

# THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

Number 164

June 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.

## Thank You from St. Nicholas' Parish

To the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

What joy! What Love! What wonderful people you truly are!!! The outpouring of love and support shown at St. Nicholas' on Sunday, June 5, 2005, was absolutely overwhelming. I suspect none of us who are now the congregation of St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church had dry eyes on Sunday.

"Thank you" does not seem to adequately express our heartfelt appreciation of your loyalty and support of us. Representatives of virtually every parish, congregation and mission were present to worship with us in our new beginning. To know we have been in your prayers has sustained us throughout the difficult months.

The situation at St. Nicholas' has been quite hard for us and we know it has affected the entire diocese. For your patience, support, love and prayers, we are grateful. We look forward now to continuing the mission God has set before us. We will certainly require your continued prayer support.

I want to thank you also for your generosity in the plate offering. The Bishop's Discretionary Fund increased nicely and the parish of St. Nicholas' also appreciates the gifts given directly to us. Again, your support is humbling. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you to Bishop Ohl and every one of you who traveled from across the vastness of the diocese to worship with us on June 5. I spoke with Ed Aldridge and he, too, appreciated the outpouring of love shown him. I doubt many of us get to celebrate 50 years in one ministry as Ed has.

On behalf of the congregation and interim vestry of St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, I thank you all for your love and support. We saw the love of Jesus on Sunday. May each of us live that love every day and continue to keep one another in prayer. God Bless You!!!

Jeffery W. Marugg  
Interim Senior Warden  
St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church,  
Midland, Texas

For pictures of the June 5th Service, [click here](#). The pictures may be slow to load.

## Ed Aldridge Honored for 50 Years of Service

Ed Aldridge of St. Nicholas', Midland was honored on June 5 at St. Nicholas' Festive Eucharist for fifty years of service as a Lay Reader and Lay Eucharistic Minister. In a thank you to the members of the diocese and all who participated in the celebration of his many years of faithful ministry Mr. Aldridge writes, "... A number of parishes participated in this service by providing members of the choir, food, and help in planning the entire program. As the recipient of this celebration, I want to thank everyone responsible but find it impossible as I do not know all of the participants. Please accept this letter of THANKS. May God Bless all of you. Ed Aldridge."

## The Rev. Frank Swindle Appointed Interim Priest at St. Nicholas', Midland

The Rev. Frank Swindle began his ministry as Interim Priest at St. Nicholas' Church on June 5. Fr. Swindle served in the Diocese of Northwest Texas at Sweetwater and Colorado City from 1986 to 1996, and served previously in Western Louisiana from 1973 to 1986. He is a graduate of the University of the South (1973) and holds a Doctor of Ministry (1996). Fr. Swindle began his first interim ministry in the fall of 1996. Following extensive interim training with the Interim Ministry Network, he was accredited as Interim Ministry Specialist in 2001. He has served interim positions at Christ Church, Little Rock, AR; Old St. Paul's, Chestertown, MD; and St. Philip's, Joplin, MO. Fr. Swindle and his wife Gloria have enjoyed "retirement" traveling in their recreational vehicle.

## Standing Committee Charged to Deal with Abandonment of the Ministry

The Standing Committee of the Diocese, part of whose charge is to deal with clergy who abandon their ministry, recommended to Bishop Ohl that the Rev. Jon Stasney and the Rev. Jonathan Hartzler be inhibited for abandonment of their ministry in the Episcopal Church. Bishop Ohl suggested each resign their Orders effective June 1 which would maintaining their "integrity of position and availability to return" to the Episcopal Church should either desire to do so. Neither responded to Bishop Ohl's letter and, with the advice of the Standing Committee, Bishop Ohl imposed an Inhibition for six months which will be followed by Deposition as a member of the clergy of the Episcopal Church. Jon Stasney gave notice to his Senior Warden of his resignation as Rector of St. Nicholas', Midland, and his retirement from active ministry in the Episcopal Church effective June 1. Jonathan Hartzler has not formally submitted his resignation to the bishop.

## Train the Trainers

### Safeguarding God's Children

August 6 at Emmanuel Church, San Angelo

August 20 at St. Paul's Church, Lubbock

August 27 at St. Andrew's, Amarillo

*Safeguarding God's Children* is the new Episcopal Church program designed to prevent sexual abuse of children and youth. Each congregation, with the approval of their rector, vicar or warden in charge, is invited to select a team of trainers to present the program in their own church. Training is from 9 AM to 3 PM. Choose the day and location most convenient for your church's team. Cost \$10, \$7 each for two or more. For more information or help selecting a training team, contact Canon Claire Cowden. 806.763.1370 or [ministry@nwt.org](mailto:ministry@nwt.org).

### Building up the Body of Christ:

#### A Workshop for Pastoral-Sized Congregations

Bishop Ohl has invited the Rev. Canon Keith Brown to lead rectors and up to twelve lay-leaders from seven pastoral-sized congregations in the diocese in congregational development workshops focused specifically on what works for pastoral-sized congregations. The workshop, the first of three or four over the next academic year, will be held on Saturday, August 13, at St. Paul's, Lubbock. Canon Brown serves as Diocesan Management and Trends Consultant for the Church Pension Fund and has worked on-site with 23 of our 100 domestic dioceses. He is the author of *On the Road Again; Managing Evangelism and Stewardship for the Kingdom*.

### Episcopal Acts

**Dr. Lee Brodie** of St. Christopher's, Lubbock, Postulant, Reading for Orders, Priesthood. **Mrs. Darla Jimenez**, St. Matthias', Andrews, Candidate, Local Priesthood. **Mr. David Williams**, St. Peter's, Borger, Postulant, Local Priesthood, and **Mrs. Peggy Valentine**, St. Mark's, Abilene, Candidate, Diaconate. **The Rev. John Watson**, Rector of St. Peter's, Amarillo, appointed Dean of the Panhandle Deanery. **Margaret Heitt Williams**, BSN, MA, RN, BC, CNS, of Holy Trinity, Midland, will serve as Diocesan Liaison for National Episcopal Health Ministries and will attend a preparatory conference in October in Albany, NY.

### Prayers and Thanksgivings:

Please continue to keep in your prayers for healing:

the Rev. Monte Jones (who continues to do well following his surgery), and the Rev. Donald Hungerford. **The Rev. Canon David Veal** (retired, Lubbock) received a pacemaker June 10 and is doing well. **The Rev. Bob Hedges** will celebrate 50 years of ordination (and eighty years of life) at a reception in his honor at noon on June 19 at Emmanuel Church, San Angelo. **The Rev. Celia Ellery** will join the staff of Good Shepherd, San Angelo on June 15, and will be ordained to the priesthood on June 18. **Deacon Candidate Gary Sanford** of Emmanuel, San Angelo, has received a Spirit and Sky award for Emmanuel's web site, [www.emmanuel-sa.org](http://www.emmanuel-sa.org). Gary recommends a look at [spiritinsky.com](http://spiritinsky.com) for information on parish web sites.

### Will Our Children be Stewards?

Presented by the Office of Stewardship of the Episcopal Church. July 14-17, Minneapolis, MN. Designed for church leaders, educators, parents and friends of children concerned about the growing effect of the commercial culture on family life and children. Special activities for children ages 5-12 and youth 13 and older. Fees include room, meals, conference materials \$475 adults, \$125 children. Contact Sarah Johnson 800.334.7626x6283 or [sajohnson@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:sajohnson@episcopalchurch.org)

### Calendar

#### JUNE

- 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
- 4 HEC Closed
- 14-17 Cursillo #65 - CANCELED
- 26-31 \*National Episcopal Youth Event, Berea, KY

#### AUGUST

- 6 Train the Trainer, Emmanuel, San Angelo, 9-3
- 6 Permian Basin Deanery, Santa Maria, Midland
- 10 \*Standing Committee, HEC, 10 AM
- 13 Building Up the Body of Christ, St. Paul's, Lubbock
- 16 \*Trustees, HEC, 10 AM

Send comments, suggestions, notices, and information to Carolyn Hearn, Editor, [newsletter@nwt.org](mailto:newsletter@nwt.org)  
The Newsletter, 1802 Broadway, Lubbock TX 79401, 806.763.1370, fax 472.0641 - deadline is July 10.

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