

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

Number 158

December 15, 2004

Vision Statement: The Diocese of Northwest Texas is a community of mission outposts which invite in and welcome people who are seeking Jesus, train them to be his disciples, and send them into the world to do the work God has called them to do. **Mission Statement:** The Diocese of Northwest Texas will provide the energy, resources and support necessary to help all our communities become mission outposts and, where needed, to help plant new ones

Diocesan Task Force for the Protection of Children and Youth

Bishop Ohl has appointed a task force to recommend diocesan policies and procedures for the protection of children and youth, guidelines for child sexual abuse prevention training, and a process for responding to concerns related to abuse of children and youth. Members of the Task Force are Canon Claire Cowden, Canon for Ministry Development and Initial Convener; Mrs. Anna Marie Wanasek, Chair; Mr. Charles Zachry, Deacon Chris Wrampelmeier, Deacon Melissa Wafer-Cross, the Rev. Dr. Steven Sellers, the Rev. Rich Nelson, Miss Mary Jones, Mrs. Courtney Gill, the Rev. Laura Deaderick, and Mr. Ted Liggett, Chancellor. The first meeting of the task force is December 15 at the HEC. Contact Canon Claire Cowden, ministry@nwt.org. The Task Force will be reviewing *Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse* and *Frequently Asked Questions* which are model policies developed by the Church Pension Group in partnership with The Nathan Network.

Safeguarding God's Children

Safeguarding God's Children is a new program sponsored by the Church Pension Group designed to help all church members, especially parents and staff who work regularly with youth and children, to learn safe and appropriate ways to express affection, recognize warning signs of sexual abuse in adults and children, and support a safe environment for all our children and those who work with them. Northwest Texas currently has two trained facilitators who can bring the program to local churches, Canon Claire Cowden and the Rev. Dr. Steven Sellers. Over the next year a number of regional facilitators will be trained across the diocese. The training is 1 ½ hours for parents and 3 hours for volunteers and staff who work with children and youth. Contact Canon Claire Cowden, ministry@nwt.org or 806.763.1370x206.

Criminal Background Check Training Available through the Diocese

The Volunteer Center of Lubbock is providing training for schools and congregations to do criminal background checks for a minimal fee. The training is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25 in Lubbock from 10 AM to 12 Noon. Two people minimum will be required from each school or congregation. The fee is \$75 and additional staff may be trained later at no additional cost. Each background check will cost \$6.00. Bishop Ohl encourages all schools and congregations with staff to do criminal background checks on staff and volunteers. The registration deadline is January 10. Contact Carolyn Hearn at diocese@nwt.org.

Happening 28 - for teens 9-12th grades

Feb 18-20, Good Shepherd & Emmanuel, San Angelo

Contact June Smith, 325.653.5540 or june.smith@angelo.edu or Paula Howbert, 432.697.6535 or pfhowbert@prodigy.com

Prayer Make Over Workshop

January 15, 9 AM to Noon

St. Christopher's, Lubbock

Are your prayers getting stale? Do you want to add zest to your prayer life? Are you eager to discover new methods of praying? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you need a prayer make over. Learn about Designer Prayers, Praying with Music, Praying the Alphabet, Creating Celtic Prayers, Prayer Walking and more. Workshop leaders are Kathleen Borsch and Lee Brodie. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided. The workshop is free but pre-registration is required. Contact St. Christopher's Church at 806.799.8208, Kathleen Borsch at 806.763.6504, or Lee Brodie at lee.brodie@ttu.edu.

Today's Disciples in Today's World

February 24-26, Kansas City Missouri

Deepening our relationship to God by building up the Household of Faith and serving the world in Christ's name - a conference on adult education and formation sponsored by Provinces VI and VII, featuring the Rev. Linda Grenz, our annual convention speaker, founder of LeaderResources, and the Rev. Rick Brewer, founder of Opportunities for Adult Christian Education and Spirituality (OACES) will build on "Growing into the Full Stature of Christ," our theme for annual diocesan convention. The conference will offer learning from each other, a variety of adult education programs, discovering different contexts for programs and acquiring tools for program evaluation by stretching your thoughts, trying out a variety of programs, using the models and skills in adult programming and Commission on Ministry work, sharing learnings, becoming more skilled in assessing programs, and participating in an event that "begs" to be replicated "back home." Embassy Suites Hotel, Kansas City Airport (\$119/room w/ breakfast. Registration to 12/31 is \$275 and after 12/31 is \$325. Contact Grace Underwood, PO Box 6885, San Antonio TX 78209 or grace.underwood@dwtx.org.

Episcopal Relief and Development

Offers Variety of Gifts

This Christmas Episcopalians can choose from over 70 life-saving gifts that support families through ERD's partnerships in communities around the world. Each tax-deductible gift enables a woman, child, or family to build a better future. The online catalog offers a variety of gifts in the areas of emergency relief and rebuilding, food security, primary health care, and HIV/AIDS. A gift card accompanies each gift and can be sent directly to the gift recipient or purchaser. Contact 800.334.7626x5129, 800.903.5544 or order online at www.er-d.org and click on "Ways to Give."

**Sabbath Summit for Youth Ministers
January 13-17, Estes Park, Colorado**

The Lilly Endowment-funded Youth Ministry & Spirituality Project (YMSP), a contemplative approach to youth ministry, invites youth ministry coordinators to experience the principles and practices of the YMSP at a Sabbath Summit to be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Co. The summit was created as a retreat for diocesan youth ministry leaders, clergy and lay, to breathe more deeply and respond more intentionally to God's presence, step back from daily ministry demands to encounter the Lord through silence, scripture, prayer, reflection, relationship building and recreation, understand the basic principles of deepening our faith through spiritual practices and sharing this with youth. Contact episcopalchurch.org/myp or Cookie Cantwell at 910.763.1628.

**The Magnetic Church
January 28-29**

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Midland.

To help your church attract, welcome and retain new members featuring Andrew D. Weeks, a cradle Episcopalian, lay evangelist, published by The Alban Institute, who is "engaging, encouraging... with a wealth of experience, humor, spirituality and intense story telling skills." Contact magnetic-church.com. Bobby Rose at 432.570.1259, Jrosemidland@aol.com or Trinity Presbyterian Church at 432.682.2514, tpc@apex2000.net. Registration \$30, deadline Jan. 24.

**National Cathedral
Interactive Advent Calendar**

Log on to www.edow.org/spirituality/advent/index.html for daily meditations featuring the cathedral's creche exhibit.

**Windsor Report, Bishop's Address
Available On Line**

The 100 page Lambeth Commission Report, also known as the Windsor report, is available on line at www.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm. Bishop Ohl's address to the 46th Annual Convention is available on line at nwt.org.

Prayers and Thanksgivings:

Upcoming Ordinations: Jonathan Hartzler to the priesthood at St. Nicholas', Midland on December 17 at 7 PM. Celia Ellery to the transitional diaconate at Good Shepherd, San Angelo on December 18 at 11 AM.

Congratulations to Deacon Suzie Wilkinson on her award as Pampa Fine Artist of the Year. Suzie's 30 new works were featured at an art show and reception at the White Deer Land Museum and in an article about Suzie in *The Pampan* newspaper.

Congratulations to ETSS seminarian Celia Ellery on her George Mercer Jr. Scholarship award.

Congratulations to our Jubilee Ministry, *Just People, Inc.* in Abilene, which received a matching grant from the Dodge Jones Foundation doubling the donation from the Diocese of Northwest Texas.

Please continue to keep in your prayers for healing: the Rev. Marshall Mason, the Rev. Roz Thomas, and the Rev. Donald Hungerford.

Calendar

DECEMBER

- 15 *Task Force for the Protection of Children & Youth, HEC, 11 AM
- 17 *Jonathan Hartzler Ordination, St. Nicholas', Midland 7 PM
- 18 *Celia Ellery Ordination, Good Shepherd, San Angelo, 11 AM
- 19 *St. Peter's, Borger, Visitation
- 23-31 *HEC Closed for Christmas

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's
- 8 *BQCC Board, HEC, 10 AM
Deacon Formation
- 9 Odessa, San Miguel
- 10 **UTO Grant Request Deadline**
- 10-13 *House of Bishops, Salt Lake City
- 14-15 *Diocese of Rio Grande Consecration
- 15 EYE Executive and Youth Committees, Canterbury, Lubbock
- 17 Martin Luther King Day - HEC Closed
- 18 *Allan Conkling Installation, Emmanuel, San Angelo, 7 PM
- 20 *2005 Convention Planning Committee, HEC, 10 AM
- 23 *Canyon, St. George's
- 25 Background Check Training, Lubbock 10 AM
- 28-30 Midwinter, BQCC

A blessed Advent and joyous celebration of the birth of the Christ Child from Bishop Ohl and Staff

Send comments, suggestions, notices, and information to Carolyn Hearn, Editor, newsletter@nwt.org or The Newsletter, 1802 Broadway, Lubbock TX 79401, 806.763.1370, fax 472.0641 - deadline is January 10.

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The Newsletter
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED