



# The Adventure

*We bring you good news that what God promised our forebears he is fulfilling in us .... Acts 13:32*

Volume LXXXVI

Lent/Easter 2003

No. 1



**Emmanuel, San Angelo in the Springtime**

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Loaves & Fishes  
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Anglican Reflections  
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St. Cyprian's  
Camp Quarterman  
Happy Camp  
Church of England  
Discernment Process  
Bud Holland Visit  
Living the Vision  
Living Stones Conference**



## *From the Bishop's Desk*

experience. It gave me a greater appreciation for those who compile the journals and the incredible amount of information contained therein.

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the surfing beaches are, and Waikiki. We went with Dick and Dee on a weekend visitation on Oahu and got to see the diocesan camp and conference center. It was a wonderful time, and we both are certain that we want to return and visit other islands as well.

Since February 2nd I have been in Costa Rica working diligently to improve my capability to hear, understand and speak Spanish. I am living with a retired couple who do not speak English—well a word here and there—so I have to speak if I want to be heard or need anything. I eat breakfast with Luz and Eduardo Bolanez and then depart for school at 7:30 on the bus. It is about a 20-minute bus ride on a reliable, but busy bus. Although not very far—3 kilometers—the streets are crowded with cars and other buses at that hour. School lasts from 8:15a.m. until noon. I spend almost every afternoon completing assignments and walking the streets of San Jose to learn more about the culture and life here in general. I have had some interesting conversations with local merchants and inhabitants. After returning to the house in the late afternoon—usually a siesta—I eat supper with Luz and Eduardo. Conversation continues for at least an hour, mostly with me asking leading questions and then listening. I even watch the news on TV on occasion. I hope that by the time I leave here on March 1st, my ability to understand and respond is greatly improved.

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In Christ,

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I began this sabbatical on December 1st and immediately went to the archives of the Episcopal Church in Austin, which is on the grounds of the seminary. One of my main purposes of this time away is to research my grandfather John Wallis Ohl who was a priest in Colorado from 1886-1912. I spent a week reading convention journals of the Diocese of Colorado from 1880-1905. I was not sure of the date or location of John Wallis's ordination or even where he lived. In my entire life, I had never before read a convention journal completely, so this was a new



## Loaves and Fishes Fund

**Fund Balance \$ 27,468**

### Grant Guidelines

The Loaves and Fishes Fund welcomes proposals and applications from any of our mission outposts and diocesan committees. The Fund will consider assisting with financing for new mission and ministry initiatives in the Diocese of Northwest Texas. Requirements for funding are:

1. Funding is for new projects and initiatives, not to continue on-going projects. Existing ministries may apply for funds for a new project.
2. Projects must be in line with diocesan vision and mission.
3. Funds granted may be used only for the specified project.
4. A follow-up report will be required with a report of expenditures and a narrative account of project status and results.

### Grant Restrictions

The Loaves and Fishes Fund will only make grants for new projects and initiatives brought forward by mission outposts and diocesan committees of the Diocese of Northwest Texas. Because of limited funds, grants will not be made for:

1. Normal operating and maintenance expenses.
2. Capital debt reduction
3. Individual projects
4. Political projects
5. Projects that are not supported by the leadership of the mission outpost or the Executive council of the diocese in the case of diocesan committees.

### Application Timeline

The Loaves and Fishes Committee will meet August 23, 2003 to consider applications for funding. Applications must be received at the Hulsey Episcopal Center no later than noon August 4, 2003.

## St. Paul's Dumas Receives Grant from Local Wal-Mart

Frances Robins, Bishop's Warden, was rendered speechless when a manager from the local Wal-Mart tracked her down at church and gave her a check for \$1,000 to further St. Paul's mission & ministry. The gift came as a complete surprise. Last year, St. Paul's applied for a grant from the local retailer to benefit their Food Pantry, and Wal-Mart responded with a \$500 gift.

This year one of the managers, who is not a member, took the initiative to request the unrestricted funds to benefit St. Paul's work. The Bishop's Committee will meet to discuss how to spend the money, and Frances anticipates that most of it will be used for their Food Pantry.



## Deacons Schedule Retreat

The deacons of the Diocese will participate in a retreat March 28-30th at the Bishop Quarterman Conference Center. The Rev. Richard E. Brewer, Deacon Formation Director for the Diocese of Oklahoma, will lead the retreat. All active deacons in the diocese are expected to attend if possible. For more information, contact The Ven. Dana Wilson at [dana@marshill.com](mailto:dana@marshill.com)



## Anglican Reflections

ANGLICAN REFLECTIONS

*The Reverend John H. Loving*  
Rector, Emmanuel Church - San Angelo

## The Glory of Lent

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**EXPLORING  
a Vocation to  
Ordained Ministry**

*Presented by the Commission on Ministry  
of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas*



**Saturday, May 31st  
2003**

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1510 AVENUE X  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS**

**10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**THE NATURE OF HOLY ORDERS  
*the* DIACONATE & *the* PRIESTHOOD  
DISCERNING VOCATION**

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

**R.S.V.P. 806-763-1370 OR [MINISTRY@NWT.ORG](mailto:MINISTRY@NWT.ORG)**

then depart for school at 7:30 on the bus. It is about a 20-minute bus ride on a reliable, but busy bus. Although not very far—3 kilometers—the streets are crowded with cars and other buses at that hour. School lasts from 8:15 a.m. until noon. I spend almost every afternoon completing assignments and walking the streets of San Jose to learn more about the culture and life here in general. I have had some interesting conversations with local merchants and inhabitants. After returning to the house in the late afternoon—usually a siesta—I eat supper with Luz and Eduardo. Conversation continues for at least an hour, mostly with me asking leading questions and then listening. I even watch the news on TV on occasion. I hope that by the time I leave here on March 1st, my ability to understand and respond is greatly improved.

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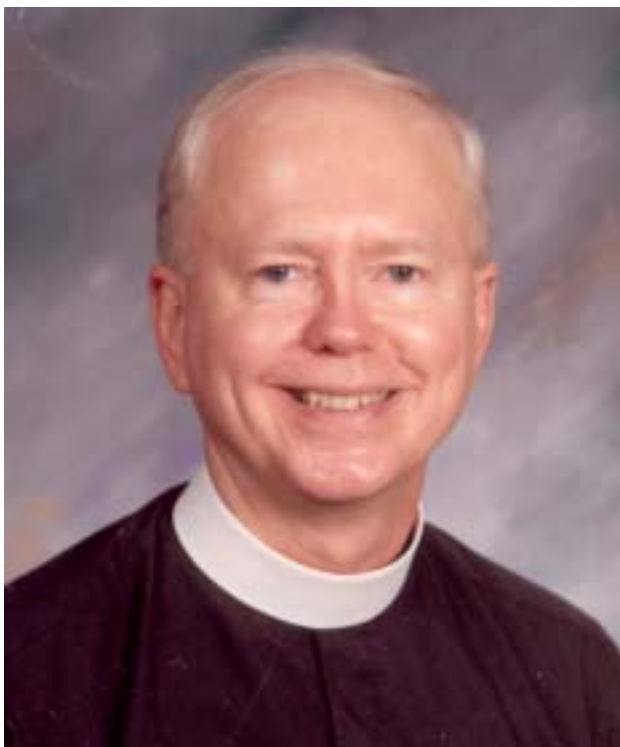
## Transitions

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A few days after **the Rev. Josie Rose** was ordained to the diaconate she assisted for the first time at a eucharist service on the campus of the Seminary of the Southwest. Josie will graduate in May from the seminary and return to the Diocese of Northwest Texas. Bishop Ohl was at ETSS for a visit to the national church archives as part of his sabbatical travels.

St. Barnabas', Odessa has welcomed **the Rev. David J. Mossbarger** as their new rector. David previously served as rector at Grace Church, Llano and was on staff at churches in Kerrville and Dallas. He and his wife Debbie have two young daughters, Emily (12) and Alice (10). David has ecumenical experience, conducting joint Lenten services with St. James' Lutheran church in Llano, preaching at the Llano Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, and working with the Kerrville Ministerial Alliance. David has also served as Treasurer for the Province VII Christian Education Commission. David received his B.A. from Southern Methodist University, and he received his Master of Divinity from Seminary of the Southwest in 1985.



**The Rev. Mark Cannaday** is the new rector at Holy Trinity, Midland. Fr. Cannaday graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. degree in 1972. He earned the Master of Divinity from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in 1975, and since then has been in parish ministry in Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, San Antonio, and most recently in Arlington, Texas. He also served for five years on the staff of the Diocese of West Texas in San Antonio as Canon for Christian Education and Evangelism. He has been the headmaster of a church school in San Antonio and works closely with a church school in Arlington.

While in San Antonio, Fr. Cannaday received a second Bachelor's Degree in Theater Arts at the University of the Incarnate Word in 1986 and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Graduate Theological Foundation in 1993. He

coordinated three major Evangelism Conferences, the largest of which brought over 1200 people from all over the country to San Antonio. Since 1997, he has been a Professor at the Anglican School of Theology in Dallas teaching the second course in Spirituality. In April of this year, he finished the two year Academy for Spiritual Formation through the Upper Room Ministries. He is an Oblate of St. Gregory's Abbey, of the Episcopal Order of St. Benedict, Three Rivers, Michigan and regularly participates in the Order's Divine Offices. He serves the national Church as a team member for the Clergy Reflection, Education, and Discernment Opportunity, serving as spiritual faculty.

Fr. Cannaday is married to Doris, and they have two adult children, one of whom is also involved in ministry. Doris is a successful business woman, receiving the Most Likely to Succeed in Business award in her senior year of High School while also President of the Business Club of Robert G. Cole High School in San Antonio, Texas. Having worked for Whites Department stores, USAA, and University Presbyterian Church - all in San Antonio - and most recently as Executive Assistant to the VP of Product Development for Performance Learning Systems, a nation wide teacher education institute, she has proven her expertise and loyalty in keeping the organizations for which she worked in excellent office management and administration. All this while being the Rector's wife - no small work of ministry - and mother of two, Julie, now a teacher in Arlington, Texas and Brian, a Youth Minister for the Church of the Incarnation and married to the former Crystal Partin, a native of San Antonio.



Recently named as new Rector at St. James Episcopal Church in Dalhart, Texas, is the **Rev. Kenneth W. MacKenzie, Jr.** Fr. MacKenzie and his wife Mary arrived shortly after the first of the year from their post in the Diocese of the Bahamas, where he served five churches, actually two parishes, on the island of Abaco. These churches were some distance apart, and one required a ferryboat ride to get there, so Fr. MacKenzie's Sundays were very busy, as was the rest of the week.

Fr. MacKenzie lived in the Houston area as an environmental consultant and executive, and was an active layman in the church for 20 years before entering the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. He served in many lay capacities, including serving on the vestry and as treasurer of his parish in Houston, Church of the Epiphany. He and Mary were also heavily involved in Kairos, the ecumenical prison ministry, and served as Rector of a Kairos while he was in the Seminary.

Upon successful completion of his GEO's (General Ordination Exam) and graduation, they moved to Nassau in the Bahamas where he was ordained Deacon and served in a large urban

church in this bustling city. He also worked at two Anglican high schools as chaplain. Upon his ordination to the priesthood at Christ Church Cathedral in Nassau, he was sent immediately to Abaco to serve as Rector for St. Peter's and St. Anne's Parishes. Three weeks after their arrival, Hurricane Floyd hit the island, producing extensive damage to parts of all the churches and to many homes of his parishioners. Emergency response to that event was a large part of his ministry for the first six months he was in Abaco. Fr. MacKenzie also set up and directed a campsite for visiting mission teams from the US at one of the churches. He was in charge of 18 buildings and a congregation of approximately 450 people. He served in the Bahamas under the direction of Archbishop Drexel W. Gomez for four years.

Fr. MacKenzie and his wife are thrilled to be back in Texas, and are enjoying getting to know more about the Texas panhandle life. While they miss the temperate weather and beauty of the Bahamas, they are definitely learning to appreciate the vast beauty of the Panhandle landscape. They especially enjoyed their first snowfall in February of this year. The MacKenzies have four grown children, and six grandchildren, all of whom live in the Dallas area.

**The Rev. John Githiga**, formerly of St. George's, Canyon, is now with St. Cyprian's congregation, Amarillo. Please see John's article celebrating St. Cyprian's elsewhere in this issue.

## Anglican Prayer Beads - A Rosary for Episcopalians

Sr. Brigit-Carol, SD, makes and sells Anglican Prayer Beads. This is a relatively new innovation in prayer beads or rosaries with a focus on Incarnational theology, one of the cornerstones of our Anglican tradition. Just as the Desert Ammas and Abbas wove baskets and plaited ropes to remain centered and focused on prayer, as well as to support themselves, Sr. Brigit-Carol has discovered stringing beads and tying knots to make prayer beads enhances her time of prayer and leads her deeper into contemplation and intercession. It is also the primary way she supports herself.

The prayer beads are available in two cross styles (San Damiano crucifix or Celtic cross) and various shades of dyed or semi-precious stones. Costs range from \$22-26, plus tax & postage. Contact Solitaries of DeKoven, Vigeat Radix Hermitage, 1101 CR 204, Santa Anna, TX 76878 or [www.solitariesofdekoven.org](http://www.solitariesofdekoven.org)



## News from Our Companion Diocese of Spain

*John Dixon is an Episcopal Priest, originally from El Paso but now is serving as a missionary in Spain. He is a part of the South American Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church (SAMS), which primarily ministers to immigrants from South America and elsewhere living in Spain. He is presently assigned to a church in Mostoles, a suburb of Madrid, and is working to establish a new church in another suburb of Alcorcon. The following are excerpts from a "Prayer Letter" recently received from him. - Neal & Marilyn Allen, Companion Diocese Co-Chairs.*

July 2002

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in us together will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6)*

Dear Friends and Fellow-workers in Christ, St. Paul's words to the Christian believers in Philippi almost two thousand years ago express our own feelings about you. We are now in our fourteenth year in the field and we have seen God do tremendous things. The church in Mostoles is booming. There is not enough room on Sunday morning for everyone. Every Sunday night Dario Leal from Chile and SAMS-Ireland leads a youth group that is growing both spiritually and numerically... Gail White from SAMS-USA is working with the women and Sunday school at the Latin American Mission in Madrid and at our new works in Alcorcon. Jose Utrillo was ordained a deacon on May 19th, the first ordained person to be raised up out of the congregation in Mostoles. Like a good biblical deacon, Jose and his wife, Marisol, have been handling the distribution of Red Cross food, a big task. This past year we gave away more than 2,000 kilos (more than 4,000 pounds) of food to needy immigrants and Spaniards. They

are also part of the Cursillo movement in the church...

Because we have more help now, does not mean that we have slowed down. It just means that we have more time to do other things now, such as concentrate more on evangelism and pastoral counseling and the new work in Alcorcon... I am on the Standing Committee of the Diocese and am the evangelism officer for the Diocese. In May, I had the privilege of leading a retreat for the Spanish Episcopal Church in Seville.

Alcorcon is open more often now for people to come in and talk and play darts and ping-pong. Many of the new people who have come into the church in Mostoles from Columbia have caught the vision of the new mission in Alcorcon and are going there every Wednesday and Sunday evening to help... A young woman from Rumania came in and gave her life to Christ the other day there. It is very important that we keep the locale open as much time as possible... Remember, this is how we got started some ten years ago in Mostoles, with personal contacts and a lot of prayer. Your prayers built the church in Mostoles and they will build the church in Alcorcon!... In Spain, we work together in evangelism in Mostoles with two other



evangelical churches, with more than 20 other churches in Marriage Encounter... If the world is to be won to Christ, we all have to work together... A young man from Nigeria in our church in Mostoles is a perfect example of how the Lord works when all of His children work together. Anthony had grown up in the Christian faith in his Anglican church in Nigeria but had strayed away from the Lord. While he was in prison in Thailand, he was ministered to and brought back to the Lord by a French Roman Catholic priest and an American Baptist missionary. With the Lord's help, he was released from prison and went home. Because of the economic and political situation in Nigeria, he came to Spain looking for work... We met him in Mostoles and the last time that Bishop Carlos came through Anthony was confirmed in his faith in Jesus along with four others...

We give thanks to God for your faithful support of the Lord's ministry through us here in Alcorcon and Mostoles, among the huge southern working class suburbs of Madrid, where over one million people live and there are very few churches of any kind... Thank you for enabling us to be here and do the Lord's work...

God bless and thanks for all of your support.

In Spain:

Your fellow-workers in Christ,

C. Rio Jalon 7, 10-3  
28935 Mostoles  
Madrid, Spain  
011-34-91-647-10-20

Address and Phone in the U.S.

John and Ninfa Dixon  
227 N. Glenwood  
El Paso, Texas 79905  
915-772-4671

If you would like to contribute to the Dixon's ministry, send your donations to SAMS, ATTN: John Dixon Account, PO Box 399, Ambridge, PA 15003

## Scattering the Ashes of Our Prayers - *St. Barnabas' Daughters of the King*

by Cindy Pierce, Chapter President

Odessa, Texas was host for the Diocese of Northwest Texas Convention in October, 2002. A prayer chapel was available to everyone. The Julia Chester Emery Chapter of the Daughters of the King, St. Barnabas, collected the prayer requests of the participants and held a prayer vigil throughout the convention. The participating members found this to be a richly rewarding experience. It was decided to keep all the requests and offer them up to God in a special service. Our fellow Daughter and Deacon Judy Cobb prepared and led us in this special service, "Scattering the Ashes of Our Prayers," at our November 2002 meeting. We wanted to share these special words and a picture of our offering these prayer requests to God.

### The Lighting of the Fire

Holy and enabling Spirit, give wings to our prayers  
May those we support and cherish with our love  
Receive your grace to help them in their need. Amen.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn,  
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,  
Driving us out to set the world on fire.

In the love of friends you are building a new house,  
Heaven is with us when you are with us.  
You are singling your song in the hearts of the poor.  
Guide us, love us, heal us. Bring us to the Father.

Dear God, thank you for all that is good,  
For our creation and our humanity,  
For the stewardship you have given us of this planet  
earth,  
For the gifts of life and one another,  
For your love which is unbounded and eternal.

We have wounded your love.  
O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.  
Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.  
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,  
In whom we live and move and have our being,  
All that we are have been, and shall be is known to  
you,  
To the very secret of our hearts  
And all that rises to trouble us.  
Living flame, burn into us,  
Cleansing wind, blow through us,  
Fountain of water, well up within us  
That we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Let us worship the God of love.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, it is night.  
The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
What has not been done has not been done;  
Let it be.

The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our  
own lives  
Rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quiet of your peace enfold us,  
All dear to us,  
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
New joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray, Amen.

*Prayers taken from The Prayer Book of  
New Zealand*



*Laurie Benavides, Meredith Maharg, Pat Brown, Roberta Caffrey, Geneva Miller, and Deacon Judy Cobb of the Julia Chester Emery Chapter of the Daughters of the King at St. Barnabas', Odessa.*

# Does God Answer the Prayer of the People? The Founding of St. Cyprian's Church, Amarillo

by the Rev. John G. Githiga

## A BEGINNING ROOTED IN PRAYER

God indeed answers the prayer of the people. During last year's Lenten season, St. George's, Canyon, using the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, prayed for three consecutive Sundays for the Anglican Church in the Sudan. On the third Sunday, I posed a question in the bulletin, "Did you know that for the last three Sundays we have been praying for the Anglican Church of Sudan?" I then included a brief history of this persecuted church. To my greatest surprise, during the week prior to this Sunday, I got a call from a Sudanese Christian named Simon saying, "We want to visit you on Saturday." "Who are you?" I asked. "We are ten Sudanese families with thirty-one persons," the caller responded. After talking with my wife Mary, we invited these families to visit us on Saturday at 4 pm. On that day, Mary prepared refreshments for thirty-one. To our dismay, no one had arrived by 5 pm. I called Simon's home and was told that they had left at 4 pm to come to our home. At 6:30, there was a knock at the door. It was Simon and two other men. They apologized and told us they were lost and that it was only through God's grace that they finally found our place.

As we ate refreshments, I asked them to tell us their stories. They all had horror stories of how they fled from Sudan. Simon escaped from prison, where he was incarcerated for starting a Christian union in Khartoum University. He walked from Sudan to Cairo, Egypt. After the dreadful stories, they came to the point: "We have come to ask you to help us establish the African Community Church." This was an unexpected request. It was seemingly out of season. I was already overstretched—teaching at

the University, ministering as Chaplain, and serving St. George's. I felt as though I had no time and energy for planting a congregation. I recalled the time and energy I exerted when I was planting St. Nicholas' church in Kenya. But I could not tell my Sudanese brothers, "Let me pray about it." We had already prayed and recorded our prayer in the church bulletin. Besides, I had already seen the vision of planting a church and had shared the vision with Bishop Ohl. I then gave Simon and his friend the Sunday bulletin that made it plain that we had been praying for them. This situation was very much like Simon Peter and Cornelius who were praying and God revealed Himself to them in a vision. Both Simon Peter and Cornelius had to bridge cultural divisions. Ministering with Sudanese also entailed crossing another culture.

They are Nilotic, I am Bantu. They are from a pastoral tribe; I am from an agricultural tribe. Nevertheless, both of us have been praying and there has been a divine communication to both sides.

I perceived that God had sent them and I accepted their request to help establish an African church. The Sunday bulletin which recorded our prayers made it plain to all of us that God had been preparing us for this mission. I said to them, "This is not our mission, it is God's mission."

## GATHERING TOGETHER

We then started discussing what God wanted us to do. I was so amazed by the way



*Sheila and Bishop Ohl with St. Cyprian's community.*



*St. Cyprian's includes red, white, yellow and black.*

we agreed on many things within a short period of time. We agreed on the following:

We will establish a church, which will nurture, reconcile, and orient the African Christian to the American way of life;

The church will seek to be a mission of the Diocese of Northwest Texas;

We will use the Episcopal liturgy and the African Christian folk songs;

The church will be worshipping at the home of Simon Aloak;

Father Githiga will be their spiritual leader; Simon, the chairman; Beny Magok (brother of an Episcopal bishop), the Sunday School teacher; and Buol Jok, secretary;

We will hold a meeting of all the members of the ten families on March 10, 2002 at 3 pm at the Simon's home; that the church would officially start on Palm/Passion Sunday (March 24, 2002).

Fourteen adults and fifteen children attended the first meeting. We all started by hearing the stories of how the brothers and sisters fled from Sudan. Most of them had to go through three countries before they arrived in the United States. After sharing these stories, we then elected Simon as chairman, went through the Episcopal liturgy, decided that

worship would take place on Sundays at 6:15 pm, agreed that we will be singing in Arabic, Swahili and English, and planned to have Mary teach the women how to prepare American food. We closed the meeting with prayer.

As we were driving home, Mary and I reflected on the stories and faces of the narrators. We perceived that they are wounded and their wounds are still bleeding. And so we felt they needed a healing service.

On the next Sunday, we had a healing service. I anointed them with oil. During this time, the gloomy faces were glittering with joy. Mary taught them a new song: Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

The congregation grew steadily. The members attracted other refugees. We now have refugees from the Republic of the Congo and immigrants from Kenya. We praised the Being who stretches over and beyond the cosmos, uniting all the languages we speak and the cultures we are from. Within three months, we had outgrown Simon's living room. Graciously, the Community of Grace United Methodist Church invited us to use their sanctuary. They had all the facilities we needed. To our greatest surprise they asked only that we pay \$25 for



*Mabior (had blessing of marriage at St. Cyprian's), John Mien (deacon), Carlos Gomes (baptised at St. Cyprian's).*

utilities. They gave us a three months grace period.

On July 7, 2002, we held our first extravaganza to celebrate our first month in a church building and to express our gratitude to the community of Grace. In Kenya, July 7 is known as saba saba (seven seven). It symbolizes the birth of a multiparty system, which is a second liberation. We praised God in all our languages. One of the greatest blessings was the presence of Bishop Wallis and Sheila Ohl. Bishop Ohl played a musical instrument while worshipping with us. He spoke about the Episcopal Church. Both the Bishop and Sheila made a great impression. They were experienced as being social and loving. They increased the congregation's desire of being a part of the Diocese of Northwest Texas.

The more we reached out to the refugees and other Africans, the more I understood the diocesan vision & mission statements, particularly the phrase "community of mission outposts." It is therefore dawning on us that while we are predominantly African, God is sending us to reach out to all immigrants. We are attracting people who are bilingual or even trilingual, but are struggling to learn English. The congrega-

### **Needs for St. Cyprian's Church**

50 Bibles – Today's English Version  
 Processional Crosses  
 Processional Torches  
 4 Chasubles (for 4 seasons) – medium size  
 4 Presbyter Stoles (for 4 seasons)  
 4 Acolyte robes  
 Lavabo bowl & towels  
 Corporals  
 Purificators  
 Gospel Book  
 Missal  
 Host Box  
 Flagon

To make a donation, phone John Githiga at 806-655-5759

tion now includes Mexicans, Europeans and Africans.

We are also becoming aware of the fact that God is going to reach out to Muslims through us. We invited them to our extravaganza. At first, they only entered the parish hall for food. But in our third extravaganza, they entered the church, heard the Gospel, and one of them committed his life to Christ and decided to be a member of St. Cyprian's.

The vision of the Episcopal Church is also becoming clearer. 20/20 is a dream of growth in numbers and development of a clear vision. In our daily prayer we ask God to help us grow in the knowledge of His will and also to grow in numbers. Simon has repeatedly said, "Our goal is to have 200 members within two years. This is in keeping with the 20/20 vision." This goal also reflects the Apostolic church in which "the Lord added to their numbers day by day those who were being saved." We have been getting new members almost every Sunday.

### **MORE SURPRISES**

After worshiping in Grace United Methodist Church for three months, we were surprised by St. Peter's Episcopal Church's invitation to use their facilities. Better still, St. Peter's members have volunteered to assist in children's ministry. There are also plans to begin teaching English as a second language. In November, we were greatly blessed by the Diocese with a grant from the Loaves & Fishes Fund for \$5,400 to support evangelism, advertisement, vestments, Altar supplies, Canterbury at Amarillo College, Christian Education & Music. This grant made the members feel loved and appreciated by the Diocese. Another outstanding surprise was my appointment by Bishop Ohl to minister at St. Cyprian's full-time. In Simon's words, "We are grateful for the grant, but the supreme gift that the Bishop has given us is a full-time priest."

As I have remarked, the call to this ministry came unexpectedly on my part. The Diocese, which has a very tight budget, was not ready for my compensation for this next year. So far, there are funds for six months. But we do believe that you are with us in this vital ministry. Any financial assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to the Diocese of Northwest Texas, earmarked St. Cyprian's.

## **Camp Quarterman Summer Camp 2003**

***"Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men."  
(Matthew 4:19)***

by Courtney Gill

**Primary Camp  
(completed grades 2-4) June 8-14**

**Junior High Camp  
(completed grades 5-7) June 22-28**

**Senior High Camp  
(completed grades 8-12) June 15-21**



Our mission is to provide an opportunity for young people to live in a Christ-centered community that teaches life skills, builds strong friendships and exercises creativity in a safe and structured manner.

Camp Quarterman strives to offer the opportunity to experience God through worship, play and relationships with others. Campers will come together for a week filled with Chapel, Bible teachings and singing in a fun and spiritual atmosphere. Along with worship, Camp Quarterman offers daily activities, which include swimming, archery, basketball, sand volleyball, tennis and much more. We also offer an extraordinary arts and crafts program, many games and fun time, nature hikes and plenty of playtimes. There is never a dull moment!

Each session is staffed with clergy members from our Diocese who serve as Spiritual Leaders for the week. They will lead fun and innovative worship services, allowing the campers to experience new and traditional services in a fun and exciting way.



This year, Scott and Ashley Lee of St. Peter's, Amarillo, will serve as Directors for all camp sessions. Scott is the Youth Minister at St. Peter's, the Province VII Youth Coordinator for the Diocese of Northwest Texas, and the Assistant to the Director of the Diocesan youth program. Ashley is a schoolteacher at Coronado Elementary in Amarillo. They are working hard to help create a program that will encourage faith, fun and friendships. They are also working to assemble an unforgettable group of young Christian adults to serve as counselors for the summer.

Deacon Roland Rose will again return and dedicate his time and talent as our faithful Arts and Crafts Director. Roland is a middle school art teacher in Andrews and serves as Deacon at St. John's, Odessa. He brings with him a lifetime of creativity and helps the campers create entertaining and exciting projects.

Bonnie Snell of St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Amarillo will again join us for Primary Camp as our Science coordinator. Bonnie creates a scientific extravaganza for the kids where nature is their classroom. They create, explore and experiment using all different types of fun and inventive tools. It is truly fun for everyone!

*We look forward to seeing you at Camp Quarterman this summer!*



Volunteers are needed for each camp session, especially nurses. Please contact the office if you would like to dedicate a week of your time or talent to our youth.

Tuition is \$250 per camper. This price includes camp session, t-shirt, photo and camp directory. A \$100 deposit is required for each camper to hold a spot. Registration forms and deposits are due no later than two weeks before the start date of the session attending. Scholarships are available through local churches. Registration forms will be available after March 1st at your local Episcopal Church office, The Hulsey Episcopal Center in Lubbock and on our website at [www.bqcc.org](http://www.bqcc.org).

If you have questions regarding Camp Quarterman, please contact the office at (806) 383-6878 or by email at [bqcctx@aol.com](mailto:bqcctx@aol.com).

## Happy Camp Advisory Board Meets in February

by the Ven. Dana Wilson

After over ten years of existence, Happy Camp now has an Advisory Board that will work to support and promote it. The Board will meet on February 22nd in Midland at the home of Ms. Sandy Tisdale who has been appointed as Chairperson of the Board by Bishop Ohl. Members of the Board are Courteney Gill, Carolyn Hearn, Ann Jones, Scott Lee, Lisa Mewhorter, Fred Newman, Roland Rose, and Dana Wilson. Officers will be elected at the meeting. An overview of operations and a history of Happy Camp will be presented and the Board will discuss a mission statement. We ask for your prayers as we begin our work together.

Happy Camp will be held this year at Quarterman Conference Center June 29th through July 3rd. Happy Camp is an outreach ministry of the entire Diocese of Northwest Texas. That means that every Episcopal Church in the Diocese and every Episcopalian is a part of this ministry. It takes all of us to make Happy Camp a success. The cost for each camper is approximately \$400 and the Camp is funded entirely by donations. We usually have between

20 and 25 campers. We hope in the future to have two Happy Camps - we are only limited by our funding. Please prayerfully consider giving to Happy Camp now in the envelope provided. It is helpful when gifts to Happy Camp come in early so that we can better prepare.

One thing I can say for certain after three years of working with Happy Campers is that Happy Camp changes lives. Many of the children have never experienced the love of God found in the context of a Christian community. For me, being at Happy Camp feels like being a part of a miracle. Each day the children become more confident and loving. Each day the light in their eyes grows a little brighter. My hope is that wherever they go in life, they will remember that love is possible and that God is real. Maybe they will even remember that people who had a funny name like "Episcopalian" cared enough to reach out to them.

Happy Camp is for non-Episcopal children in northwest Texas who would not be able to

attend a summer camp without financial assistance. They will be entering the fourth through the sixth grades in the fall and are recruited through schools, community service agencies, and Episcopal Churches.

### **You can help by:**

- Sponsoring a camper
- Making a donation (An envelope is enclosed.)
- Transporting Campers
- Recruiting Campers
- Volunteering at Happy Camp
- Praying for the campers, their families, and the staff.

For more information about Happy Camp, contact Carolyn Hearn by phone at the Hulsey Episcopal Center - (806) 763-1370 or email her at [diocese@nwt.org](mailto:diocese@nwt.org)



*“Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”*

**Mark 9:36-37**

## Major Initiative to enable Church of England Churches to Rediscover their Role in the Community

A major initiative to arm parish churches with a fresh vision and to enhance their position at the heart of their communities was announced on Monday 10th February 2003.

Restoring Hope, which has the support of both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York, encourages congregations to take a fresh look at their primary calling, namely 'To love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.'

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, described Restoring Hope in terms of serving the local community. He said, "The project is not just about restoring hope in our churches, but restoring hope in our communities, helping people to recognise something of the image and likeness of the eternal God in them."

Under the Restoring Hope initiative every Church of England benefice is to be sent a free resource pack this Easter. Packs include a 40-minute video presented by Tom Wright, the distinguished theologian and Canon of Westminster Abbey. The video will feature comments from senior Anglican leaders including both Archbishops, Dr Christina Baxter and the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Revd Michael Nazir-Ali.

Addressing a range of subjects, it will lay out a vision for the church in the 21st century, as well as giving an honest assessment of the challenges facing churches today and a call to reflect prayerfully on the spiritual characteristics of the early Church.



A set of booklets accompanies the video, including the two successful Springboard workbooks: *Growing Healthy Churches* and *Discerning Church Vocation*. These aim to take churches through a process of evaluation, encouragement and assessment, enabling each congregation to discern together their own vision for the future. The third booklet will point churches toward a range of additional resources where they can find further inspiration and practical help.

Support for this initiative has come from across the Anglican community, including sponsorship from a number of major Anglican mission agencies, such as Springboard, the Church Army, the Church Mission Society, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Mothers' Union and the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Jayne Ozanne, project manager of the Restoring Hope initiative and a member of the Archbishops' Council, said, "Restoring Hope is designed to stimulate church congregations to listen - first to God and then to their neighbour - so that they can better serve the needs of their local communities.

"It is no coincidence that the sponsors of Restoring Hope are drawn from across the Anglican community. We believe there is great strength in working as one body, so that together in partnership with the dioceses and local parish churches, we can learn to serve and minister in the most relevant and practical ways to the diverse needs of our nation."

*from the Anglican Communion News Service*

## Discernment Process at St. Mark's and St. Peter's

By Loretta Fulton  
St. Mark's, Abilene

Not for a million bucks —not even 3 million—would the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern Michigan go back to the way things were.

That's the answer the congregation gave when a former bishop posed the question: "What would you do if you were given \$3 million?" Answers included enlarging the building, making it handicap accessible and supporting new outreach opportunities. The bishop may have been surprised, though, at the overriding answer. "Everyone talked about how we would never go back to the way it had been," said Carol Clark, 72, a member of the church since 1973.

That's good news for members of St. Mark's in Abilene and St. Peter's in Borger. Both congregations are moving toward doing things the way they do at Trinity Episcopal Church in Gladstone, Mich., and 75 percent of the 26 congregations in the Diocese of Northern Michigan.

In those churches, it's called "mutual ministry," in the Diocese of Northwest Texas it's called "community ministry," and in other places it's known as "total ministry."

No matter the title, the word "ministry" is what counts. Community ministry, as it's known in this diocese, focuses on recognizing the gifts of all members of the congregation and moving away from a clergy-centered concept of ministry. At Trinity Episcopal Church in Michigan, Clark is one of four Canon 9, or non-seminary trained, priests. The congregation of about 50 also is served by two deacons. Finances prohibited hiring a full-time rector, so the congregation decided to adopt the mutual ministry model that started in the diocese in the late 1980s.

Kevin Thew-Forrester, ministry development coordinator for the Diocese of Northern Michigan, said the cost of full-time clergy was one of the primary forces behind the drive toward mutual ministry.

Another was the 1979 Book of Common Prayer's emphasis on the Holy Eucharist as the central element of worship each Sunday. Without a seminary-trained ordained priest on board, congregations couldn't do that.

"Those two together precipitated the move into mutual ministry," Thew-Forrester said. Those factors—finances and the desire for weekly Eucharist—are also behind the push toward community or mutual ministry at St. Mark's and St. Peter's.

St. Mark's has been involved in the process since September when Claire Cowden, ministries coordinator for the diocese, started coming each Sunday from Lubbock to guide the congregation through the process.

After an initial overview, weekly discernment sessions began. Each week about 15 people stayed after church for an hour to work through the process under Cowden's able leadership.

Individuals identified their own gifts, as well as those of others in the group and the congregation at-large. By the end of the year, the discernment group had made a discovery that the folks in the Diocese of Northern Michigan made a long time ago.

"Most people enjoy discovering they have gifts," said Thew-Forrester, with the Northern Michigan Diocese. "You realize there is more than enough ministry to go around." That is exactly what the discernment group at St. Mark's discovered. An important part of the community ministry process is identifying gifts and then calling or commending people with those gifts for service in the church.

That commendation process took place at St. Mark's on Jan. 26, in conjunction with the annual meeting. Practically every member of the church was commended for some type of ministry in the church, including three identified as candidates for Canon 9 priesthood.

Those commendations were forwarded to the diocesan Standing Committee. As the Ecclesiastical Authority while Bishop Ohl is on



Claire Cowden leads a discernment session at St. Mark's in Abilene as part of a process involved in community ministry. St. Mark's and St. Peter's in Borger have accepted the challenge of adopting community ministry, which is described as "a way of being church which animates the ministry of all the baptized."

sabbatical, the Standing Committee was charged to determine if a consensus existed among St. Mark's members as they recommended individuals for specific ministries. Next step will be a church-wide interview with members of the Commission on Ministry. A second interview will take place about one year later.

Individual interviews also will be conducted with those commended for the Canon 9 priesthood. Ongoing education for the entire congregation is also a part of the community ministry process.

People who have been involved in community ministry for years warn that it can be a struggle. In the Diocese of Northern Michigan, the prospect of moving away from a clergy-centered church to one in which all persons are viewed as ministers, was met with fear, said Thew-Forrester, the ministry development coordinator.

But the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church in Gladstone, Mich., affirms that the end result is worth overcoming the fear of change. Carol Clark remembers having a full-time rector at the church a year or two and then being left alone for another couple of years. That uncertainty went on for years until the diocese introduced the concept of mutual ministry.

"It's been absolutely wonderful," Clark said. "It has brought stability to our community." The congregation has commended four of its own to serve as Canon 9 priests, with the authority to preside at Holy Eucharist. Two other members are deacons. But it doesn't stop there. The congregation at Trinity has been through the discernment and commendation process three times since the original process in 1987. As people come and go from the church, the process is repeated to identify new people for various ministries.

Besides identifying people for ministries at church, the discernment process has made people aware of ministries in the larger community, Clark said. Members now understand that ministry opportunities exist in the home, school and neighborhood.

Clark wasn't surprised that her church would choose to spend an unexpected \$3 million on outreach rather than paying someone to "do ministry" for them. Now that the congregation has found a new way to do ministry, no one wants to turn back.

"It's been an incredible, empowering thing," Clark said. "It's been life-giving for us."

## Episcopal Church Staff Officer Visits Northwest Texas

The Rev. Melford "Bud" Holland, Coordinator for Ministry Development for the Episcopal Church, visited Northwest Texas for a few days in early February. Bud's visit was planned & arranged by long-time friend the Rev. John Loving. Bud met with the Commission on Ministry for a day of information and dialogue. He presented the proposed changes to the ministry canons which will come before General Convention this summer. These changes are being proposed by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development (SCMD) of which Bishop Ohl is a member. These proposed changes affect many ministries ranging from seminary-trained Priests, to Canon 9 (or local) Priests to Deacons, Lay Preachers, Catechists and Commissions on Ministry. Bud did a superb job of placing these recommended changes within an appropriate historical & theological context. To view the SCMD's document, go to <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministry> and click on "General Convention 2003 Documents."

Bud also talked about *Fresh Start*, an innovative and well-received program whose purpose is "to strengthen the relationships among Episcopal clergy, congregations and dioceses during critical periods of transition in clergy leadership of the congregation." *Fresh Start* is a collaborative effort of the Episcopal Church, through the Office of Ministry Development



*The Rev. Melford "Bud" Holland, Coordinator for Ministry Development for the Episcopal Church with Dr. Mary Federman of St. Mary's Big Spring, at the February Commission on Ministry meeting.*

and the Church Deployment Office, and Cornerstone, a ministry of the Episcopal Church Foundation.

John & Nancy Loving then hosted Bud for a weekend in San Angelo, where Bud preached at the Sunday services. What a pleasure to have among us a staff officer of the Episcopal Church who brings such a broad perspective of our church along with wisdom, compassion and insight!

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# Living The Vision

by the Rev. Mark R. Eldredge

One thing I have learned as a parish priest is that in the church we are going to have problems whether we are declining in membership, staying the same as always, or growing and adding new members. Frankly, if there are going to be problems no matter what, then I would prefer the problems that go along with growth. It's more fun! And make no mistake, if we as individuals, as churches, 'mission outposts', and as a diocese really begin living out our vision we will grow. And growth means change to the status quo and that means problems. But it's worth it, because growth means changed lives. Real people with real problems receiving real comfort and help by our real and loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

One of my favorite authors, John C. Maxwell, in his book *Failing Forward: How to Make the Most of Your Mistakes* wrote, "If you always do what you've always done, then you will always get what you've always gotten." In this article, I want to offer you some practical suggestions on how you can step out in faith and perhaps try some things you've never done to get new results in fulfilling our Diocesan Vision. In my last article (*The Adventure* Vol. LXXXV No. 4) we looked at the first two categories of the vision: to 1) Invite In, and 2) Welcome people. In this article, we'll look at the latter two: to 3) Train, and 4) Send people.

## WE ARE TO TRAIN PEOPLE

Once we have invited people into our church (evangelism) and welcomed them into the fellowship of our church family, then we are to train them. The church word for training people is Discipleship. In the Great Commission Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples..." (Matt. 28:19). That is disciplined followers of Jesus, not merely converts. So how do we make disciples? We train people in what it means to be a Christian, and how to live as a follower of Christ. Let's look at one way to do this.

I suggest that you develop a training strategy. It sounds simple, but so many times in the church we say that people ought to grow but never clearly lay out a plan for how they are to do it. We then wonder why so many people stay immature in their faith. Have a plan for people

to plug into. In his book *The Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren says it this way, "Believers grow faster when you provide a track to grow on." What the track in your church looks like may differ from another church, but having a track is essential. You may already have all the classes, Bible studies, small groups, etc. that you need to effectively train people, you may simply need to clearly lay out the process for them to follow.

What we've discovered at St. Nicholas' is that long drawn out 16 week classes don't work very well any more in today's busy culture. Right or wrong, people are busy and it's hard for most to commit that long. Instead of complaining that it's not like it used to be, we've started offering a series of five classes that are one session each. Each class introduces people to a new level of understanding of the Christian life, actions they can put into practice, and a challenge to commit to that part of Christianity in their life.

The first class is a requirement to become a member of the church, which gets the process started, and then each class builds on the next. By the time someone completes all five classes and has committed to living what they've learned, they have all they need to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ. The commitment to doing what they've learned is essential though. Our goal is not just to pass information; we want the transformation of lives. Jesus said in John 13:17, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Also, recognize that we don't learn in isolation. It is in the classes mentioned above where one learns about Christianity. It's in community where one lives Christianity. I suggest creating a small group ministry where people can regularly get together for fellowship, study, pray, eat, and grow. It's one thing to say, "I love my neighbor," it's another to be in a group with someone who is really annoying to you, and instead of leaving the group, love them, and work through your problems.

## WE ARE TO SEND PEOPLE

Part of the training process we have in place for people ought to have a component that equips them for the ministry God put them on the planet for. God has uniquely given each person certain gifts, abilities, personality, and experiences that all help identify where and how they can best serve Him both in the church and the world. By equipping people for ministry we can then send them out, which both through word and deed brings more people into the church so that cycle goes on and on until hopefully all people come to know the love of God in Jesus Christ!

My suggestion for equipping and sending people is to teach more than just "spiritual gifts." There are a million and one spiritual gift inventories out there and you've probably taken several of them. And the result is usually the same. Nothing. Yes, you should help identify people's spiritual gifts, but in addition, help people to understand their God given personality and talents, and what they simply love to do. Also look at experiences - good, bad, and ugly - because God often uses our experiences to help others.

But here's the most important part. Once you've helped someone identify these parts of their life that makes them who they are (we do this in the third of our five classes) then interview them and follow-up by getting them into a ministry. If there is not a ministry that fits them, start a new one! This is where I've seen the church fall short time and time again. We so often don't follow-up. I suggest having a system where you sit down one on one with people, figure out where they can best serve, and then let them do it. If they do well, great! If not, have them try something else until they find the correct fit. When someone is serving God in an area they love that fits how God wired them, then they will both bear fruit and find fulfillment and will much less likely burn out.

One of the best examples of how this has worked is with a woman in our church who has been a member for years. She is quiet and committed and always willing to serve. Given her personality and servant's heart she always

## 2002 APPORTIONMENTS Paid Thru February 15, 2003

did ministries like cleaning up after events and serving food, etc. This was fine; however she had so much more to offer. Meanwhile we had our website up and running but it wasn't being used to its full capacity for lack of attention and anyone's ability to manage it. Well you can guess what happened. She took the class and then met with me for her interview and it turned out she had incredible gifts with computers and web design and more importantly than that, she loved to do that kind of stuff! She took over our website and has done wonders with it and sees it as an opportunity to not just serve our church, but to share Jesus Christ with the world. Wow! But if we didn't have a specific way for her to identify what abilities she had to offer, and a strategy to follow-up and plug her in, we would never have asked her to work with the web site. God put her at St. Nicholas' at this time to do this ministry and she loves it.

God has also put you in your church at this time to do a ministry, to make a difference in both believers and non-believers lives! Be trained and sent yourself, and help others to do the same.

Let me close with a final comment. These suggestions are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to living our vision more effectively, and I hope they are helpful to you. But if you want to live the vision, if you really want to make a difference for God, then you have to let Him be in control. It is in surrendering to Him and letting Christ work through you that these suggestions or any others will bear fruit. Jesus is the one who changes people's lives. He allows us to participate in His mission. In John 15:5 He said, "*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*"

Remain in Him and live the vision!

For questions/comments or more information these or other suggestions of *Living The Vision* you can contact Fr. Mark Eldredge at (915) 694-8856 or [frmark@saintnicholaschurch.org](mailto:frmark@saintnicholaschurch.org)

Church	Approtrionment	Paid	Balance	% Paid
Abilene, Heavenly Rest	115,224.68	115,224.68	-	100%
Abilene, St Mark's	12,903.12	13,275.40	(372.28)	103%
Albany, Trinity	178.05	356.10	(178.05)	200%
Amarillo, St Andrew's	112,380.93	103,016.78	9,364.15	92%
Amarillo, St Peter's	46,188.66	46,188.66	-	100%
Andrews, St. Matthias	1,840.44	2,183.00	(342.56)	119%
Big Spring, St. Mary's	38,521.14	38,532.00	(10.86)	100%
Borger, St Peter's	17,841.00	17,841.00	-	100%
Brownfield, Good Shepherd	5,018.79	5,018.79	-	100%
Canyon, St. George's	9,030.43	7,524.78	1,505.65	83%
Childress, St. Luke's	683.75	683.75	-	100%
Clarendon, St John's	3,327.13	3,327.13	-	100%
Coleman, St. Mark's	7,473.20	7,473.00	0.20	100%
Colorado City, All Saints'	4,333.82	4,335.00	(1.18)	100%
Dalhart, St. James'	26,467.14	26,467.14	-	100%
Dumas, St. Paul's	1,914.19	1,920.00	(5.81)	100%
Hereford, St. Thomas	11,421.97	11,421.97	-	100%
Kermit, St. Peter's	1,223.00	1,223.00	-	100%
Lamesa, St. John's	930.40	930.40	-	100%
Levelland, St. Luke's	2,674.35	2,674.35	-	100%
Lubbock, St. Christopher's	39,381.72	39,381.72	-	100%
Lubbock, St. Paul's	98,374.29	98,374.29	-	100%
Lubbock, St. Stephen's	54,759.60	54,757.66	1.94	100%
Midland, Holy Trinity	179,689.86	179,689.86	-	100%
Midland, St. Nicholas	91,537.82	91,537.82	-	100%
Monahans, St. James'	5,141.01	5,148.00	(6.99)	100%
Odessa, St. Barnabas	49,872.69	49,873.00	(0.31)	100%
Odessa, St. John's	40,321.26	40,321.26	-	100%
Odessa, San Miguel	1,638.00	1,638.00	-	100%
Pampa, St. Matthew's	40,231.18	40,230.99	0.19	100%
Perryton, All Saints'	370.86	370.86	-	100%
Plainview, St. Mark's	15,376.31	15,376.31	-	100%
Quanah, Trinity	1,417.50	1,416.00	1.50	100%
San Angelo, Emmanuel	70,146.43	70,146.43	-	100%
San Angelo, Good Shepherd	49,412.79	49,412.79	-	100%
Shamrock, St Michael's	247.13	240.00	7.13	97%
Sweetwater, St Stephens	16,755.00	16,755.00	-	100%
Vernon, Grace	2,352.57	2,352.57	-	100%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,176,602.21</b>	<b>1,166,639.49</b>	<b>9,962.72</b>	<b>99%</b>

## Living Stones Conference

“...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...” 1 Peter 2:5

Ms. Judy Flanders and the Rev. Larry Spannagel of St. Peter’s Borger and Ms. Claire Cowden of the Diocesan office, attended the 10th annual meeting of Living Stones at Kanuga Conference Center in February. Living Stones is a partnership of Canadian and American dioceses committed to supporting one another in ministry development.

As Living Stones partners, each diocese pledges to work together to renew and revitalize ministry at the local church level. This renewal and revitalization takes many forms, and the overall aim is to help churches as they and individual members seek to “restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ” (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 855).

Partner dioceses seek to promote three levels of ministry renewal & revitalization: structure, program and culture. Structural change can include developing formation programs for Canon 9 & Community Ministry

churches. Program development might include helping churches design “Ministry in Daily Life” events or introducing the small-group formation process, *Life Cycles* (see below). Cultural change would include fostering a culture of mutuality & collaboration between ordained & lay ministers, with an understanding of this mutuality emerging from the ground of Baptism.

The annual meeting provides an opportunity for the 19 partner dioceses — of which Northwest Texas is one — to come together for four days of peer consultation. Peer consultation, in the form of cluster group discussions, is a large part of the meeting, along with worship, theological reflection and plenary sessions. Northwest Texas’ cluster group partners this year were Rupert’s Land (Canada), Nova Scotia and Prince Edward’s Island (Canada), Michigan and Iowa. Judy and Larry presented the work that St. Peter’s, Borger has done on ministry discernment over the last year.

One of the great values of attending such a meeting is to hear about other diocese’s & church’s experiences. Rupert’s Land is developing an innovative curriculum with the theological faculty of a local college in Winnipeg. This 2 year program will be used to train non-stipendiary Ordained Ministers (the Canadian equivalent of Canon 9 Priests), along with other persons in voluntary ministry-support positions, such as Christian Education Director, Preacher, etc. The Ministry Developer’s Collaborative is developing a 4 month-internship program to be launched Fall, 2003. This internship will provide individuals with a practical opportunity to learn from experienced ministry developers and churches.

Another exciting development is the near-completion of *Life Cycles*, a Christian Formation curriculum for local churches. *Life Cycles* is a collaborative effort of Leader Resources and the dioceses of Northern Michigan, Wyoming, Nevada and seven New England dioceses. The curriculum has been piloted this past year to enthusiastic reviews. *Life Cycles* will be available to all churches this summer.

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The Rev. Dr. Iain Luke of Winnipeg, Canada (left) talk with Judy Flanders and the Rev. Larry Spannagel.