

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

Number 163

May 15, 2005

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.

St. Nicholas' Parish to Begin Anew

On May 31, the Rev. Jon Stasney, will resign as Rector of St. Nicholas' Parish, Midland, and retire from the active ministry of the Episcopal Church. Father Stasney's last service at St. Nicholas' will be Sunday, May 29. After 18 months of conversations with the bishop about an impending separation from the diocese and the Episcopal Church, a majority of the membership voted to leave the Episcopal Church. At a meeting on May 2 with the clergy, senior warden, several vestry members, and representatives of those members of St. Nicholas' who wish to remain in the Diocese of Northwest Texas and the Episcopal Church, Bishop Ohl asked those who were leaving the Episcopal Church to vacate St. Nicholas' building by June 1, 2005.

In a press release on May 12, Bishop Ohl stated, "In the polity of the Episcopal Church, congregations are formed by the diocesan convention and are constituent members of the diocese. Congregations cannot leave the Episcopal Church; only individual persons can leave the Church. After leaving, they can, of course, organize another congregation as either an independent church or affiliated with another denomination. Those leaving the Episcopal Church have organized Christ Church Midland as the name of their new Church." Christ Church, Midland (Anglican Communion) was incorporated on April 22, 2005.

Bishop Ohl further stated, "There are many parishioners who wish to remain within the Episcopal Church and St. Nicholas' Parish. A core group of about 35 parishioners are working to organize interim bodies to continue the governance and mission and ministry which has been a hallmark of St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church for 50 years. Discussions have included new outreach opportunities ... and developing an evangelism effort to reach out to the unchurched in Midland." On June 5, at 10:30 A.M. at St. Nicholas' Church, Bishop Ohl will preside at a Festival Eucharist honoring Ed Aldridge and his 50 years of ministry as a Lay Reader in the Episcopal Church. The people of Midland and the entire diocese are invited to share in this occasion.

For the complete text of Bishop Ohl's May 12 press release, go to the Diocese of Northwest Texas web site at nwt.org.

Lubbock Area FaSoLa Singing on Sunday, June 5 St. Stephen's Church, Lubbock

Young people (and young at heart) have a special invitation to join the FaSoLa Singing followed by an ice cream social. Sacred Harp Book will be used and available. Come, sing, bring a friend! Contact Doreen Hutton at 806.794.2464.

The Board of Directors of Happy Camp Invite you to share in Happy Camp Open House 11:30 A.M., Thursday, June 9, 2005 Bishop Quarterman Conference Center Amarillo, Texas

Lunch will be served at noon in the dining hall. The Board is thankful for the generous support of Happy Camp throughout the years and hope that you will join the staff and campers of Happy Camp 2005 in celebrating this wonderful ministry and the people like you who make it happen. You are welcome to stay as long as you like. Please RSVP by Sunday, June 5, to Archdeacon Dana Wilson, dana@marshill.com, 432.699.4322.

Donations to Happy Camp and Promise Camp may be sent to the Hulsey Episcopal Center, 1802 Broadway, Lubbock 79401.

Executive Council Will Address Budget Issues

At its May 21 meeting in Lubbock, the Executive Council will address budget issues relating to St. Nicholas', Midland's, unpaid 2005 apportionment amounting to \$109,086 which is 9% of the diocesan budget. St. Nicholas' vestry voted in November 2004 not to pay their apportionment until at least December 2005 and the diocese has received no income from St. Nicholas' to date. The Executive Council will "brainstorm" possible solutions for the 2005 and 2006 budget at their upcoming meeting.

2005 Annual Diocesan Convention Speaker

The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of the Diocese of Nevada, will be the speaker at the 2005 Annual Convention in Lubbock, October 28-30.

Memorial for the Rev. Marshall Mason

A memorial fund in honor of the Rev. Marshall Mason will be used in the Diocese of the Iglesia Episcopal Dominica to complete a facility which will serve as a church, school, shelter and medical clinic in the community of El Pedregal in the mountains of the Dominican Republic. Donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Church, 1412 W Illinois, Midland 79701. Questions about the project may be addressed to David Morrow at 432.563.2766.

Women's Retreat and ECW Conference September 16-18, BQCC, Amarillo "Responding to God's Call"

What springs from us is a passion or desire, a gift that was planted in us before we were born. Come discover and develop this passion and desire as it becomes Christ's ministry through us. Presenters: the Rev. Margaret Austin, Canon Claire Cowden, Archdeacon Dana Wilson. Cost \$85. Put this date on your calendar. Registration forms available later this summer.

Camp Quarterman Summer Camp 2005
"High Five from Jesus"

"And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." Mark 10:16

Senior High Camp (grades 9-12) June 19-25
Primary Camp (grades 2-4) June 26-July 2
Junior High Camp (grades 5-8) July 3-9
Applications available March 1 from church offices or by e-mailing bqcctx@aol.com or by calling 806.383.6878.

Episcopal Acts, Etc.

Ryan Kuratko, seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary, was made a Candidate for Holy Orders on April 20. Ryan has been accepted in this year's Preaching Excellence Program through the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, Inc.

Deacon Tom and Mrs. Gwen Burns of Midland have been appointed to the Happy Camp/Promise Camp Board. Phil Ray, Postulant for the Priesthood from Emmanuel, San Angelo, has been accepted in the Certificate in Individual theological Studies program at ETSS in Austin.

Prayers and Thanksgivings:

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

The Rev. Jim Haney (retired, Lubbock) reports the lump removed from his neck on May 9 was a chronically inflamed node with no evidence of cancer. Jim may be reached at 4904 14th Street, Lubbock 79416, 806.797.7221

The Rev. Stuart Hoke (former Rector of St. Andrew's, Amarillo, now at Trinity, Wall Street) has been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer of the prostate in both lobes. Surgery is scheduled for July 1. Stuart may be reached at 74 Trinity Place, NY NY 10016, 212.602.0800.

Mary Veal, daughter of **the Rev. Canon David and Sue Veal** (retired, Lubbock) is recuperating at home following a fall and hospitalization for a broken pelvis and spinal fracture. Mary may be reached at 2519 55th, Lubbock 79413, 806.799.2069.

Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat
June 22-26

Catholic Conference and Formation Center, Dallas
214.339.8483 or quetex1@yahoo.com

New Address for Trinity Church, Albany
PO Box 1523, Albany, TX 76430

Got a question? Episcopal Church Center information desk: 800.334.7626 ext 6136 and 6137, info@episcopalchurch.org, www.episcopalchurch.org/info.

Calendar

MAY

16-18 *Seminary of the Southwest Board and Commencement, Austin
21 *Executive Council, St. Paul's, Lubbock, 10 AM
22 *St. Peter's, Amarillo, Visitation
26 *St. Andrew's, Amarillo, graduation
29-6/4 *Counselor Training
30 HEC Closed, Memorial Day

JUNE

3 Commission on Ministry, HEC, 10 AM
6-10 Happy Camp, BQCC, Amarillo
10-12 Title IV Commission, Memphis, TN
13-17 Promise Camp, BQCC, Amarillo
18 *Celia Ellery Ordination to the Priesthood 11 AM, Good Shepherd, San Angelo
19 *St. Mark's, Abilene, Visitation
20-25 Senior High Camp, BQCC, Amarillo
26-7/2 Primary Camp, BQCC, Amarillo
30 Budget Committee, HEC, 10-2

JULY

3-9 Junior High Camp, BQCC, Amarillo
14-17 Cursillo #65, Mercy Center, Slaton
26-31 *National Episcopal Youth Event, Berea, KY

If you wish to be removed from The Newsletter mailing or e-mailing list, please contact Carolyn Hearn at 806.763.1370 x204 or diocese@nwt.org.

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 June 10.

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas
The Newsletter
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED