will make a decorated initial with the White Vine motif of renaissance Europe. The Initial will be gilded with 23K gold leaf. Decorations will be made using mineral pigments in the manner of the scriptorium of the middle ages. No artistic experience is necessary, all materials will be provided. Please visit the website at www.susanvonmedicus.com to find out more about Ms. Von Medicus’ work. For registration and questions, contact eikon68@aol.com.

Holy Family, Santa Fe, Rev. Corrine Hodges
For the Easter season, Holy Family Santa Fe is restocking the student pantry at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Last year, the church gave so many donations of needed nonperishable food items and clothing that the pantry was relocated on its campus to a much larger space and a refrigerator was added. In May, Holy Family will participate in the Rancho Viejo Firewise Day, clearing brush with La Cienega Fire Department to prevent fires on the south side of Santa Fe.

St. James, Taos, Gwenneth Glenn
The Rev. Mike Olsen anointed the hands of Michael Mënchaco-Reador and Cynthia Anne Ruth on Epiphany, January 6, 2019, during a Ceremony of Induction into the Order of St. Luke the Physician. On this occasion, 14 members of St. James, Taos, were made part of this international order. After carefully studying the Gospel records of Jesus’ healing ministry, we are convinced that, together with medical expertise and care, plus the work of the Holy Spirit, plus time and patience, all of us can become well. St. James members at the Order of St. Luke act as Prayer Partners on Sunday mornings when they meet parishioners at the side altar after communion for prayer and anointing with Holy Oil.

St. Paul’s, Las Vegas, Rev. Madelyn Johnstone
For the third year in a row, St. Paul’s Peace has had an ecumenical Holy Week, sharing services with the First United Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church. This year, the Las Vegas Jewish Community will hold their Seder on Holy Saturday in Faith Hall at St. Paul’s Peace. We hope to continue and strengthen these relationships from year to year. To that end, the newly formed Interfaith Clergy Group is hosting an Interfaith Friendship Day in May to bring our respective congregations together to form a “friendship chain” including Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Sufi, and Bahá’í.
The Las Vegas Civic Chorus, established by two members of St. Paul’s, will give their spring concert at St. Paul’s on May 5 at 2:30 pm. Reception will follow. All are invited to attend.

Trinity on the Hill (TOTH), Los Alamos, Claire Singleton
With the support of the TOTH parishioners, The Very Rev. Chris Adams joined a group of Diocese of the Rio Grande pilgrims who traveled to the Holy Land at the end of February. Following the trip, Dean Chris spoke and showed photos on two successive Sundays at coffee hours about the trip.

Fr. Mike anoints the hands of Michael Mënchaco-Reador.

Fr. Chris at Garden of Gethsemane
Almost simultaneously, a group of 17 TOTH youth and adults, including friends and family from other states, traveled to Ciudad Juárez to build a house for a needy family, working with Missions Ministries from Colorado. During the trip, the group also helped with a food outreach program, organized crafts for local children, and attended worship at a local church. During the first three weeks of April, TOTH sponsored a series of talks, organized by Jamie Alloch, on the topic of sexual violence prevention: “Stand Up” for teens and “Protect Your Family” for parents/mentors of teens. Facilitators of the talks were from Solace and Resolve of Santa Fe, the Responsible Sex Education Institute of the Rocky Mountains, and Tewa Women United.

In keeping with its core values of shared worship and building a community of faith in which to appreciate, support and nurture one another, TOTH has initiated a series of Table Eucharists this past winter and will continue into spring. The format is modeled after the description of the early church found in the Book of Acts. “They broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” The Table Eucharist begins with a celebration of the Eucharist in the home of a parishioner. Rev. Laurie Triplett serves as the celebrant and those gathered at the table are invited to take turns reading the scriptures. Intercessory prayers are offered spontaneously. In lieu of a sermon, however, a time is set aside for discussion on the readings and prayers. Following the Eucharist, the table is cleared and dinner is brought out in a continuation of fellowship. A safe space is provided for seekers or those new to the church to both participate in a service and enjoy a dinner party. These intimate gatherings have attracted parishioners of all ages and the hope is to expand invitations to the greater Los Alamos.

Throughout Lent TOTH enjoyed weekly soup suppers, study time, and worship with five neighboring churches in Los Alamos. Six Los Alamos churches have also combined to produce a Lenten devotional booklet for personal study and prayer during Lent.

TOOTH Organist Valerie Fassbender is also the director of the Chime Choir, a choir for children ages 3–5. The Chime Choir presents its music at the 10:30 service once a quarter and Valerie invites a member of the choir to join her in the loft as an “organ buddy” during other services.

Fr. Mike Olsen returns from St. James, Taos
The Rev. Mike Olsen retired as Rector of St. James Episcopal Church on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany on March 3. The congregation gathered following the service to celebrate Fr. Mike and his wife Sandy in the Parish Hall.

Fr. Mike and Sandy cut their retirement cake.
NEWS OF THE DEANERIES

Southwest Deanery Report

Three parishes: St. Andrews, Las Cruces; St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso; and St Luke’s, La Union, under the coordinated efforts of Fr. Daniel of St Luke’s, met at 5:30 am on Good Friday at the base of Mount Cristo Rey. Carrying two large crosses provided by St Luke’s and St. Andrew’s, we hiked the 2.5 miles to the top, stopping at each of the 14 Stations of the Cross and reading script and prayers at each station. A bulletin for this event was provided by Fr Daniel.

We included 35 participants, the majority of whom were young parishioners, and a few of us old-timers young-at-heart folk. It was a blessed event, joining in a journey with literally thousands of other Christians who also made a similar pilgrimage.

Deacon Aileen Walther brings in the new fire at the Great Vigil of Easter

Deacon Laurie baptizes Adam.

Deacon Aileen Walther anoints Noah as Christ’s own.

An Appeal to the Southwest Deanery for Support to the Borderland Refugee Crisis

Although each parish may be focused on giving or providing to the needs of the current southwest border refugee crisis, we would like, as a deanery, to join together in fellowship by soliciting, gathering, and delivering critically needed items to the El Paso area where shelters are currently overwhelmed, with refugees being released at times by the hundreds on a daily basis.

After assessing the shelter situation in downtown El Paso, we can report they have not the time nor space to organize and stockpile supplies and goods to support the refugees as they transition from El Paso via bus to their sponsor locations around the country. Due to that, rather than send out a broad appeal for supplies and goods, we felt it best that we as a deanery take on a more targeted giving approach that would best serve the most at-risk population in the community right now.

That at-risk population is the infants, babies, and toddlers that cross the border with their parent(s). To that end, we ask that parishes within the Southwest Deanery solicit donations for delivery to El Paso. Below is a list of items that would be appropriate, but please do not limit yourself to this list. Instead, think of anything related to helping a parent, as they move via bus from the border to their final destination, that will enable them to provide for their infant/baby/toddlers.

ITEMS NEEDED:

• Infant Formula
• Bottles that are easy to use with disposable liners
• Disposable bottle liners and nipples
• Baby blankets and bibs
• Diapers, Desitin, or other suitable rash ointment
• Infant and children’s Liquid Tylenol
• Diaper bags (new and used)
• Jarred baby food
• Age-appropriate clothing for traveling
• Disposable wipes – containers and refill packets
• Walmart Gift Cards or cash that we can use to purchase these goods locally

The Parish of St Francis on the Hill in El Paso has agreed to receive all donated items and goods and then deliver them to the appropriate shelter locations in El Paso – Annunciation House, the Rainbow Center, or directly to the families as they are sheltered in leased motels in the downtown area.

To coordinate delivery of your donations, please contact any of the following members of the Parish:
Gayle Dollarhide, Parish Secretary, 915-581-9500, st.francis.episcopal@gmail.com
Fr. Justin Gibson, 806-441-5789, jgibson0283@gmail.com
Derrick Washington, 915-588-4712, derrick.c.washington2@gmail.com

Delivery address: St Francis on the Hill Episcopal Church, 6280 Los Robles, El Paso, TX 79912

Celebration at St. John’s, Alamogordo

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Alamogordo, observed Holy Week with foot washing on Maundy Thursday. Deacon Aileen Walther brought in the new fire at the Great Vigil of Easter and the Very Rev. Laurie Benavides sang the Exsultet. A true highlight of the day was the baptism of Noah and Adam as the newest members of the Body of Christ.

ITEMS NEEDED:

The Rev. Catherine Lemons anoints Noah as Christ’s own.

Upcoming Southwest Deanery Dates for 2019:

• July 20 • 10:00 AM • Diocesan Budget Workshop • Ascension Cloudcroft for Budget Discussion and then on to a picnic area in the forest for lunch and fellowship. Bring your family!
• November 2 • 10:00 AM • Fall Deanery Meeting • St. Francis on the Hill/El Paso; Fr. Wally LaLonde–2019 Mission of Hope/ Mustard Seed Babies’ Home Mission Trip
Episcopal Peace Fellowship in Mexico
Melanie Atha, Executive Director, EPF, continues to write about her time in DRG.

This week I went to church with my husband, Steven, in Big Bend National Park. Fair is fair, as he went with me last week to St. Paul’s in Marfa. Steven’s church is the great outdoors, and as worship goes, we had a fine “walk in love” out to the Window in the Chisos Mountains, five miles out and back, with an elevation gain and loss of more than a thousand feet. This week we have seen javelina, eagles, muskrats, rabbits, antelope, blue jays, deer, road runners, hornos, coyotes, and vormillion flycatchers. We actually saw all the way to heaven last week at the McDonald Observatory, which is out in the middle of no-where, Texas. The night skies have been breathtaking everywhere out here. Peace is in every view and in each part of creation we have enjoyed sharing.

We went to Boquillas, Mexico, and I walked the Stations of the Cross at Nuestra Senora Del Carmen.
I understand from reading Maria for the Perplexed by Lon Taylor, a parishioner at St. Paul’s, Marfa, that Bishop Kelshaw of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande once had a confirmation service here – an abandoned Roman Catholic church.
I found myself standing on the banks of the Rio Grande wishing I could take President Trump by the hand and show him this amazingly beautiful home to wildlife and humanity and commerce and peace and tranquility. I feel like if he could take off his shoes and put his feet in the cold brown water and listen to the bray of burrows and call of children, his heart might change about this border wall. Peace is contagious, right?

The Rio Grande, as seen from shore of Boquillas, Mexico.

The Church at Boquillas, Mexico.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship in Santa Fe
Melanie Atha, Executive Director, EPF, concludes her time in the DRG.

I have been looking forward to my time in Santa Fe since we started on this Year of Action pilgrimage. It’s one of those places built up in my imagination by friends who have visited here before as a sort of mecca for all things art and nature. And since I have come to know Catherine Willmott and Kathy Christison through our EPF Palestine Israel Network, I have been even more eager to get to this part of New Mexico. These women are devoted activists for justice in Palestine, and are the dearest and most hospitable of hostesses to Steven, Miranda and me. We got to share a moving healing Eucharist, a Bible study based on the parables in Luke, meals, laundry, grocery shopping, two Palm Sunday processions and Eucharists, and a personal favorite of mine – two coffee hours! In a very short period of time. St. Bede’s came to feel like home, and Kathy and Catherine like attentive big sisters, and our time with them leading into Holy Week was, well, holy. Grace upon grace, in northern New Mexico!

On Tuesday, I had coffee with Michael Robison also of St. Bede’s at Iconic Coffee. Michael is deeply committed to the social justice work of his parish, and shared with me the neatest activist “cheat” I have heard of in a long while. Look at www.Scalls.org. Pull up the app, plug in your location, then choose the issues important to you. Once you choose your issues, the app will give you the phone numbers and a draft script for calling your representatives to make your voice heard. Michael pointed out that logs of calls both “pro” and “con” are kept in lawmakers’ offices, and that some believe that calling is even more important and impactful than writing or emailing. The app will also send you email alerts each week to prompt you to further action. I am still a bit of a “cheat” on this, but I am excited about using it at Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, TX, but this app makes taking political action super easy. Thanks, Michael, for the tip of the season!

Meanwhile, back in Alabama, work against the imposition of the death penalty is making national news: www.thenation.com/article/project-hope-abolish-death-penalty-alabama/

Steven and I pulled out of Santa Fe on Monday, drove through scenic Los Alamos for a quick visit with Rev. Christopher Adams of Trinity on the Hill, then stopped for the night in Chimaya after catching a glimpse of Santuario de Chimayo. I usually like to try to do some office work while Steven drives Miranda, but every minute and a half, he called out, “Would you look at that?” so I gave up and rode shotgun. We popped in St. James, Taos, this morning, and we found ourselves charmed again! New Mexico truly has the most beautiful and diverse landscapes – from red rocks to snow-capped mountains, pine forests, scrubby deserts, placid valleys full of antelope, buffalo, rabbits, even golden eagles, to reflective blue lakes (water!), flowers and blooming trees EVERYWHERE. Plus, New Mexico is arid, hot, and sunny, with an elevation gain and loss of more than a thousand feet. This week we have seen javelina, eagles, muskrats, rabbits, antelope, blue jays, deer, road runners, hornos, coyotes, and vormillion flycatchers. We actually saw all the way to heaven last week at the McDonald Observatory, which is out in the middle of no-where, Texas. The night skies have been breathtaking everywhere out here. Peace is in every view and in each part of creation we have enjoyed sharing.

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The Rio Grande, as seen from shore of Boquillas, Mexico.

The Church at Boquillas, Mexico.
The 2019 Missional Voices National Gathering brings together church leaders, seminarians, church planters, entrepreneurs, artists, and everyday innovators to discuss innovative ministries and missional communities, both within and outside of the traditional church context. This year’s focus will be on what we can learn about God’s mission from those engaged in difficult situations. We’ll hear from people leading refugee resettlement agencies, campus ministries, a worshipping community inside a prison, parishes after natural disasters, and more.

Missional Voices is a weekend of thinking, planning, and dreaming about the future ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. It is a place where dynamic incubation of new ideas is the norm – not the exception – and people doing uncommon ministry find support and encouragement. Register today and join the conversation! www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-missional-voices-national-gathering-tickets-47539118507

Thursday, June 13
What gifts do our communities offer? What assets exist in our neighborhoods? Where is God already working among us? When individuals and parishes go through disasters, they learn to view their communities in new ways. Leaders from Episcopal Relief and Development will guide us through some practices to help us do that same work, before a disaster happens.

Employee Assistance Program
The Employee Assistance Program is available to all clergy in the Diocese under the initiative of the Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn. The EAP services are provided through Medical Trust, and though not all clergy in the Diocese are members of Medical Trust, all have been enrolled for a minimal fee through the Diocesan enrollment. This makes the services provided by EAP available to all clergy in the Diocese.

What do you need help with? Try your Employee Assistance Program. It’s there to help you.

Call toll-free: (866) 395-7794. Or register at www.myCigna.com and enter your Employer ID: episcopal

100 Reasons to call the Employee Assistance Program

1. To access 10 free counseling sessions
2. For questions about my mental health
3. For a free year of membership for identity theft
4. For a free 30 minute legal consultation
5. I need help finding a kennel for my pet.
6. To get information about managing stress
7. I’m moving, and I need information about my new town.
8. I need help finding a daycare facility for my child.
9. My grandparents are visiting, and I need to find some rentable medical equipment.
10. My daughter has allergies, and I need to find stores that carry wheat-free foods.
11. My veterinarian retired and I need to find a new one.
12. I need information about dealing with a Moody teenager
13. I think I got ripped off by a telemarketer. What can I do?
14. I think I am being harassed at work.
15. I need renter’s insurance, and I don’t know who to call.
16. How do I know if someone is abusing drugs? What do I look for?
17. How to find a drug treatment center
18. How to do an intervention for someone on drugs
19. How to find an Al-Anon meeting
20. I need information about adoption
21. I would like information about providing faster care.
22. I’m retiring, and I would like to find some support groups in my area.
23. My son was arrested for driving while intoxicated. How can I help him?
24. Our daughter is looking to hire a nanny. What should we do?
25. Our daughter is looking to hire a nanny. What should we do?
26. We’re thinking of selling our house. How can I help?
27. We’re thinking of selling our house. How can I help?
28. We’re thinking of selling our house. How can I help?
29. I need help finding elder care for my mother who lives on
30. Are there any local resources.
31. I need assistance updating my resume. Can you help?
32. I need help finding a daycare facility for my child.
33. My mother has Alzheimer’s, and I need to know of any local resources.
34. Can you provide me with a list of farmers’ markets in my area?
35. Where can I find information about finding a funeral director and discussing available funeral-planning options?
36. I need help finding a daycare facility for my child.
37. I need help finding a daycare facility for my child.
38. I think my child has an eating disorder
39. Where can I find an assisted living facility for my grandmother?
40. How do I know if a nursing home is reputable?
41. Where can I find help for my son who is deaf?
42. My mother is having problems with her sight. Where can I find help?
43. Can you help me find a gynecologist?
44. Do you have information about autism?
45. I need to find a college that will work with kids who have learning disabilities.
46. How can I find assistance to help with college tuition?
47. I started riding my bike again. Can you help me find bike paths in my area?
48. I lost my wallet. How can I protect myself?
49. I think my son-in-law is abusive. What are some signs I should look for?
50. My oldest daughter just lost her job. How can I be supportive?
51. I would like to start a book club. Can you give me ideas for how to do it?
52. How do I put together a budget? I’ve never done it before?
53. Will my living will and other papers be legal if I move to a different state?
54. I think my neighbor’s child is being abused. What can I do?
55. I need a veterinarian oncologist. Can you help me find one?
56. I need more social outlets. What is available in my area?
57. I need assistance updating my resume. Can you help?
58. How can I judge if a children’s daycare facility is safe and well-staffed?
59. School is back in session and I want to help my kids start the year with good homework habits.
60. What are some kid-friendly activities in my area?
61. My mother has Alzheimer’s, and I need to know of any local resources.
62. Can you provide some questions I can use when interviewing a pediatrist?
63. My friend asked me to be the executor of her estate. What does that mean?
64. How do I report a stolen credit card?
65. Where can I find a health aide to help my mother in her home?
66. Do you have a list of activities to do with Alzheimer’s patient?
67. How do I find a music therapist who works with kids?
68. Due to seizures, my adult son can’t drive. How can I find ride him?
69. How can I find a reputable audiologist?
70. Do I need travel insurance when I take a vacation, and what does it cover?
71. I’m taking a trip with my family, and I need information about traveling with kids.
72. Where can I find help to keep my child safe when flying alone?
73. Where can I find vacation ideas for my parents who are senior citizens?
74. Should I get pet insurance?
75. Can you provide me with a list of farmers’ markets in my area?
76. I’m doing some home repairs. How can I find reliable contractors?
77. Where do I report someone who did not complete a job he was doing for me?
78. I lost my job and I need help to find another one.
79. I’m going through a divorce, and I need some support services for my children.
80. I think my child is chatting with inappropriate people online. I need help.
81. How can I block my computer from sites I don’t want my kids to access?
82. Are there guidelines for protecting kids from internet sites?
83. My daughter’s teacher is dying. How can I talk to my child about this?
84. I need to find an accountant who can handle clergy taxes.
85. I need to find a therapist for my daughter while she is away at college.
86. Our dog died. How can I help my son handle his grief?
87. I need to find a summer camp for my child.
88. What should I ask about when helping my parents choose a retirement facility?
89. My daughter dresses only in black. Should I be worried?
90. Where can I find a dog sitter?
91. I am going to be traveling for an extended period. How do I protect my home?
92. I feel like I’m in a rut. Am I depressed?
93. How can I help my son interact with his autistics cousin?
94. My dad is in hospice. How can I talk with him about his funeral?
95. Where can I find information about finding a funeral director and discussing available funeral-planning options?
96. We bought a home with a swimming pool. How can we make it child-safe?
97. Where can I donate all my parents furnishings? They’re too good to throw away.
98. I’m pregnant. How do I find a midwife?
99. I am looking for an Episcopal retirement community. Can you help me?
100. Can you tell me where there are AA meetings in a town I will be visiting?
“Deep Roots, Broad Reach”

Introducing Bishop Michael Hunn: Sharing a Message of Hope through Christ

By James L. Overton

Hunn was consecrated as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande on Nov. 3, 2018, after serving three years as Canon to the Ordinary under the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church. He succeeds Bishop Michael Vono, who retired from the Diocese in 2018. Setting into his new job as chief pastor for 15,000 Episcopalians, he now has a broad reach and a lot of territory to cover. The Diocese of the Rio Grande covers 154,000 square miles of New Mexico and Far West Texas from the Pecos River to the border with Mexico along the Rio Grande.

Part of the reason I’m so excited to be here is that we, in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of the Rio Grande, have this tremendously fertile field to work in, multicultural, lots of different people, lots of opportunity to tell the story of Jesus Christ’s love in a way that a lot of people haven’t heard before.” He cites a verse from the Book of Psalms – “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water…” (Psalm 1:3) – when he talks about his pastoral goals.

As I was praying for the diocese, I kept seeing a particular image and I kept hearing a particular verse from scripture. The image I saw was the Rio Grande cutting through the canyon and the cottonwood trees in the bosque. Those trees should not exist out here in the desert. They don’t. Only reason they survive is their roots are deep. That’s how we’ve come up with this theme of ‘deep roots, broad reach.’ I feel like we as a diocese are called first to deepen our roots.”

Bishop Michael recognizes the impact social and cultural changes have had on congregations across the diocese. “Young people and young families are so busy with so many demands on their time that the Episcopal Church is not competing primarily with other denominations. The church is competing with the soccer program and music lessons and scouting and all the other extracurricular activities our young people are involved in today. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the same as it always was. But we have to learn how to speak the gospel into this culture.”

To the new bishop, that means focusing “congregation by congregation on deepening the faith of the people who are already here” in the church and then opening the doors to others who are seeking a more spiritual life. “There are a lot of young people who are not being raised with a cultural expectation that they should go to church, but they still have a spiritual yearning. We need to ask them to help us understand how the church needs to change going forward. How do we as this generation of the Episcopal Church proclaim the gospel of our loving, liberating and life-giving God into a world that hasn’t heard that story yet?”

This task may be made easier by the historical and cultural legacy of New Mexico. “I think this is a very rich spiritual place. This is what the Celts would call a ‘thin place,’ where the holiness of the divine is visible in the landscape and visible in the people.” To Bishop Michael, this pre-existing spiritual vocabulary makes it easier to reach the younger generation that represents the future of the diocese.

A longstanding tenet of the Anglican tradition is not to provide all the answers but rather to encourage the questions. “In the Anglican tradition, ‘no one will remove from you the responsibility to wrestle out your salvation with God.’ Our churches do not exist to tell you what to do or what to think. Our churches exist as a community of people who are asking those questions and wrestling together,” Bishop Michael said.

And that togetherness is a theme of his bishopric. “One of the beautiful things about Anglicanism is that we proclaim that what binds us together is our life in prayer. We are not bound by a confession like other Protestant denominations, and we’re not a hierarchical church that tells us what our morality is. Instead, it is our liturgy, it is our common prayer where we find our unity.”

Bishop Michael finds comfort in the fact that today’s political environment stops at the door of the Episcopal Church. “We worship every Sunday, literally shoulder to shoulder and knee to knee, with people who disagree on politics and everything else.” Referencing Galatians 3:28, Bishop Michael continued, “In Christ there is no Jew or Greek. In Christ there is no male or female. In Christ there is no Republican or Democrat. In Christ we are called to be a new creation. That message is a message of hope.”

Confirmed at Trinity on the Hill in Los Alamos at age 12, some of his earliest memories are literally in the church. “The first thing I can remember is crawling around under the pews at Trinity on the Hill. I remember vividly, as I was learning how to read, being able to recognize certain words in the prayer book. I always felt comfortable and at peace around the altar.”

His family moved to Austin, TX, when he was 13. The teenage transition could have been potentially disruptive, but he found solace and acceptance in the middle school youth group at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. “The youth group was focused on telling the young kids that God actually loved them. And you could feel that love in that room. It was so unlike anything that I experienced at school or on baseball teams or in the scout troops or anything else. It was a powerful experience.” He said.

Still, becoming a priest was not yet part of his plan. Baseball was his first passion. He played catcher in high school and at Middlebury College and signed with a semi-professional baseball league for three years during college. At a tryout for the Cape Cod League, one of the scouts bluntly told him that at age 22 with catcher’s knees he was unlikely to make it to the pros.

“That’s when I hung up my cleats, and the call to the priesthood started coming to the fore,” he said, hastened by his first college course on the New Testament, which he confesses he signed up for thinking it would be an easy A. Instead, the professor, also an ordained Methodist minister, introduced him to biblical criticism and challenged him in his faith. He said, “Michael, maybe you can decide that God is bigger than you are and you can devote your life to figuring out what that means.”

My whole life ever since has been in pursuit of God. God is manifest in our lives all the time if we can only learn to see it. That’s why I get up in the morning.”

In some 20 years of ordained ministry, Bishop Michael has been a prep school chaplain (and varsity baseball coach), parish priest, college chaplain and Canon to the Ordinary. When he received a telephone call from Bishop Curry about becoming the Canon, Hunn literally thought the Bishop had him confused with someone else. “And he said, ‘Michael, I’ve been telling people I’m serious about young people in leadership and they’re going to believe me now’.”

Grateful for all he has learned working with Bishop Curry, Hunn is now assimilating back into the kinder, gentler lifestyle of New Mexico. His greatest joy is spending time with his wife Meg, who is also an ordained Episcopal priest, and daughter Dose. In addition to family time, he hikes, rides both mountain and road bikes, and considers himself a pretty good bicycle mechanic. A permaculture gardener, he and Meg are planning the garden, to include a fruit orchard, at their new home.

As he settles in to what he hopes will be a long and fruitful tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, Bishop Michael Hunn embraces the Anglican stance of humility. “I’m aware that I’m a human being and God’s vision is bigger than I am, so I better ask you what you think, too.” He begins this new journey with a deeply held belief that the message of love and welcome in the liturgical traditions of the Episcopal Church will inspire future generations to carry it forward into the future.

“If we can tell people there is a way to bring your questions and your yearning and your searching to create a community of people who are on the same path and that’s what it means to be a part of a church, I know there are a lot of people who would sign up for that.”

James Overton is a member of The Church of the Holy Faith in Santa Fe, NM. He is a former journalist and network television news producer.

Jim Overton interviews Bishop Hunn
Successful Winter and Spring at Bishop’s Ridge

By Ms. Paula Mote, Camp Stoney Missioner

It is well known that Bishop’s Ridge/Camp Stoney in Santa Fe is the destination for youth and young adults in June and July for our Diocesan Youth Camps, and it has become the home of the Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival in August, the site for The Nature Conservancy’s International Spanish Speaking Training Exchange in October, and a prime location for weddings in September, but what you may not know is Bishop’s Ridge is now open for business during the winter months and early spring as well!

We are happy to report that interest in Your Episcopal Camp and Conference Center this year has increased dramatically. We finished 2018 with strong bookings of The Retreat House and The Bishop’s Cottage via VRBO – Vacation Rental By Owner. This year, all of those guests were visiting New Mexico from Texas for a New Mexico holiday, and used Bishop’s Ridge as their launch point to Ski Santa Fe, along with other tourism destinations in “The City Different.” In the beginning of 2019, Bishop’s Ridge was proud to host The Simon Charitable Foundation’s, Winter Retreat, for Bishop’s Ridge continues to be the home of the Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival in August, July for our Diocesan Youth Camps, and it has become the destination for youth and young adults in June and July for our Diocesan Youth Camps.

By Christopher Jewell, Hospitality Coordinator

The Simon Scholars Program supports students who demonstrate resilience in the face of economic and life challenges. Our scholars, who are among the first in their family to pursue a college education, embody determination, persistence, optimism, gratitude and enthusiasm. Our community of scholars views higher education as a pathway to a successful and fulfilling life. We strive to facilitate meaningful opportunities for our scholars to better know themselves as individuals, family members, and community members, while assisting them in attaining a college degree.

In the spring of 2019, Bishop’s Ridge will host the New Mexico Higher Education Association’s, Grad Up program, and we are thrilled to work with the Children’s Grief Center of New Mexico’s Camp Corazon, which will consist of fifty children and twenty-five volunteers at this year’s camp in June.

Bishop’s Ridge/Camp Stoney, Your Episcopal Camp and Conference Center, continues to gain popularity, is being recognized as an affordable venue in Santa Fe, and serves as a hospitality center in the Diocese of the Rio Grande for a very diverse and broad spectrum of families, groups, and organizations who are looking for a sacred space to do their work in the world. We look forward to hosting you and your group soon!

Camp Stoney Is My Happy Place!

By Ms. Paula Mote, Camp Stoney Missioner

For over 50 years Camp Stoney has been the Happy Place for many a young person. The staff of Camp Stoney has contributed to the growth and formation of many young people over the years. Some campers have become priests and deacons, while others have become Diocesan staff, and still others have been directors of Camp Stoney. It is not uncommon to run across a former camper who agrees with my statement “Camp Stoney Is My Happy Place.”

The benefits of sending a young person to Camp Stoney last a lifetime. We focus on creating a safe and healthy environment for young people to grow in their faith, study, worship, acting, and arts and crafts. Camp Stoney offers our campers a place to grow in their independence, social skills, and in leadership. When young people attend Camp Stoney they learn more about themselves and how to live in community with many different personalities. This is where young people learn responsibility by keeping their space clean and clutter free, team work by working together to maintain their living spaces, and independence by being in an environment different from home. This is an opportunity for campers to contemplate the truth of God’s Word, relax in a supportive environment, and appreciate God’s creation.

By sending your young person to Camp Stoney you are opening the door for your child to develop a relationship with God, to develop an appreciation for God’s creation, to build relationships and memories. Sharing your camper with us year after year helps them to grow into the next generation of camp counselors, giving them the opportunity to pass on the joy of Camp Stoney being their Happy Place! From Family Camp to Superhero/Superheroine Camp there is something for everyone! Register now so Camp Stoney can become a part of your family’s summer.
Roadshow celebrates with cakes
Bishop Michael Hunn celebrated the fact that the Search and Transition committees that resulted in his election both came in under budget with the suggestion of cakes.

Dr. Kathleen Pittman, President of the Standing Committee, kicked off the celebration of the achievement in Roswell by pronouncing “This is the end of the beginning.” Congratulations to the Search and Transition committees for a job well done.

Roadshow cake by Cindy Hughes in El Paso
Cake presented at Santa Fe

2020 Budget Timeline

Budget Listening Sessions
January 31, 2019 Meeting at St. Michael’s and All Angels – Budget Listening Session
February 23, 2019 Meeting at St. Andrew’s, Roswell – Response to Budget Listening Session and Budget Focus and Visioning Conversation
February 28, 2019 Meeting at St. Bede’s, Santa Fe – Response to Budget Listening Sessions and Budget Focus and Visioning Conversation
March 23, 2019 Meeting at St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso – Response to Budget Listening Sessions and Budget Focus and Visioning Conversation
April 6, 2019 Meeting at St. Francis, Rio Rancho – Response to Budget Listening Sessions and Budget Focus and Visioning Conversation
May 4, 2019 Meeting at St. John’s, Alamogordo – Response to Budget Listening Sessions and Budget Focus and Visioning Conversation

Establishment of Treasury Committee and Budget Formation
January 2019 Bishop Hunn appoints Treasury Committee and Budget Sub-Committee
April 3, 2019 Newly revised Budget Application Material sent to Aided Congregations and Diocesan Ministries and Programs
May 13, 2019 Deadline for submission of Budget Application Material
May 15, 2019 Budget Sub-Committee begins work on 1st draft of 2020 Budgets for DRG, Bosque Center and Bishop’s Ridge – Identifying Strategic Goals and Solutions

Budget Sub Committee Members:
- Bishop Michael Hunn
- Treasurer John Perner, Hope Episcopal, Albuquerque and Vic Pizzio, Holy Cross, Edgewood
- John Fortunato, St. Francis on the Hill, El Paso
- JP Arrossa, St. Michael’s All Angels, Albuquerque
- Lisa Ricker, DRG Staff Support

Remainder of May

Beginning of June

Budget Sub Committee meets to rework budget
June 12, 2019 Business Manager electronically submits 2020 Draft Budgets to Diocesan Council for review before June 19 meeting
June 19, 2019 Diocesan Council meets with Budget Sub-Committee to review and make needed revisions to the 2020 Draft Budgets before submission to Deaneries
Week of June 24 Budget Presentation Video is prepared by Council and Budget Sub-Committee

Budget Presentation
June 28, 2019 Diocesan Council submits Video Budget Presentation to Area Deans for distribution to Deanery Congregations
July 2019 Diocesan Council appointees and Budget Sub-Committee appointees present Video Budget Presentation at Deanery Meetings followed by discussion
July 2019 Area Deaneries meet to review requests/comments made at Deanery Meetings and compile comments for consideration by Diocesan Council
August 14, 2019 Diocesan Council and Budget Sub-Committee meet to make any necessary changes based of Deanery Meeting feedback. After changes have been made they will formally finalize the 2020 Draft Budgets and recommend their submission to Convention for Adoption
August 18, 2019 The 2020 Draft Budgets are submitted for publication in the Convention Newsletter and put on Diocesan Website
October 17-19, 2019 Diocesan Treasurer and Diocesan Council appointee present the 2020 Draft Budgets recommended to Convention for Adoption

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