Greetings and Welcome to Silver City!
And also thank you to Good Shepherd!

On behalf of the good people of Silver City, welcome to this beautiful part of God’s world and this beautiful part of our Diocese. This place has been the home of indigenous people for centuries and more recently it is the home of the Apache people. The Spanish found copper here and then some gold and silver, in them there hills, and this is the place where a man named William Bonney was first arrested and made his first of many escapes from jail. You know him as Billy the Kid. He was 14 years old living here alone after his mother died from tuberculosis, when he was arrested for stealing some butter and fencing it to a local grocer, and then escaped from jail by shimmying up a chimney to the roof and splitting town. So, while we’re here eat all the butter you want and stay out of jail, please.

I love being your bishop and I must tell you, I’m going to be here with you for a long time. God has called us together and we have work to do together. As I look back on this year my heart is filled with love for this place and for you, the faithful people of God.

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In the courtyard of Westcott House at Cambridge University in England, right outside the chapel there is a brass bell. It is not large. Not imposing. In fact, you could easily walk right past the niche where it hangs silently for much of the day. But that bell has a purpose. It hangs there noble and strong, quietly waiting to do its job. That bell calls the seminarians at Westcott House, those men and women preparing for priesthood in the Church of England or the wider Anglican Communion, to prayer four times each day.

Those four calls to prayer every day shape the lives of those preparing for priesthood at Westcott House. When that bell rings you have 10 minutes to be in your pew. The faculty sit in the back so they can tell who is present and who isn’t. You won’t be penalized for missing Chapel for time from time to time, but if you miss too many times in a row there are four words written in Greek. Pistos o kallon umas. The one calling you is faithful.

That bell rings calling you to prayer and that bell and the prayer remind you that God is faithful. That message, that truth, is important for seminarians to get clear about because when you are giving your life to the service of God it is easy to get discouraged. It is easy not to respond to that bell, easier to roll over and go back to sleep on a cold morning. Easier to keep working on that paper in the library than to quickly find a stopping place and go to pray. Going to church is like that for us, right? It’s easy to miss a week or two, and then it’s easy to fall away completely. Perhaps not for some of us in this room, but for others, am I right? That bell keeps ringing out, the one calling you is faithful. God is calling you! God is faithful!

I’ve been thinking about that bell recently, because as I finish this first year as your bishop, I have been looking back over the course of the life and the ministry to which God has called me. I am amazed as I think about my back over the course of the life and the ministry to which God has called me. I am amazed as I think about the angels and the seraphim and the cherubim that are said to be present here in this room, but for others, am I right? That bell keeps ringing out, the one calling you is faithful. God is calling you! God is faithful!

I was taught the Gospel by Sunday school teachers who are still here, and where I learned to be an acolyte, where I was confirmed by another Bishop of the Rio Grande in another century. By the time I got to Westcott House, I knew of God’s faithfulness, but still needed the reminder. We all need that reminder from time to time.

The one calling you is faithful.

Those words written on that bell, and the ringing call to prayer four times a day, have characterized my life since I first heard it ring in 1994. And I have been blessed to know so many faithful people over the years. This Diocese is full of them. As I have been preparing for this, my first convention as your Bishop, I want to give thanks for the ministry of those who have gone before, particularly Bishop Vono, whose faithful service for eight years laid the foundation on which we will build together.

And I want to thank Dr. Guy Gronquist of Holy Faith, Santa Fe, whose tenure as treasurer hearkened me he worked as a full-time volunteer member of this staff. We should all be grateful for his faithfulness to God and to this Diocese.

While we’re looking back, let’s look back a bit further. I’m also grateful to the Reverend Colin Kelly and the Standing Committee who led the Diocese through some troubled waters between bishops. And God continues to bless this Diocese with faithful people and it has been a blessing to me to serve with them. Dr. Kathleen Pittman, the president of our Standing Committee and the committee she leads have been a constant source of wisdom and support. Your Diocesan Council, including Vice President Cathy Bailer and St. Michael and All Angels, have listened carefully to each other and the Diocese.

As your Bishop I am blessed with not one but two chancellors. Karen Aubrey, Chancellor of New Mexico and Clyde Pine, Chancellor of Texas are wise counselors and a great team, but it’s their hearts and their love for this church that I am most grateful for. Your diocesan staff are a hard-working, loving, dedicated group, and I love going to work with them every day. When you see them, please thank them for what they do in their faithful ministry. I could stand here all day and tell you stories about those I’m blessed to work with. As I look around this room, I should thank each of you by name, and it wouldn’t be enough. Let’s take a moment in prayer to name silently or aloud the faithful ones we get to work with.

The one calling us is indeed faithful. Taking the time to look back now and then can be a helpful reminder that God is, in fact, calling us. Particularly at moments when the way ahead is uncertain, or the current struggles of the day challenge us, sometimes a little glance in the rear view mirror can reassure us that the words on that bell are indeed true. The one calling us is faithful. Today. And will be in the future.

Looking back at Convention 1919

So, let’s look into our Diocesan rearview mirror for a bit, shall we? One hundred years ago was the 25th Convention of the Missionary District of New Mexico and Southwest Texas, that part of Texas west of the Pecos River. The year was 1919. World War I had just come to an end. The Treaty of Versailles was sent to Congress.
2019 Diocesan Elections

Among the business at the 67th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande in Silver City was the election of officers. Elected this year were:

Cathedral Chapter
- The Rev. Canon Jean Campbell, 208 votes

Commission on Ministry of the Baptized
- The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Lutz, 194 votes

Disciplinary Board
- Mr. Patrick Lamb, 178

Diocesan Council
- Lay: Mr. Tim Kruse, 191 votes
- Clergy: The Rev. Carinne Hodges, 186 votes

Standing Committee
- Clergy: The Rev. Jan Hosea, 189 votes
- Withdrawn: The Rev. Justin Gibson, 70
- Lay: Ms. Mia Prieskorn, 188 votes

2021 General Convention Deputation
- Lay Deputies elected:
  - Ms. Catherine Bailey, 157 vote
  - Ms. Diane Butler, 155 votes
  - The Honorable Joseph Alarid, 150 votes
  - Canon Mark Childers, 148 votes

Alternate:
- Dr. Guy Gronquist, 127 votes-
  First Alternate

Clergy Deputies elected:
- The Rev. Alexander Lenzo, 134 votes
- The Rev. Danie Cave, 122 votes
- The Rev. Jeremiah Griffin, 115 votes
- The Very Rev. Mark Goodman, 99 votes

Alternates:
- The Very Rev. Kristin Kopren, 91 votes
  First Alternate
- The Rev. Michael Wallens, 78 votes
  Second Alternate
- The Rev. Regina Hurley, 75 votes
  Third Alternate
- The Very Rev. Christopher Adams, 69 votes
  Fourth Alternate

Know It: God is Good – All the Time

Sermon by the Rev. Canon Lee Curtis

God is good. All the time.
All the time. God is good.
The first time I heard this line I was working with the Church of the Common Ground in downtown Atlanta, a church that’s made up mostly of folks experiencing homelessness. I was there as their Deacon for a summer and after that I would meet during the week underneath a pop-up canopy in a parking lot. On Sundays we would gather for Eucharist in Woodruff Park.

That call and response, that God is good all the time, wasn’t in my tradition growing up. It certainly wasn’t in my seminary training. God is good. All the time. That’s God’s nature. I can get on board with God’s ontological goodness. We can sit down on the three-legged-stool and talk about God’s goodness and what that goodness means.... but that’s missing the point. It wasn’t about understanding that God is good. It was about knowing that God is good.

God is good. Words that came out of the mouths of people who had every reason in the world to say the opposite. And here I was, nice southern white boy, seminary trained, hearing people of deep and abiding faith, who have every reason to have none. The day that my ministry actually began was the day that I heard that phrase and realized that “Who I was to not believe them.” Who I was to deny what they were trying to give me as a gift.

God is good. Just say it. Just know it. It wasn’t until I listened and took that step out, took that step into their faith, that my ministry really got started. Sometimes, we who are in this business of ministry, who are in the business of faith, can be so painfully unaware of the ways in which we need to be carried. Because whether we know it or not we are being carried. Even now. One of the joys of being in this work is that I get to accompany many of our friends in ministry who are on a journey. Our friends on a journey toward ordination, our colleagues and pastors in transition, those seeking asylum on our southern border. Who have a gift to see those folks who are stepping out in faith. That inkling in the back of a clergyperson’s mind saying “You know what, retirement is starting to sound alright.... even if it’s slightly scary.” The step out of a vestry or bishop’s committee to thankfully follow God’s call.

I can tell you how many stories of faith and call I’ve heard along our southern border, of someone just said, “I have to go,” and like in that moment at the Red Sea, that moment between the Egyptian armies and those cold waters, in that moment of desperation, God speaks, the waters part, and a way is made out of no way. And a journey toward freedom begins.

Those same faithful, who believe so deeply that God is still in the business of making a way out of no way, are staying in our shelters in Juarez, looking across this river of ours at la estrella de la matanza, believing that there is still the promise of a better life for their children, the promise of an American dream that somehow still exists, and that the God who has brought them this far didn’t bring them to the river for no reason. Their faith carries us. Calls us. Demands something of us. In the 11th chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews, the author lays out a litany... by faith... by faith... by faith... By faith Abraham stepped out, not knowing where he would go, stayed as a sojourner in a foreign land. When people told him that he was too old, when even he knew he was too old to make that great nation, God still insisted that he had something left to do. You hear that, Episcopal Church? When Abraham said he was too old, God still had something for him to do. That’s the call for us, to take that step in faith, to make sense of what resurrection might look like here in New Mexico and Far West Texas. What is the next step? Where is God moving us?

It’s an answer we’re gonna find together. I don’t have it. Bishop doesn’t have it either. This journey is beginning with us. And it requires two things. Knowing in our bones that God is good. When we wake up in the morning and sing unto the Lord, when we lie down and ask that same Lord to let us depart in peace, from the rising of the sun to its setting, God is good. And if it seems like we’re still stuck searching for the scraps of what the Good Old Days left behind, we’re the Church that has the old words that “we are not worthy so to gather up the crumbs under thy table, but thou, O Lord art the same God whose property is always to have mercy.” which just sounds like a different way of saying that God is good, all the time.

The other thing we have to know, and really, really, know, is that y’all are good too. In my two months here I’ve heard this story, and today I want to give it the lie. I’ve heard the story that this diocese has been beaten up, that this diocese has been lacking resources from the time we were a missionary district. People in this diocese have asked why I would want to come to this way to work here. The answer is simple. Y’all are good. God is good. Y’all are good. Those apostles and saints and martyrs who got us this far were good. And this place, these people, are good. We have enough. We are enough.

We have a journey to undertake, but that’s not new to this place. 12,000 years ago someone came this way and stuck around long enough to make a spearhead. The people whose land we’re on stuck around and carved homes out of cliff faces less than 100 miles from here. The Spaniards who came through this way saw a land that was good and the Puebloans who revolted kicked the Spaniards out because they knew it was good. Every step of the way someone has come to this part of the world and said that it’s good. Let their faith carry us. Believe them. They got us this far. And they weren’t wrong.

God is good. Y’all are too.

Canonical Revision Proposal Pulled

The Amendment to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of the Rio Grande proposed that would have added term limits to the election of General Convention Deputies was withdrawn by its author near the end of the first day of business at the 67th Annual Convention in Silver City.

Dr. Victor Rizzo, senior warden at Church of the Holy Cross, Edgewood, proposed the amendment to Canon 10, which would have limited deputies and first alternates to two consecutive three-year terms, had it been approved by Convention over the “do not approve” recommendation of the Constitution and Canons Commission. If approved the amendment would have gone into effect at the diocesan convention and would have swept away the “do not approve” recommendation of the Constitution and Canons Commission. If approved the amendment would have gone into effect at the diocesan convention and would have swept away the “do not approve” recommendation of the Constitution and Canons Commission.
ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2019

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The 67th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande gathered at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center in Silver City. Church of the Good Shepherd provided cookies, volunteers and hospitality for lay and clergy delegates and visitors. (Photo by Christopher Jewell)

Convention Gathered

Digital Evangelism was the topic for the Plenary Session provided for Convention and offered by Jeremy Tackett, the Digital Evangelist for the Episcopal Church. Mr. Tackett provided a tip sheet for churches to begin exploring evangelism through social media.

He did not provide the nuts and bolts of setting up accounts and jumping into social media, but guided us through the impact social media can have to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“If you have questions on ‘how to’, just Google for directions. There’s a YouTube video on how to do just about everything.”

Additionally, those gathered at Convention were also given a taste of the teaching of the new Canon to the Ordinary in “All things come of Thee: A Spirituality of Stewardship.” Canon Lee Curtis provided an expanded vision of Stewardship as a spiritual way of living.

Convention Given a Primer on Digital Evangelism, Stewardship

Digital Evangelism Tip Sheet

1. Start where you’re comfortable. You don’t have to open accounts with every social media provider to be an effective digital evangelist. Your best opportunity to build genuine community is by being in your community. If that’s Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, or Instagram, then that platform is the right one.

2. Follow your church and diocesan accounts. Posts by your church and your diocese are great places to find positive things to share about your experience with God. You’ll be able to engage in conversations about things happening in the life of the church, and often you’ll see upcoming events in your area.

3. And speaking of events… share! When you “share” your church or diocesan events on your accounts, you help spread the reach of the church’s social media efforts. By simply clicking the share button or even going further and inviting your friends individually, you let those in your social media circles know that something worthwhile is happening, and that they’re welcome, too.

4. Check in when you’re at a church service or parish event. Another easy way to let those in your circles know that you’re involved with your church is to “check in” on Facebook or other social media when you’re attending a service or event at the location. Be sure to add a short note to your post to let others know why you’re there, and remember to let folks know that they’re invited, too.

5. Let your friends see your perspective. It’s great to share pictures and videos and quotes from others in your parish and diocese, but you can share yours, too! If you captured a really cool picture of an event on your phone, or if a particular line from a sermon really impacted you, post it to your account. This is an easy way to share your experience with your friends, and it helps the parish capture the event. Don’t forget to tag them!

Want more tips? Download facilitator & participant guide for the Evangelism and Social Media class at www.episcopalchurch.org/evangelism-toolkit.

Digital Evangelist Jeremy Tackett Introduces Social Media
Many Thanks to Good Shepherd

Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn expressed his gratitude to the volunteers at a reception in the Parish Hall at Church of the Good Shepherd on the evening prior to the opening of convention registration. The laity and lay leadership and clergy of Good Shepherd stepped up and provided hospitality galore to the delegates to the 67th Annual Diocesan Convention after the departure of the former rector earlier this year. Volunteers provided guidance to arrivals, tours of the church, acted as Sergeants at Arms during the business meetings, and ensured cookies were provided at all times.
RESOLUTION #1: THE REV. CANON RAYMOND RANEY

Be it resolved that this 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its deepest gratitude to the Rev. Canon Raymond Raney for his efforts on behalf of this Diocese as Canon to the Ordinary to Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn. We further commend Canon Raney for his tireless efforts in supporting the Laity and Clergy and Congregations of this Diocese in times of transition and in continuing communications of their ministries.

Be it further resolved, that this Convention commends Canon Raney to be our well-deserved retirement with the assurance that there are ministries God and our Bishop have in mind for his future in this Diocese.

RESOLUTION #2: WELCOME TO THE REV. CANON WM. LEE CURTIS III

The Rt. Rev. Michael Beard Hunn, Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, officiated at a liturgy organized by diocesan Canon Liturgist and Archdeacon, the Reverend Patricia Soukup. Music was provided by Canon Mark Childers with a combined choir from Church of the Good Shepherd and Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe. Bishop Hunn instituted the Rev. W. Lee Curtis III as Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, at the 67th Annual Convention.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn, Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, expressed is deepfelt gratitude for the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Marion McFarland, Deacon. Deacon McFarland served the Lord and his Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso, New Mexico, for thirteen years you have served this diocese in the capacity of Rector, Communications Officer and Canon to the Ordinary, having worked faithfully together with your Bishop and fellow presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher. Now, in accordance with the Canons, on the occasion of your retirement, and in recognition of your devoted service, we install you as an honorary Canon Emeritus of the Cathedral of St. John.

The voices of the choir of Church of the Good Shepherd were supplemented by that of Alicia Sherrill of Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso, New Mexico, for hosting the Decision Convention this year. Our particular gratitude goes to convention committee co-chairs, Mrs. Win Taylor and Mr. Bruce Taylor, and to the Rev. Linda Wilson and to all the members of the committees and volunteers for their hospitality and for all their work on our behalf.

RESOLUTION #3: GRATITUDE FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. RAYMOND RANEY

RESOLUTION #4: GRATITUDE TO DIGITAL EVANGELIST JEREMY TACKETT

RESOLUTION #5: 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RIO RANCHO

RESOLUTION #6: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH OF THE HOLY MOUNT, RUIDOSO

RESOLUTION #7: CONVENTION HOSTS

RESOLUTION #8: ANNUAL CONVENTION 2020

RESOLUTION #9: 95TH THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. JOHN PENN

RESOLUTION #10: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. MARION CANTERBURY

RESOLUTION #11: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. RAYMOND RANEY

Continued on page 20
Rio Grande Borderland Ministry Report

By the Rev. Michael Walders, Co-Chair and Vicar of St. Paul’s, Marfa

Let me begin the way we begin every meeting of RGBM. Let us pray…

Dear God, every day, men, women, and children are making the perilous journey north to the US border, a border established by people, not by God. May we always be curious about what is beyond borders, going there gently, knowing you have always been there. This is what we are asking for. To be able to move past what we can see, feel, taste, touch and hear, beyond the bodies, toward a new horizon, a new reality, a kingdom You are imagining. O Christ, and inviting us to imagine and embody with our hearts, hands and feet as we follow You. Let us go forward this day in harmony with You, compassion and mindfulness in mind and heart as we make our way toward the border. It all begins by listening to the stories and then hearing how the Spirit wishes you to act.

The Rev. Hector Trejo reports on the situation with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in northern Mexico. A priest with the Anglican Diocese of Northern Mexico, he was recently ordained, and works closely with Fr. J. J. Bernal of St. Christopher’s. His work involves hearing the stories of those who have contributed in any way to our ministry also listening for the Spirit to direct and guide you in a ministry you are living out. Stay standing as all those with whom we share this day have contributed to our ministry stretching from Marfa to Ojinaga and beyond. We are always looking for people to serve on the RGBM committee and to stand and be recognized for the important ministry you are living out. Stay standing as all those who have contributed in any way to our ministry also stand. Look around at those people. They all have stories to tell to enlighten us, as they have reached out to listen to people’s stories of where they were, and to assist them in finding out where they need to go. Listen for the Spirit to direct and guide you in a ministry at our border. Let us close the same way we began…..Let us go forth this day in harmony with You, compassion in our hearts, gratitude in our thoughts, generosity in our deeds, justice as our passion. Let us go forth, carrying God’s image into our hurting world.

AMEN+

There are so many things to talk about and my time is limited First…big thank you for your prayers. When I share with people at the border that people are praying for them, people are visibly moved to know this. It says to them that somebody cares for them. A big thank you to all of you who have written your congress person about these bad immoral policies which have made their way to the border. 30 sewing machines which you will hear more about shortly, blankets, diapers, water for people living in the street not wanting to lose their place in line.

A big thank you for all of you who were ready to change your normal activities at a moment’s notice because a bus was coming to where you live and people needed friendly faces and people who could help them get their bearings. Another big thank you to all of you who have written your congress person about these bad immoral policies which have made their way to the border. Let us pray…..

Diocese of Northern Mexico, he was recently ordained, and works closely with Fr. J. J. Bernal of St. Christopher’s. His work involves hearing the stories of those who have contributed in any way to our ministry also listening for the Spirit to direct and guide you in a ministry you are living out. Stay standing as all those with whom we share this day have contributed to our ministry stretching from Marfa to Ojinaga and beyond. We are always looking for people to serve on the RGBM committee and to stand and be recognized for the important ministry you are living out. Stay standing as all those who have contributed in any way to our ministry also stand. Look around at those people. They all have stories to tell to enlighten us, as they have reached out to listen to people’s stories of where they were, and to assist them in finding out where they need to go. Listen for the Spirit to direct and guide you in a ministry at our border. Let us close the same way we began…..Let us go forth this day in harmony with You, compassion in our hearts, gratitude in our thoughts, generosity in our deeds, justice as our passion. Let us go forth, carrying God’s image into our hurting world.

AMEN+

Current Context Hostels

- 18, 878 Persons subject to international protection, have registered through a consecutive number from October 27, 2018 to date, waiting to be called (Source COESPO).
- 5, 973 Persons subject to international protection, are in transit through Ciudad Juarez waiting to be processed through their asylum application in the United States of America, with an approximate waiting time of 180 days for the reception of the last registered number (Source COESPO).
- 1, 405 People subject to international protection, are protected in the Network of Hostels implemented in Juárez (Source INM-Beta Group).
- 1, 331 Mexicanos have been repatriated by the Human Repatriation point “Libertad” located in the International Bridge Santa Fe / Paso del Norte during the month of September this year (Source INM).
- 15, 238 Nationals have been repatriated by the Human Repatriation point “Libertad” located at the Santa Fe / Paso del Norte International Bridge from January 1 to September 20 of the current year (INM Source).
- 19, 435 Return migrants, who await the resolution of their request for political asylum towards the United States, in Ciudad Juárez, from the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP Protection Protocol); 56% men, 44% women, 73% adults, 27% children accompanied. 14,488 participants, 4, 580 readmissions. The profile by nationality is distributed in the following percentages: 13% of El Salvador, 28% are from Guatemala, 28% from Honduras, and 29% from other Spanish-speaking nationalities. Of the total, there are 3,703 family units (Source INM).
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

What I Learned From a Three-Year-Old Today
by Madeleine Fazenbaker
St. John’s, Alamogordo

Today I saw a video on the news that was taken by the mother of her little 3-year-old son walking to school. He was reciting an affirmation she taught him starting at the age of 2, when he started talking. In this very brief video, a little boy is walking down the street to pre-school, back pack on his back, banana in hand, repeating with great gusto, “I am smart, I am blessed, I can do ANYTHING!” His name is Ayaan, and he repeated it as he walked in step with the words. I was so touched. He was not grumbling, or distracted by anything; he was happy and motivated, and touching hearts all along the way. I have got to begin starting my day this way. I get stuck in my ruts, and I’m not the brightest and most cheerful morning person you ever met. I see so much in the world that needs fixing, things that upset me or depress me and I know I have the power to change my perspective and start each day with the enthusiasm of this little boy. So I want to do that! I want to watch this beautiful child in this video every day. We have to take responsibility for what we put in our heads; the emotions we give in to and the attitudes we take up. Stewardship of our minds is a real thing! I’m going to let the thought of this video sit in a place of honor in my head, and remind me of the wonderfulness of this world. I am going to start my days with this thought and the joy this little boy put in my heart. I am thankful that his mother, Alissa, is a good steward of this child’s mind, planting positive thoughts and the joy of God and His blessings in that little head. There is more to parenting than feeding, clothing and getting the child to pre-school on time. There is the nurturing of this child’s spirit and mind. Ayaan has become a good example of the adage: what a child hears, he will repeat and believe, and this is a symbol of healthy early childhood development as a result of an engaged Christian parent. Little Ayaan, I hope you grow up knowing that you inspired people to start their day in a positive way, giving the glory to God, and doing great things – because armed in this way, you CAN do anything! The Tour de Church Sign quote of the day to go with this. When you believe, you can achieve – Amen to that! PS. If you want to see this adorable video just google the quote little Ayaan said and it will pop up. It will make you smile too!

2020 Camp Stoney Summer Schedule

Family Camp June 11 – 14 (All ages)
This is the camp to learn about Camp Stoney and the summer camp experience. Bring the whole family to relax in the pool, go on a hike, learn archery, study the bible, and enjoy the fellowship that camp brings. Alumni are invited to come to this camp and share why it is their Happy Place.

Hobbit Camp June 14 – 20
(Grades 3 – 8, Ages 8-13)
This summer Narnia is headed to the Shire! This camp offers hiking, archery, swimming, arts and crafts, skits, bible study, and much more. This camp will be influenced by J. R. R. Tolkien’s “The Hobbit” offering our campers an introduction to the novel through skits and camp activities.

Adventure Camp June 21 – 27
(Grades 7 – 12, Ages 12 - 17)
Youth are invited to come explore God’s creation through hiking, swimming, camping, white water rafting, bible study, and community service. This camp has walks and light hiking up to 2 miles in length and may tent camp up to 2 nights.

Superhero Camp June 21 – 27
(Grades 6 – 12, Ages 11 – 17)
This camp invites youth to explore the similarity of biblical people to their favorite Superheroine or Superhero. This camp offers swimming, hiking, archery, arts and crafts (build a costume), games, and much more.

Camp Hippogriff (Harry Potter)
June 28 – July 4 (Grades 3 – 8, Ages 8 – 13)
Don’t let the name confuse you, it’s still our fan favorite Harry Potter Camp! Camp Hippogriff explores the bible through J. K. Rowling’s literary works of “Harry Potter.” Campers will participate in arts and crafts, skits, hiking, archery, swimming, bible study, and much more.

Summer Fun Camp July 12 – 18
(Grades 3 – 7, Ages 8 -12)
This camp is all about arts and crafts, skills, hiking, swimming, archery, games, bible study, and many more activities that are associated with “Summer Camp.”

Gracie Camp July 19 – 25
(Grades 6 – 12, Ages 11 - 17)
A ministry of Camp Stoney to provide a week of summer camp to children who have one or more of their parents in prison or have been in prison. This camp offers arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, archery, bible study, and many other summer camp activities.

For more information and registration, visit our website: www.bishopsridge.org/camp-stoney

St. Mark’s J2A Journey to San Francisco

The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class from St. Mark’s in Albuquerque made a pilgrimage to San Francisco in late June. The youth attended an Evening Prayer service based on the movie “Sister Act” at Grace Cathedral, prayed among the redwoods in Muir Woods, visited the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park, and helped serve at the Food Pantry at St. Gregory of Nyssa Church. They also attended Sunday morning Eucharist there.

The class read “Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion” by Sara Miles in preparation for working in the St. Gregory food pantry. They were thrilled to meet the author at church on Sunday morning.

St. Mark’s J2A Journey to San Francisco

Pilgrims finding their way in San Francisco.

J2A youth and leaders taking a break from working in the Food Pantry at St. Gregory of Nyssa church in San Francisco.

J2A youth from St. Mark’s among the redwoods in Muir Woods.

The Tour de Church Sign quote of the day to go with this. When you believe, you can achieve – Amen to that!
Together

Cathedral Choristers - Psallam spiritu et mente
by Canon Dr. Matine Thevenot, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist

Begun in the fall of 2006, the Cathedral of St. John Chorister program, designed for children aged 8 and up, is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music of America and carries the moniker: Psallam spiritu et mente - to sing with the spirit and with the understanding also, from 1 Corinthians 14:15. The Chorister program was expanded in 2012 to include the Cathedral Choruses, a program designed for children aged 4-8. Below are words from three graduating seniors, Class of 2020, who have grown up in the Cathedral Chorister program. For more information on the Cathedral’s music program, please email cathedralmusicprogram@gmail.com

Abby (Abigail) Clarke, Class of 2020
Rafter’s fill with clouds of incense, colors dance on white washed walls, wind blows through gleaming pipes, candles jump from soul to soul, waves of music reflect from our mouths, harmonized averse crescendos. An atmosphere of awe surrounds us. Music fulfills me. The collaborative consonants mesmerize my ears. Hundreds of hymns and anthems, each singularly special, are engraved deep inside my brain.

Years of late night rehearsals and Sunday services are responsible for my infatuation with choral music. I’ve spent 1,280 hours, 76,800 minutes, or 4,608,000 seconds creating extraordinary music. I’ve fallen in love with the marvellous sound of the cathedral choir and the atmosphere it creates. I look forward to each service, anticipating the anthems. Each year I wait for Ash Wednesday to arrive, for my favorite anthem, the Alleluia Misereere, to be pulled from the choral library. I wait for midnight mass, where each individual frame combines as a congregation to light the large expanse of the cathedral. I wait for the exciting intensity of recording projects. For the announcements regarding our next tour locations. Each year is filled with a combination of new spectacular experiences and old traditions. Year after year, anthem after anthem, my enthusiasm for choir has never faltered.

I remember staring up at stone. Looking at the ribbed ceiling above us. Taking in the smooth carvings on the walls and hard dark material. This small enclosed room inside Wells Cathedral in Somerset, England, was magical. The echoes lapped over each other in waves and the sound spiraled upward toward the ceiling. Every note, every sound bounced from wall to wall with gle. Each note from our mouths produced pure bell-like tones. The amazing acoustics raised our voices. Our voices became loud and soothing. When the choir sang, an angelic aura of marshel was established. This momentous memory is the most unforgettable experience.

Choir has provided me with a wonderful community. Growing with the support and kindness of those around me has helped build my confidence not only as a singer but as an individual. I’m thankful for the opportunities that the cathedral has provided me. Spiritually, the chorister prayer embodies the morals and messages expressed through our music. “Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.” As a member of the choir I have learned to understand the meaningfulness of the texts that accompany our music. Each carefully placed syllable can be related to some aspect of our lives.

Throughout the time I’ve spent as a member of the cathedral I’ve learned to value outreach and compassion. I’ve made lifelong friends and learned lifelong lessons. I’ve improved as a musician and an individual. The Episcopal faith as a whole has guided me through adversity. Choir has not only been an immensely positive influence on my life, but, most importantly, has provided me with ten years of joy.

Bryce van Note, Class of 2020
Although the Cathedral Choir is known for its exceptional singing, it is much more. Starting as a chorister when I was in elementary school, I figured out that singing for the glory of God is what brings us together; but the Cathedral Choir program offers much more. It’s traveling together; it’s fellowship; it’s getting an amazing hand-made cookie tin brimming from my Secret Santa, it’s a community of friends and family, not just singers.

Being in the choir has shown me how a professional-level chorus runs and prepared me for a diverse study of music. Dr. Thevenot, Mr. Connolly, and a number of other talented musicians have helped me learn not just to sing and read music, but about music theory and composition. It has helped to develop skills I didn’t know I had, and helped as I learned to play French horn, piano, and mellophone. It showed me the recording side of music and how meticulous it can be for a full choir to sing a piece of music perfectly.

Some of my greatest memories come from three albums we recorded. Once I had the CDs we made and heard how amazing we sounded, it was very inspiring. With each song, when the final note was still sounding through the air, I would look around to an eager room of people waiting for silence to fall, just to hear “one more time.” Of course, we all knew it wouldn’t be just one more time. Choir has formed me to be much more resilient and to have a much longer attention span. Choir has shown me the high level of musicality and practice needed to be a successful singer and instrumentalist. It takes time and dedication.

Over the years, the best part has been the travel. I’ve been able to travel not only coast to coast, but across the ocean to England, where we sang at Wells Cathedral. As a Chorister and as a member of the Cathedral Choir, I’ve been able to travel not only coast to coast, but across the ocean to England, where we sang at Wells Cathedral. I have sung in so many wonderful places, across the ocean to England, where we sang at Wells Cathedral. I have sung in so many wonderful places, and heard how amazing we sounded, it was very inspiring. With each song, when the final note was still sounding through the air, I would look around to an eager room of people waiting for silence to fall, just to hear “one more time.” Of course, we all knew it wouldn’t be just one more time. Choir has formed me to be much more resilient and to have a much longer attention span. Choir has shown me the high level of musicality and practice needed to be a successful singer and instrumentalist. It takes time and dedication.

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Jordyn Tatum, Class of 2020
I first heard about the Chorister program from my Kindergarten art teacher who encouraged me to audition. I had just started first grade when I joined the program in 2006; a little did I know that almost 12 years later it would still be a major part of my life. I can still remember my very first rehearsal. I cried. Upon walking into the choir room I immediately started crying for no reason that I can recall. I guess I became a little overwhelmed. Fortunately I was taken under wing by an older chorister who took me for a short walk around the cathedral space, and I calmed down within a few minutes.

Now this is not the most entertaining memory, but looking back it’s one of the most impactful ones. What if, because of that one bad day, I had decided not to join the program? What if I had quit right then and there? Fortunately, that was not the case.

I don’t think that I can put into words how amazing I have been to be in both the Chorister program and the Cathedral choir. In a lot of ways, being in the choir has shaped me into the person I am today. From a young age choir has taught me the importance of commitment, cooperation, and time management.

Over the years I have been blessed to have had amazing mentors who have guided me, and showed me the value of being a chorister. Now, I can pay it forward as a mentor to younger choristers who are in the same shoes I once was. I find this really humbling because it is one way I can give back to a program that has given me so much.

To me, being a Chorister has meant inspiring people and spreading the word of God through music. Over the years I have had the opportunity to participate in Cathedral recording projects, tours, and anthem commissions. These programs are crucial to outreach because they help spread our sound and our message to people all over the world.

When we take our anthems and hymns to other Cathedrals, and countries, we leave behind a musical footprint. These footprints are a way of building connections with people all around the world. Having had the opportunity to work with various different composers through the Cathedral Commissions program has been such an incredible experience. To be able to meet the composers, work with them, and perform their pieces with them in attendance, is a very special occasion and it further nurtures the idea of building connections not just with people, but with music itself.

The ultimate goal of choral singing is not to be the most famous choir out there, but to be the choir that can sing with such emotion and diligence that you are able to inspire people both spiritually and emotionally in ways that words can’t.

I still remember being asked in our confirmation classes a few years ago “What service is God calling you towards?” This has always been an easy answer because I am certain that I am meant to serve God through music.

I have been told various times at Royal School of Church Music courses “No matter what, always keep music a part of your life.” These words never fail to make me emotional... because I can’t imagine life without music. Thinking about going to college is a little scary because I am certain that I am meant to serve God through music.

As a former Chorister, I am affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music and received my B.A. in music at Rice University. Now I have a position with the Royal School of Church Music as a conductor. I plan to continue studying music, and I know that music will always be an important part of my life. Through my ten years as both a Chorister and as a member of the Cathedral Choir, I will always remember traveling around the world and singing in beautiful and historic churches all along the way.
Together

Daughters of the Kingdom Assembly 2019
by Johanna Binneweg, Vice President, Daughters of the King, Diocese of the Rio Grande

Daughters of the King assembled at the Bosque Retreat Center on August 16-17. The Annual Assembly is a time for all Daughters of the Diocese of the Rio Grande to get together to share meals, fellowship, Holy Eucharist, and spiritual growth in the form of teachings by a specially-chosen speaker.

Sixty-some Daughters attended. Our special speaker was Rev. Meg Buerkel Hunn, wife of our new Bishop. We are fortunate to have Rev. Meg in our midst. She is a very refreshing person; bright, well-read, relaxed in front of a group, and possessed of a wonderful lightness and humor. Her topic was “Recreate: Playful Prayer/Prayerful Play,” for which she was inspired by a comment made months ago by her local spiritual director during their first interview: “You have a 5-year-old daughter? What are you doing here (meaning, in her office)? Let your daughter be your teacher!”

A memorable segment of her series of meditations was about “improv,” the kind of comedy without a script in which a team of actors make up a skit as they go along, by being sensitive to each other, almost reading each other’s thoughts and acting accordingly. Done by professionals, improv can provide a wonderful form of entertainment. Rev. Meg compared life with God to improv. We need to be just that sensitive to the presence of God, living so completely with Him in the moment that we can sense what He is trying to do and join in with Him, allowing Him to use us to create His life around us. The interaction between play and prayer is that both call us to be creative, both call us to be in the here-and-now, and both pray and play call us to be a reflection of our Creator.

Through some innovative games, lots of Scripture references, and reference to a wealth of other literature, Meg developed her theme. Learn to play and pray like a child. Delight yourself in the life God has given you! Play! Laugh!

Women of Faith, Hope, and Love

The mission of Women’s Ministry of the Diocese of the Rio Grande states we work to “connect and support all women in their diverse ministries, by offering opportunities to gather for studying, re-creating, and celebrating who we are as women of Faith, Hope and Love.” The work of the ministry is coordinated by a dedicated group of eleven women from across the diocese. Together with Cindy Davis, Chair, they plan events that foster the goals of the mission statement. We also build on the history of women in the diocese who have participated in ministry in amazing ways since the 1880’s.

On November 15-16, the Women’s Ministry’s annual weekend at the Bosque Center is focused on Entertaining Angels Unaware. The Rev. Pat Green will lead us in contemplating who/what angels are and ways we can be angels in one another’s lives. You can register until November 10 on the Women’s Ministry website www.VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com.

The schedule for 2020 is beginning to come together. RE: Lent, led by Canon Lee Curtis, will be at St. Luke’s, La Union on March 14, 2020. This will be a time to prayerfully re-flect, re-connect, and re-new during Lent and beyond. The 8th Annual Bosque Weekend will be November 20-21, 2020 when the Rev. Carolyn Metzler will help us consider the Wildernesses in our lives. Pencil these dates in on your calendar so you don’t miss the events. Exciting digital opportunities to connect with women around the diocese are also being planned. Sign up from the website www.VarietiesOfGifts.blogspot.com to get regular e-news on these and other events, and follow us on Facebook at Women’s Ministry of DRG. Contact Cindy Davis, Coordinator of Women’s Ministries at cynthia.davisauthor@gmail.com if you have questions, suggestions, or would like to join the Council to help us determine the path for this important ministry.
Together

MINISTRIES

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Retreating in Cloudcroft

Brothers and Sisters—The DRG and Province VII have collaborated to sponsor a Brotherhood Retreat November 21-23. The topic/theme is “Veteran Friendly Parishes” and “Related Veteran Issues” which is one of the seven men’s ministries which the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has recently explored. We are privileged to have the Rev. Dr. Matt Williams, retired Army Chaplain, to lead the retreat.

The topic/theme was chosen because of the interest in veteran affairs and the needs of veterans in our area. We have a large number of veterans in our area that are needing service and support. Our Veteran Friendly Parishes Ministry includes being aware and sensitive to the needs of our veterans. Rev. Dr. Matt Williams (vetchurch.com) has assisted many individuals, churches and organizations in understanding and preparing for our fellow Christians who are veterans.

The retreat will be held at the Church of the Ascension in Cloudcroft. The staff and congregation are assisting in housing arrangements which consist of no-fee or rooms to rent from the Lodge of Cloudcroft. We are offering the retreat for only the cost involved and a small donation to defray any parish costs including food.

The National Brotherhood leadership and its missionaries for this theme are supporting the event as well. We will incorporate some BSTA leadership sessions to assist chapters in members’ leadership growth and development. To this end, we strongly encourage that at least two members from your chapter plan on attending the retreat. We have limited space available but we have set aside two spots for each chapter. Please contact Deacon Tom Bates or Dr. Roy Benavides to let them know who will be attending.

At this point, our estimated costs can be converted by a retreat donation of $35 per attendee.

Music that Makes Community Presents
Exploring Paperless Music and Leadership Practices
Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM • January 31-February 2, 2020

Share a weekend of singing, worship, and learning in community with Sylvia Miller-Mutia, David Poole, and Paul Vasile. Together we’ll explore the ancient and new practice of paperless (oral/aural tradition) music leadership, sharing songs as people did before music or words were written down.

- Learn leadership skills and strategies for sharing paperless songs in your community;
- Build a repertoire of songs that can be led with groups of varied ages and musical experiences;
- Worship and reflect in community, deepening into spaces of listening and exploring how the energy we create through singing affects what we do in worship as a whole, as well as other parts of our human lives.

Music That Makes Community is a non-profit organization working with ecumenical communities and leaders to empower and liberate communities’ spiritual life through participatory and paperless practices grounded in a theology of welcome and generosity for the benefit of musicians, clergy, and lay leaders throughout the United States and Canada. Our hope is that Music That Makes Community offers supplement and enhance what congregations already do, offering repertoire and leadership skills that support vibrant, communal music making.


More about Music that Makes Community: https://www.musicthatmakescommunity.org/

More Questions? Contact Mother Sylvia: sylvia.miller.mutia@gmail.com

About the Presenters:
- David Poole is a writer and composer, a teacher of singing, and the founder and director of the men’s choir ensemble de Profundis. He also served for 47 years as Director of Music at La Mesa Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque and led Ghost Ranch’s Chorale workshop for many summers.
- Paul Vasile is a freelance church musician, consultant, and composer based in New York City. He is excited to help congregations broaden their repertoire of sung prayer, and to demonstrate how participatory music and liturgy can energize and unify worshipers from varied backgrounds, cultures, and traditions.
- The Rev, Sylvia Miller-Mutia is the Associate Rector at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Albuquerque, NM with a focus on outreach, evangelism, and family ministry. As a priest, dancer, and mother of three, she is passionate about inviting people of all ages to join in seeking the divine through worship, prayer, and practice that is embodied, sacramental, participatory, and intergenerational.

A Eucharist for the LGBTQ+ Community and our Allies

followed by a Pot-Luck Dinner

6:00 pm, Sunday, November 10, 2019
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
601 Montana Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Everyone is invited to attend

For more information contact
Rev. Chuck Jones (chuck@stjohnsabq.org)
Rev. David Martin (d.hardy.martin@gmail.com)
Generations 2020: Age-inclusive faith formation
by Leslie Lehoucq, Children, Youth, and Family Minister, St. Chad’s Episcopal Church

For several years now, through the collaboration of various Episcopal churches in Albuquerque, we have put on a summer Vacation Bible School program for children in preschool through middle school. Recently we’ve discerned a call to grow beyond offering a VBS program to creating an age-inclusive experience of immersive faith formation, which we’re calling “Generations.” We’re excited about the possibilities which this expanded model will create to more fully welcome the creativity and participation of people from all our ABQ area congregations, including those whose current membership does not include children or youth. When we come together—across congregations and across generations—we discover that we have so much to learn from and to share with each other! Details and pictures of past VBS are available on the website at https://nwdeanery.weebly.com/vbs.html.

As we begin to plan for this exciting new program, we invite youth and adults from all congregations to join us in creative collaboration. Following the series of Bible studies, we’ll have a series of meetings for Creative Collaborators and Team Leaders, locations TBD, to flesh out the details of large group activities, marketplace crafts, and worship. These meetings will be:

- Sunday, February 23, 4-6 pm
- Thursday, April 23, 8:30-10:30 am
- Sunday, May 17, 4-6 pm

“Generations” will be held Sunday through Wednesday evenings, May 31–June 3, 5:30-7:45 pm, at St. Michael and All Angels Church.

You may contact Leslie at llehoucq@stchadalsbq.org or at 505-859-7840. We look forward to working and growing with you!

St. Chad’s Daughters of the King Honor Expectant Families
by Dana Abo, President, Daughters of the King, Diocese of the Rio Grande

Meredith Griffin, wife of Fr. Jeremiah Griffin, made an observation that four families at St. Chad’s Episcopal Church in Albuquerque were all expecting babies this summer. She suggested that we honor the expectant parents. Cathy Conn, Daughters chapter president, embraced Meredith’s suggestion and offered to have the Daughters help with this novel idea.

Sunday, July 14, was the day of the celebration. Table decorations were in green and yellow gingham plaid and included bright yellow roses, stuffed monkeys, and miniature children’s building blocks. The Daughters presented each family with a beautiful children’s Bible, which Meg Tarble had inscribed. Fr. Jeremiah blessed the Bibles before they were gifted to the parents. Gerry Hill had drawn baby animal cards for each family. These were among many gifts including hooded towels, thumbies, plush monkeys, books, and many others. It was so festive, the parish children were jumping up and down with enthusiasm.

Following Sunday’s breakfast, a beautifully decorated cake was served to all congregants. The inscription said “God’s Blessings and Congratulations” in script writing. Daughters served their infamous punch complete with a floating ice ring, which fascinated all the kids. Toward the end of the festivities, four expectant mothers were observed happily engrossed in conversation. Everyone enjoyed themselves and four miracles of God were welcomed into God’s Kingdom before they were even born!

St. Chad’s Episcopal Church
Church Craft Fair
A raffle fundraiser for Clare’s Closet to purchase clothing and personal hygiene supplies for families in need.

DECEMBER 14, 2019 /9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
2903 CABEZON BLVD
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124

CRAFTERS / VENDORS / BAKE SALE / RAFFLE
SILENT AUCTION / FOOD / SANTA CLAUS

Christmas Books Needed for Children
Christmas being not far over the horizon, St. Paul’s Peace, Las Vegas, is asking once again for children’s books in new or excellent condition. Our goal is to give Christmas story books, or books that relate in some way to the story of Christmas and its meaning, to children living in challenging conditions due to poverty, disruption of their home life, illness, or other factors that make for few opportunities to have books of their own.

The books are always given as gifts. If you are able to donate a book or any number books, please notify the Rev. Madelyn Johnson and she will arrange to receive them. Her email is mkpriest@msn.com.

St. Mark’s 2019 Hollyberry Art & Craft Fair
411 Eubank Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87114
Praise, Praise, Praise Advent
Felt Art, Food, Fun
Seasonal Gifts & High Quality Crafts
Saturday, November 23rd, 10 - 4
Saturday, November 24th, 11 - 4

Thanksgiving Day
Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am
Petruck Dinner at Noon
St. Chad’s Episcopal Church
703 Tennyson NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
505-859-7840 / www.stchadalsbq.org
The Rev. Kenneth Edwin Anderson
March 11, 1929 – September 11, 2019

U. S. Army Maj. Kenneth Edwin Anderson, retired, age 90, departed this earth on Wednesday, 11 September 2019 at his home in El Paso, TX. He passed away peacefully, with family members at his bedside, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Services were held at St. Christopher’s Church in El Paso. Born in 1929 near Churches Ferry, ND, at the family homestead to Edwin and Minnie Sjørine Anderson. Kenneth was the last surviving sibling. His brothers were Einer, Maynard, Howard and Robert. Their sister was Inga.

Norwegian was the primary language spoken in the Anderson household, so young Kenneth began his formal education having to learn to speak, read, and write in English. He was always an eager and dedicated student with an innate love of learning that continued throughout his long and productive lifetime. Kenneth always ‘plowed deep’ intellectually and spiritually. His personal library at home contained hundreds of books on numerous subject matter.

As a teenager in North Dakota, Kenneth learned to fly from a local crop-duster. The type of aircraft was a Stearman bi-plane. He traded labor around the small airport for flying lessons. Later, Ken was allowed to help dust crops piloting the aircraft. The daring young pilot would eventually lose the crop-dusting job when the boss witnessed him flying under power lines. Languages were a welcome challenge and Maj. Anderson could communicate quite well in Norwegian, English, Korean, German, and Vietnamese. Although unable to leave his bed due to his illness, he was learning to speak Spanish with the assistance of his diligent caretaker, Ms. Santos. The family wishes to mention his compassionate and loving kindness to his diligent caretaker, Ms. Santos. The family wishes to mention his compassionate and loving kindness during this trying period. “Muchos Gracias, Senora Santos. You have truly lived up to your name: a saint.” After graduating high school in Devil’s Lake, ND, Anderson joined the Army marching band, playing the clarinet. While returning to his army base on a bus trip from Canada. Private Ken struck up a conversation with a petite and pretty Saskatchewanian named Jesse Hume Rich. He was “love at first sight” for these two. And marriage would eventually follow, with God blessing the couple with three daughters and a son.

Maj. Anderson excelled in various military fields: radar electronics, artillery and guided missile technology. High Hercules tracking radars, early Drone technologies, and was a graduate of the Army Special Warfare School. He served at White Sands Missile Range, Ft. Bliss, McGregor Range, Biggs Field, and the Artillery and Missile School at Ft. Sill, OK. He also studied at the US Military Language School in Saigon for 12 weeks, learning to speak and write Vietnamese. He served in the Korean Conflict, Germany, and the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam. He earned numerous military medals for service, merit, and achievement, including the Bronze Star and the Combat Badge. The Anderson family members have been active members at St. Christopher’s for decades. Ken studied for four years and became a deacon. His beliefs were centered on honesty and loyalty to God, family, and country. Kenneth Edwin Anderson impacted many people’s lives and his good works are too numerous to list, but his lifetime of honesty, trustworthiness, compassion, and righteous acts of kindness assures Ken a beautiful heavenly garment.

Maj. Anderson was preceded in death by daughter Marion in 1987, and his wife of 62 years, Jesse in 2015. He is survived by daughters Joanne Anderson and Karen Anderson-Winans and her husband Dan, who had served as Priest in Charge from June 2018–June 2019. He is survived by his wife Amy with a dozen red roses at the conclusion of the induction ceremony. Fr. Tober and Amy fell in love with Southern New Mexico when he was stationed at Holloman as an intelligence officer. While there, he entered the discernment process to be ordained a priest. He retired from the USAF and entered the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, and was ordained a deacon at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque after graduation. He served his first parish, Trinity Church at Baton Rouge as deacon and then as a priest. When the position of Rector at St. James opened, they knew it was time to try to return to the desert Southwest, and we are so glad they did.

Holy Spirit Community Dinner
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, El Paso, Texas

As part of our new Community Support Initiative, Holy Spirit held its first Community Dinner 4-6 PM on 27 October. The menu this month was Spaghetti with fixings and desert, and was prepared and served by parish members in Founders Hall. The spaghetti sauce in particular was noted as being uniquely delicious. There were 52 attendees and 15 parish members in support. The Community Dinner was enjoyed by all who came, and we hope to have attracted some new parishioners.

The next Holy Spirit Community Dinner will be a Thanksgiving themed meal on 17 November, and we hope it will be an even bigger success – the word is already on the street!
Five Episcopal bishops traveled to Capitol Hill in Washington on September 24 for meetings with senators and representatives from their dioceses to advocate for preserving the U.S. government’s refugee resettlement program at a time when the Trump administration is considering cutting the program further. The bishops represent a diverse group of dioceses. Rio Grande Bishop Michael Hunn’s diocese touches 40 percent of the U.S. border with Mexico. The group also included Maine Bishop Thomas Brown, West Virginia Bishop Mike Kluemeyer, Northern Indiana Bishop Douglas Sparks and Bishop Mark Van Koevering from the Diocese of Lexington in Kentucky. They were accompanied by staff members from The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations, which organized the visits. They met with both Republicans and Democrats, and their appeals carried the weight of the church’s decades of experience resettling refugees in the United States.

The bishops sought to discuss with the lawmakers: EMM’s long history of facilitating the refugee resettlement program and the church’s concerns about the cuts in the number of refugees allowed in the country. The bishops also emphasized that refugees pose no threat, it is more important than ever that we raise our collective voices and advocate for a robust resettlement program,” said Kendall Martin, EMM’s communications manager. “The Episcopal bishops advocating for the refugee admissions program honor the rich legacy of Episcopal Migration Ministries and provide a critical witness by living our mandate delivered by Jesus himself to ‘welcome the stranger among us.’

The five bishops in Washington to advocate for EMM and the refugee resettlement program gathered in the morning for a briefing, in which Office of Government Relations staff members outlined talking points that invoked church policy positions as determined by General Convention resolutions. The bishops also received biographical information about the lawmakers they were meeting. “We were delighted to have the bishops join us on Capitol Hill,” said Rushad Thomas, migration policy adviser in the Office of Government Relations. “We have no better refugee advocates than the bishops who serve these communities on the ground. It is vital that the church speak with one voice in support of our refugee brothers and sisters.”

For some of the bishops, this was their first time taking The Episcopal Church’s advocacy directly to federal lawmakers, though Brown said he has some experience doing the same at the state level. “One of the things that’s true in smaller states is that the people that serve in public policy, whether it’s at the statehouse or in Washington, are a little more accessible,” Brown said. He met earlier in the day with Maine Sen. Angus King, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, and Rep. Jared Golden, a Democrat. After speaking with ENS, he planned to meet with Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican, and Rep. Chellie Pingree, a Democrat.

Brown identified two main topics he and the other bishops sought to discuss with the lawmakers: EMM’s long history of facilitating the refugee resettlement program and the church’s concerns about the cuts in the number of refugees allowed in the country. The bishops also emphasized that refugees pose no elevated threat to Americans, but rather they tend to quickly become productive members of their new communities. “These individuals have gone through the most extensive vetting process you can imagine,” Sparks said. The bishops noted there is bipartisan support for refugee resettlement, and Brown praised the work of the Office of Government Relations to keep such issues in front of lawmakers. “The Office of Government Relations has done such a beautiful job of preparing us,” Brown said. “I’m so impressed with the care that this office is doing to tell the story of faith to our policymakers.”
Nearly 100 clergy and seminarians gathered at the Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park September 9-12 for the annual diocesan Clergy Conference, which was the first opportunity for clergy to spend time with our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn, who was consecrated November 2 following the 2018 Annual Diocesan Convention.

Gathering at the retreat center provided the opportunity for clergy to ponder the life of the Diocese together and to reflect on how things should be done anew. “Let us develop a customary for our lives together,” Bishop Hunn said. Clergy were given ample time for personal and corporate reflection, time for walking and excellent meals. It was a time for collegiality for clergy who were new and those who have returned to Mesilla Park from times past.

Bishop Hunn introduced the new Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Lee Curtis, who is sited in El Paso. In recognition of the transition to a new CATO, the Rev. Canon Raymond Raney provided a lighter moment. “Bishops pass along croziers, but I thought CATOs need to pass along something.” Canon Raney had painted the Episcopal shield on a shovel and signed the back of the blade with his years as CATO. “It’s for digging up and digging out,” he told the gathering.

The bishop also introduced the Rev. Hector Trejos, whom he considers the Vicar of Juarez. Padre Hector oversees the church and two shelters for immigrants and asylum seekers waiting to be allowed entry into the United States. Canon Curtis, Father J.J. Bernal and Padre Hector have been working together to address the needs of those seeking shelter in Juarez.

“Let us develop a customary for our lives together,” Bishop Hunn said. Clergy were given ample time for personal and corporate reflection, time for walking and excellent meals. It was a time for collegiality for clergy who were new and those who have returned to Mesilla Park from times past.
Resolved, that, acting under the guidance and stimulus of the bishop, Clergy, and other teachers of the district who shall fund for this purpose to work out a system by which our business of "raising up the child in the way he should go" – the way of sacramental life – maybe so facilitated to us reach every child doctrinally all the time he is in our care and he is in the day of "decision". It is the kind of enthusiasm which the Holy Communion, that thereby he may not be only educated religiously but incorporated into the mystical body of him who is the only True Shepherd of "the slender life." Bishop Howden said it this way:

"In this respect I have particularly in mind a matter which is giving us considerable concern and anxiety – the Sunday school. In some of our missions there is no Sunday school organization whatever; and, our children, if they go anywhere, are sent to the Methodists or Presbyterians. Such a condition necessarily spells weakness to the foundations we are laying for the future. It is not a question of large numbers for starting such a school. A consecrated woman or man with one or two children can form the nucleus for a Sunday school, and when we think of the importance of a child and the Savior's repeated injunction as to their spiritual care and nurture, we can hardly doubt the worthiness of such an effort however limited supply of scholars may seem to be.

Bishop Howden set four priorities for the Missionary District as he began his ministry: They were: first, evangelism among the white people. Second, work among the Indians. Also, Bishop Howden wanted to set out to become a self-supporting Diocese. He called for an endowment for the episcopate, and for funding for clergy salaries. Also, Bishop Howden wanted to set forth a plan for the Sunday school. To do this, Bishop Howden wanted to set up to become a diocese able to support its own minister. He said:

"I would call the attention of the clergy and their congregations to the necessity of establishing our future church life here in the south west, of the endowment of the episcopate. Though this is specified by action of convention as one of our objectives, I suspect that most of us overlook this particular object amid the pressure of other claims. Proper pride and self-respect forbid our thinking that we are to remain a missionary district always, and even if the realization of Diocesan independence seems too far distant, we can at least begin to lay the foundations which those who come after us can build upon.

The subject of ministers' salaries is also deserving of proper consideration at this time by our congregations. In many instances there has been considerable relief in the case of the ministers and their families, because the role of the layman same is in other cases apparent in others. It would, I think, be a total blow to the work of the ministry if monetary reward became an objective of ministerial labor. but the ability to pay adequate ministerial salaries should be recognized as a minimum provision in the congregation supportive of its minister, and under present economic conditions this minimum is not in some cases being maintained.

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Bishop Howden said it this way:
In 1919 Good Shepherd, Silver City, was going through an intermin after the departure of the Rector. And St. Paul’s, Marfa, had a vicar who was eagerly driving all about the Big Bend Region holding church and putting together the idea that the Diocese needed wide Episcopal services throughout the entire stretch of that remote and beautiful part of Texas west of the Pecos River. And there was hope of adding a priest, a missionary curate, to help serve our congregations east of Marfa. Parishes and larger missions were encouraged to support directly and indirectly the work of the smaller missions of the Diocese, and the district leaders were working to figure out better ways to understand, encourage and support our small missions.

Those attending the 25th convention of the missionary district hoped to build a foundation for future Episcopalians, and, as we stand on that foundation today, we too are hoping to do our part, to build for the future of the Episcopal Church for generations to come. If Bishop Howden and the members of the 25th convention of the Missionary District of New Mexico and West Texas could be sitting with us today what would they say? If they could see that we have become a Diocese, that we are still here. That congregations are still worshipping in buildings they built. If they could see us now what would they say?

The one calling you is faithful. The one calling us is faithful! The one calling us has been faithful for well over a century, in good times and hard times, in boom times and bust times. The one calling us has been faithful.

As I look back over this year, the first thing which comes to mind is a tragedy. Our hearts still grieve for those who lost their lives when a young man opened fire in El Paso. I watched our churches respond with love and strength in the days after that, working with other churches, and with other faiths, and with neighbors of no faith to begin healing, and trusting, and all the time loving in the name of God. Let us stand now and observe a moment of silent prayer for those who died, those who were injured and terrorized and their families, and let us also pray for the young man who killed and injured them and us. God, have mercy on them and their families and us. God’s faithful people will demonstrate God’s faithfulness to them with our actions. God is faithful, but that doesn’t mean following God is easy.

It never has been, but when we are faithful, when we trust one another, when we say our prayers, when we read our Bibles, when we are faithful in the Holy Eucharist, we find not only that God is faithful to us but we find God has found us! We find God’s love in our lives, in our homes and in our churches. Keep your eyes on the joy, and you will find the presence of God. Contemplating His, my first convention as your bishop, I am reminded of our convention just one year ago in Albuquerque.

At that time, concerns were raised about the financial transparency of the Diocese, and I promised from this podium that we would build our 2020 budget together. But before working on that budget, we needed to get some clarity about our financial position. We needed to answer questions people in the Diocese had. In November, your Diocesan Council began planning our “budget roadshows.” In early January we asked every member of the Diocese for their questions regarding the finances of this Diocese including the budget, Bishop’s Ridge and the Bosque Center. The treasurer, Diocesan Council, members of staff, the Standing Committee and I began traveling the Diocese answering the questions you asked.

We reported that we held two important pieces of real estate, the Bosque Center and Bishop’s Ridge. We shared the facts about the finances of each one, that each of those are businesses that are on their way towards profitability, but are not there yet. We shared that following work begun by Bishop Vono and his team, both the Bosque Center and Bishop’s Ridge have been aggressively building their respective businesses. As you will hear later today, I’m pleased to say that the Bosque Center does the job, it is pouring the scope, funding covered deferring and delayed maintenance. There is more to be done, but the plan is working. And Bishop’s Ridge is on the right track, too. There was more deferred and delayed maintenance there than at the Bosque Center, but all the numbers are moving in the right direction.

In the spring we asked faithful Episcopalians and businessmen Dupuy Bateman to examine both businesses and give us a report on where we are and where we need to be. That report will be published before the end of this month, and we will be hitting the road again in 2020, talking about Mr. Bateman’s report and working together on a comprehensive long-range plan for the Diocese and for building the 2021 budget. But what about the budget we’ve been working on this year? As we discussed our diocesan budget, I shared with you that we are one church. We are one church, and we work together at various levels. We are part of the worldwide Anglican Church; we are the Anglican communion here in this part of the world and as such we have work to do across the globe. We are part of the Episcopal Church – in fact we are the Episcopal Church in this part of the world and as Episcopalians we have work to do. We are the Diocese of the Rio Grande, and our diocesan budget is the place where we do our work. We do our work at the congregational level – in the scope of local congregations, things which we need to do together, things which empower us all. The diocesan budget exists to empower the ministry of our congregations because our congregations are what it’s all about.

And we are congregations working at the local level, there are things congregations can do that dioceses can’t do. Without the congregations doing their ministry there wouldn’t be an Episcopal Church. Our large urban congregations, our small rural congregations, the work we do at the congregational level brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ into every part of this Diocese, with joy and with love and with faithfulness. We do important work at all of those levels, but this year we have focused particularly on our diocesan finances and we have built a budget together. And our budget is not just about the money. Our budget is a statement of our values that describes the work we think God is calling us to do together at the diocesan level. Together we have discerned that we have five priorities for the Diocese for the next year.

Our Diocesan Discerned Priorities
First, we must strengthen all of our congregations so they thrive.
Second, we must focus on youth, young adult and family ministry in order to raise up a new generation of disciples of Jesus Christ, and we must raise up leaders for the church.
Third, we must focus on our relationship with the indigenous peoples in our Diocese, especially our companion Diocese of Navagoland.
Fourth, we must focus our ministry efforts on la Eclesia in Español: our church, speaking, praying and ministering in Spanish.
Fifth, particularly in this season of the life of the Diocese, our Borderland Ministries must be a priority.

Here’s the executive summary of the budget we’ve built together as a Diocese: You knew when we started that the 2020 budget would have to include a 10% decrease. We had to cut our expenses by 10% because we can no longer afford the capital and other non-revenue income fund from the seat of St. Clement’s church. This budget cuts that 10%. The budget supports increased travel expenses to allow your staff to come to you, to meet with your congregation in person. It includes increases in travel for the Canon to the Ordinary the Archdeacon and the Bishop, so we will come to you more often. You need to know your staff and they need to know you, they need to come and sit with your Bishop’s Committee or Vestry, to support you in your ministry. Our diocesan staff needs to strengthen the network which we are as a Diocese and that means hitting the road.

This budget also contains two bold new initiatives focused on our mission priorities, doing those things that we must do as a Diocese if our congregations are to thrive. Everywhere I go in the Diocese I hear people say we are an aging congregation, we want to have more young families, we’ve tried everything we can think of. Bishop what can we do?

In answer to that question, with this budget we, as a Diocese, want to hire a full time Youth and Family Missioner to create the programs at Camp Stoney so our deaconry volunteers don’t have to do that anymore, to keep our young youth and Family Missioner to help our local congregations do youth and family ministry locally. Congregations need help with Sunday School and intergenerational ministry ideas and knowing what works these days for families in big churches and in small ones. This budget will allow us to call someone to help us reach out to the next generation.

But that’s not all.

As I travel around this beautiful Diocese I hear something else: “Bishop our small missions are struggling. When we do Morning Prayer on Sunday, people don’t come. We need the Holy Eucharist. We can barely afford the supply rate, and we can’t afford the mileage, and there just aren’t enough priests willing to drive out here to be with us. We need a plan for the Bishop.”

In response to that request, this budget contains a new initiative to call a curate – a young priest – to live in a rural part of our Diocese and to work for three years in multiple congregations not just on Sunday, but during the week, building up congregations, teaching bible study, visiting people, inviting people to church. The curate learns to be a priest like a doctor serving his or her residency. The curate would help us with building the church. My hope is that our first curate would be based in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Marfa, and spend approximately 1/4 of her or his time serving St. Paul’s. 1/4 of the curate’s time would be focused on Alpine, Terlingua/Lagitas and Fort Stockton, Texas. Each of these areas has a tremendous potential for growth in the ministry of the Episcopal Church, but they require a

Continued on page 19

From left to right are:Assistant Secretary of Convention Raymond Lomax, Secretary of Convention Lee Curtis, Bishop Hunn, Parliamentarian Joseph Alarid, and Registrar Mary Jewell.
priest who can be a regular and consistent presence, not just on Sunday but during the week, pastoring people, teaching in parishes, talking about the Episcopal Church, and building up lay leadership throughout the Big Bend region.

But this is a new idea, and for it to be a reality, all the congregations in the Big Bend would need to be enthusiastically supportive of the idea. If all congregations will need to contribute financially. If Big Bend isn’t the place to try this experiment this time around, we can try another area. The point is for us as a Diocese to figure out how to provide the ministry of the Episcopal Church throughout the Diocese, and for us that means Eucharist. This project must be a collaboration between the Diocese and the Diocese because, let’s face it, we don’t have the money at the diocesan level to just pay for this. We need to partner with congregations to provide housing and stipend and benefits and travel expenses. And if this three-year experiment works, we’ll do it again in other parts of the Diocese. The budget includes all these things, but you know what it doesn’t include? It does NOT contain an increase in fair share.

Together we have built a budget for our Diocese that looks toward the future, not the past. It is a budget filled with hope for a bright future. We’re going to have some fun together in the name of Jesus! What kind of fun? Let me tell you about each of these priorities and what they mean for us in the future! Let me tell you, as your Bishop, what I think these priorities are all about. These priorities are vital for us, and for every congregation, to deepen our faith in the God who is faithful, to broaden our reaching out to our neighbors. Each one is an invitation for each of us, to strengthen our roots in the faith, and broaden our reach to our neighbors. What do we do at the Diocesan level to support congregations if writing checks isn’t possible? We use our Diocesan staff to do what Bishop Howden longed to do.

“We feel that more intelligent and active interest in the missions will be taken throughout the district by the district board of mission and in the local meetings, perhaps quarterly. study the needs of the various missions of this district, encourage the workers in their ventures and various endeavors, and make appeals to all parishes and stronger missions to meet the urgent needs of the smaller places. It should not be left alone to the bishop to take active interest in our missions.”

Who will do this work? Your Diocesan staff has been restructured into two teams. One is called the Congregational Thriving Team and its focus is on supporting congregations so they thrive. Our new Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Canon Lee Curtis was called with this specifically in mind: he loves to do, and he has many ideas about how to help congregations with stewardship, with ministry and with congregational development. He is going to be new and fresh, and he is coming to support you in your thriving. And he is not alone. Archdeacon Patty Souku’s duties have shifted also. She is now able to Diocese telling to congregations about stewardship, outreach, and helping people understand the diaconate. We need more deacons in this church – and by the way, deacons aren’t priests you have to pay! the ancient order of the diaconate works not to bless, not to consecrate, not to absolve people of their sins. That’s the priest’s job. The deacon exists to stir up the congregation, to connect church to the needs of the world, to keep us from getting comfortable inside our churches and get us out serving our community. Lisa Katz-Ricker is your staff person, too. She keeps the books for the Diocese but she has also begun traveling the Diocese. And she and the audit committee have already this year simplified the audit process. That work isn’t finished but it’s begun. She and the new audited account committee now have people all over the Diocese who are ready to come to all our small congregations to help them with the audits they find so oppressive and difficult.

Congregational thriving also means having clergy to serve our churches, and we are blessed with the Very Rev. Canon Carol McGowan, the long-time diocesan pastor, because in our Diocese we need to raise up local clergy from here to serve here. This is a desirable Diocese for clergy and they will come. We will continue to call wonderful clergy from outside the Diocese, but congregations able to afford full-time salary and benefit packages. But the majority of our congregations cannot afford to do that. So we also need priests and deacons for our small and part-time and rural places. We need bi-vocational priests who have jobs and careers in the local community who are also ordained to serve as priests. Those clergy will be trained here to serve here. They will pass the Graduate Ordination Exam and be just as qualified as any priest, but they will serve here. As the state of the church committee said 100 years ago, I say again:

“The committee recommends that the clergy find out and request the bishop to license godly women and men at every mission point to carry on weekly services everywhere.”

And because not every congregation will raise up their own priest, we need some priests who travel like Preacher Lewis did 100 years ago.

Our second priority is to increase our efforts with youth, young adult, and children’s ministry. This budget includes a full-time Diocesan young adult minister to work in two major areas: first, to run the programs at Camp Stoney, taking the burden for program design and implementation off the shoulders of the deaneries. Our young, young adult, and children’s ministry coordinator will also plan other diocesan events, such as Snow Slam, and a diocesan convention family program for next year.

But this employee will not just work on Diocesan events because there is much that we can do through our congregations. The Diocese, our small and rural congregations need help with Christian formation, with Christian curriculum, and we need an employee at the Diocesan level to help make that happen. It may be that our larger congregations can help us create that formation content, but we will need a diocesan minister to help cultivate Christian formation in all of our congregations no matter how small, no matter how spread out.

Hear the words of the committee on the state of the church, in 1919:

“Resolved, that, acting under the guidance and stimulus of the bishop, Clergy, and other teachers of the district who shall fund for this purpose to work out a system by which our business of ‘training up the child in the way he should go’ – the weight of sacramental life – maybe so facilitated by us to reach each child doctrinally all of the time he is in our care and he’s in the day of decision, upon holy baptism, that idea, and Holy Communion, that thereby he may not only be educated religiously but incorporated into the mystical body of him who is ‘the Way, the truth, and the life.’

Our third priority is to establish an Indigenous people. This work, which was begun by Bishop Howden a century ago, remains critical for us today, but for different reasons. Why is this? Because ‘original American people,’ as Bishop Howden called them, were living here centuries before Europeans ever arrived, and every part of our Diocese has indigenous people and historical, which many Episcopalians don’t always know and don’t always appreciate. We want to be a church that is aware of and loving towards our neighbors. I want us to know that wherever we go we are guests of indigenous people who still live here, and we need to know that the Comanche people lived here in this valley for centuries before it was ever called Silver City. And toward that end, our predominantly white church needs to learn about the Doctrine of Discovery and its impact on every part of our Diocese to this day.

Do you know about the Doctrine of Discovery? When Pope Alexander IV sent forth the first explorers he instructed them to convert or conquer all non-Christian peoples they met, and that doctrine, the idea that the Europeans were invited to dominate and “discover” places already inhabited by indigenous peoples. The Europeans could use their power to dominate and destroy, still impacts the relationships and power dynamics of our towns and villages and cities. It was the foundation of the Monroe Doctrine by which indigenous peoples were displaced as people moved west under the concept of Manifest Destiny. The Doctrine of Discovery was part of the mindset that led to the practice of removing indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands. The Doctrine of Discovery was the reason the “long walk” in 1864, the trail of tears right through our Diocese, during which Kit Carson and the US government rounded up more than 8,500 Navajo people and marched them across from the Diocese to Fort Sumner. At least 200 people died on the way. Four years later a small number of Navajo were allowed to walk all the way back.

The Episcopal Church has formally repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in 2019 and the Diocese encourages us to have a beautiful and joyful opportunity to deepen our partnership with our indigenous neighbors. So what are we to do now? What does living respectfully with our neighbors look like today? We can start by renewing our relationship with our companion Diocese of Navajoland. Some of our
congregations are deeply engaged in this work already, but we can do more at the Diocesan level. And we can listen to and stand with our indigenous neighbors as they cry out on behalf of the care of creation, keeping our waters clean and our air safe, for the health and well-being of all creation. This is our义的 responsibility as a global community, and a faith-based responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ. We must act now.

Our faith community is a work that has inspired me over and over again in my first year as your Bishop. Borderland Ministry has been a part of our work for years, and this year we have been deeply engaged with it. The Diocese of the Rio Grande is working to respond with the love of Jesus. And it’s not easy, it’s complicated. We are a Diocese, part Republican and part Democrat, and I have been so proud that as the rest of the country chooses sides and calls names, Episcopalians have not let politics divide us. In all of our churches every Sunday, Republicans and Democrats gather to worship God as sisters and brothers, siblings in God. And we love each other - even when we disagree.

We serve together. We find things we can do together instead of focusing on the things we can’t agree on. When thousands of people arrived at our border seeking asylum in our country, we didn’t choose up sides based on politics and fight about it. We rolled up our sleeves and we followed Jesus. We fed the hungry, we visited those detained, we clothed the naked, we loved our neighbor. It was as simple as that. When people came in buses to El Paso, Los Cruces, Albuquerque and Deming, we loved our neighbors. St. Michael and All Angels has been working on the border and we have two shelters and allowed us to do the work God is calling us to do. Hetero, somos unidos, con usted en nombre de Jesus chrísto.

For years now, our Rio Grande Borderland Ministry has been working on the border and we have partially funded that ministry through our diocesan budget. But nothing could have prepared us for this new ministry to the asylum seekers. That ministry has been partially funded by donations given by people all over the Episcopal Church. We put videos on Facebook and people responded with financial help and also by coming to join us. People who aren’t Episcopalians have joined us, too. We will work with all people of good will to do what God is calling us to do. I think about what Bishop Howden said 100 years ago.

"Steadily I think the circle of interested friends throughout the church is growing; and as it grows and the required support is found, our work can be extended and our usefulness more effective."

We will continue this ministry as long as God wants us to do it because God is faithful, and we will find the resources we need to do God’s work. Along the way we will explore and learn new ways of stewardship, which will help fund our ministry in the future. One hundred years ago the convention of the Missionary District of New Mexico, including Texas west of the Pecos River, knew it was laying a foundation. Today we stand on that foundation, and I mean for us to build on it. May Episcopalians in the Diocese of the Rio Grande in 2119 look back on the work we began today. And may they say... the one calling us is faithful.

I hope you will take it as a comfort as I do, that we are on the right track. Our task as the church in this part of God’s world remains what it was 100 years ago, to raise up children in the faith, to provide for the ministry of the church and Holy Sacraments throughout this part of God’s world, to partner with indigenous peoples, to proclaim the Gospel in English and in Spanish. We have tools that Bishop Howden could never have imagined. The highway system that allows us to get from El Paso to Albuquerque in a few hours, and cars that can travel 75 miles an hour. We have an Internet which allows us to carry a library on our telephone, to conduct meetings face-to-face from 1,000 miles away. And we have the tools they relied upon them, the Book of Common Prayer, the Holy Bible, our daily practice of prayer, our heart for ministry to those in need, and our confidence in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We began this year with uncertainty about our financial situation, and, let us be honest, mistrust in diocesan finances. But we are building trust, we have built a budget together, and it is transparent and it is also courageous! We often think of ourselves as a “poor Diocese”, and we may not have as much money as some dioceses, but I think we need to stop thinking of ourselves as poor. Instead, we need to acknowledge that God is faithful, and because of God’s faithfulness, we can step out in faith. Because of God’s faithfulness, we can be courageous. We can trust one another, we can work together on our shared priorities. And God will bless our faithfulness.

Dear Diocese I am so blessed to be your bishop! This is my home and Meg and I and Dosie and our boys all love being here. I am so blessed to be home again with you. And as I look with joy to the many years we have to serve together, I know that the one calling us is faithful.
The birth, death and resurrection of Christ: from Michelangelo to Tiepolo
A traveling exhibition of drawings and prints from the British Museum
at the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe

The British Museum

The birth, death and resurrection of Christ:
from Michelangelo to Tiepolo
January 25–April 19, 2020

The Story of Christ in Italian Art
This winter the New Mexico Museum of Art will host The birth, death and resurrection of Christ: from Michelangelo to Tiepolo on view January 25–April 19, 2020. This traveling exhibition of more than fifty drawings and prints, organized by the British Museum, explores the history of Christian art in the context of the Italian Renaissance and the Baroque era.

RESOLUTION #13: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. DON CRAM

RESOLUTION #12: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. CARTER CROFT
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt best wishes for the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Carter Croft. He served as Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family, Santa Fe, before coming to the Southwest as a convention delegate to the National Cathedral. Together they fulfilled the Museum’s vision to bring the art of the world to New Mexico and to the Art of New Mexico.

Picturing Passion: Artists Interpret the Pentecostal Brotherhood
November 27–August 16, 2020
As artists arrived in New Mexico over the course of the twentieth century they encountered no shortage of creative opportunities. The region’s unique landscape and regional architecture to native ceremony, the Southwest often proved exotic for artists who came from a predominantly eastern, protestant background. One regional community that captured the attention and imaginations of artists was the Pentecostal Brotherhood. Picturing Passion brings together the work of artists who took on the pentecostal traditions as source material.

RESOLUTION #16: BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATION TO THE Rt. REV. LUCINDA ASHEY
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt best wishes for the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby as Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern California.

RESOLUTION #15: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. KEN ANDERSON, DEACON
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its gratitude for the life and devoted ministry of the Rev. Ken Anderson. He served as Deacon to St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, El Paso, and for his service to this country.

RESOLUTION #14: IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE REV. PHILLIPS ORBAUGH

RESOLUTION #17: BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATION TO HE Rt. REV. CATHLEEN BASCOM
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt best wishes for the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Bascom as Bishop Diocesan of Kansas, and offer our support in our provincial ministry to build up the Kingdom of God and to provide for the betterment of this fragile Earth, our island home.

RESOLUTION #18: BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATION TO THE Rt. REV. JENNIFER HEDDAI

RESOLUTION #19: BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATION TO THE Rt. REV. CATHLEEN BASCOM
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt best wishes for the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Bascom as Bishop Diocesan of Kansas, and offer our support in our provincial ministry to build up the Kingdom of God and to provide for the betterment of this fragile Earth, our island home.

RESOLUTION #20: BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATION TO THE Rt. REV. KIMBERLY LUCI
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt best wishes for the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Kimberly Lucas as Bishop Diocesan of Colorado, and offer our support in our provincial ministry to build up the Kingdom of God and to provide for the betterment of this fragile Earth, our island home.

RESOLUTION #21: BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATION TO THE Rt. REV. LUCINDA ASHEY
Be it resolved that the 67th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande expresses its heartfelt best wishes for the election and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby as Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of El Centro. As a convention we offer our profound congratulations and support as you move further into the service of our Lord and Savior as a Bishop in His Church.

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