

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

Number 166

August 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.

Appeal from Bishop O'Neil

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing you about a matter of deep seriousness which is challenging our diocese. As I am sure you are aware, many of the members of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Midland have left both St. Nicholas and the Episcopal Church to form a congregation which has aligned itself with a diocese in Uganda. St. Nicholas paid none of the apportionment for the first five months of 2005, a sum amounting to just under \$50,000. Their total apportionment of \$109,000 will not be paid in full. Those who chose to remain with St. Nicholas Episcopal Church do not have the resources to pay this sum, although they are doing their best to contribute to our operating budget. In addition we expect an additional \$10,000 shortfall from other sources, including the now-defunct St. Cyprian's congregation in Amarillo. This has put the Diocese of Northwest Texas in difficult financial condition. Not only are we in a cash "crunch" for the present, it appears that, without help from individual members of the diocese, our situation will continue to deteriorate.

In the eight years I have been bishop of Northwest Texas, I have refrained from asking our people to support the budget above their parish giving. However, the time has come for those of us who are able to assist with a one time offering to do so.

Several individuals and families and two of our smallest missions have already made a monetary offering to help us weather the storm. These gifts have been most generous and will assist us with our budget for 2005.

Would you please prayerfully consider assisting us in this one-time asking? Not everyone can make a large offering, but if we all do what we can, this crisis will pass. As I have said many times, a \$25.00 offering from everyone in the Diocese would net \$200,000. Many can give much more than that amount, and some have already done so. Others may not be able to help financially at the moment, but we cherish your prayers for our mission and ministry. Offerings may be made directly to the Diocese of Northwest Texas and mailed to the Episcopal Center, 1802 Broadway, Lubbock TX 79401 or collected by your parish or mission and forwarded to us as a group. If you have questions about the budget, Canon Mike Ehmer can give you as much detail as you desire.

Thank you for all you have done for your parish, this diocese, and the Episcopal Church. I am in your debt eternally.

Please continue to pray for our Diocese and its leadership.

In Christ,



BQCC Bids Farewell to the Gills

Best wishes to Conference Center Director of Operations Brant Gill who has accepted a new position in Oklahoma. Brant and his wife Courteney, BQCC Assistant Director, and their daughters will be moving to Oklahoma this week. In his letter to the BQCC Board Brant stated, "... this Center and the Diocese ... has been like family for us for the last six years. We will miss being a part of such a wonderful ministry and sharing in all that this Conference Center is. We feel it is the time for us to embark on a new adventure and wish everyone associated with the Diocese and the BQCC all the best in the future." The Conference Center Board will meet August 23 in Lubbock.

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 for room, meals and registration. Contact Paula Howbert, 432.697.6536 or pfhowbert@prodigy.net. Register by Sept. 1.

Upcoming Diocesan Youth Events at BQCC

Fall Fest (Junior High)	October 21-13, 2005
Fall Rally (Senior High)	November 11-13
Midwinter (Senior High)	January 27-29, 2006
Spring Fling (Junior High)	March 3-5, 2006

Please contact the Rev. David Krause at 806.765.0037 or at cantebury@nwt.org.

"An Evening of Music" Friday, August 26 - St. Nicholas, Midland

In the spirit of "Unity in Diversity," friends supporting friends and singing for joy, and gratefulness to his music mentor, NYC baritone Matt Hinkley will present a vocal concert benefitting and celebrating St. Nicholas' new music ministry under the direction of Darryl Knapp. 7:00 PM, reception following. 432.694.8856. \$25

Annual Diocesan Convention Update
"Many Gifts - One Spirit"

August 19 - Registration Packets Mailed
August 29 - Nominations for Offices Due
September 13 - Petitions, Memorial and Resolution Due
October 14 - Resolutions from Deaneries Due (See Canon 4)

Train the Trainers
Safeguarding God's Children
August 20 at St. Paul's Church, Lubbock
August 27 at St. Andrew's, Amarillo

For more information or help selecting a training team, contact Canon Claire Cowden. 806.763.1370 or ministry@nwt.org.

Blandy Lectures and Alumni/ae Convocation - ETSS
September 21 and 22

Jim Wallis on "Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get it." Contact etss.edu/Blandy05.shtml.

Texas Conference of Churches Faith and Order Conference
November 9-10, Austin

The Annual Faith and Order Conference hosted by the Texas Conference of Churches will be held November 9-10 at the Omni South Park in Austin. *The Ecumenical Future* is the theme of the conference. Contact the Texas Conference of Churches at 512.451.0991 or check the website at txconfchurches.org.

St. Peter and the Vatican
October 15-January 8, San Antonio

Extraordinary Vatican exhibit at the Henry Gonzalez Convention Center. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or 210.224.9600. VaticanSanAntonio.com.

2004 Financial Audits Due September 1, 2005

Financial Audits for all parishes and missions are due in the diocesan office on Thursday, September 1. Contact Canon Mike Ehmer if you have questions. mehmer@nwt.org or 806.763.1370.

Errata: New e-mail address for David Veal is veald@sbcglobal.net. The Rev. Linda Kelly's e-mail address is linda@stmatt-pampa.com. She is the new Rector at St. Matthew's, Pampa.

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 August 10.

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas
The Newsletter
1802 BROADWAY
LUBBOCK TX 79401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prayers and Thanksgivings:

Please continue to keep in your prayers for healing:

the Rev. Monte Jones, and **the Rev. Donald Hungerford** (Don's and Edie's address is 5000 Fawn Meadow, Apt 101, San Antonio 78240, phone 210.877.9225), **Tyler Ohi** and his parents and grandparents. **Gwen Burns**, wife of Deacon Tom Burns (Holy Trinity, Midland) is at home after being hospitalized for a severe viral infection. **The Rev. Harry Allen** (retired, Lubbock) will undergo back surgery on August 18. **Brother Richard Thomas, SD**, is attending the State School for the Blind in Austin receiving training for the next nine months due to a lack of blood flow of unknown cause to his optic nerves which is causing him to lose his sight. **Betty Gilmore** (St. Nicholas', Midland) will serve for a third as Agenda Supervisor for the Episcopal General Convention, her 11th time to serve in some capacity at the General Conventions. **Bishop Ohi** and the **Rev. Jo Mann** have been appointed to the ETSS search committee for the seminary's new dean.

Calendar
August

20 Cursillo Secretariat, St. Christopher's, Lubbock, 10 AM
Safeguarding God's Children, Train the Trainers, St. Paul's, Lubbock, 10 AM - 3 PM
23 *BQCC Board, HEC, 10 AM
24 *St. Andrew's School, Amarillo
27 *Executive Council, St. Stephen's, Lubbock, 10 AM
Safeguarding God's Children, Train the Trainers, St. Andrew's, Amarillo, 10 AM - 3 PM
28 *St. Stephen's, Sweetwater, Visitation
30-31 *Clergy Small Group V, HEC

SEPTEMBER

1 2004 Financial Audits Due
5 HEC Closed - Labor Day
7 *Amber Sturgess Ordination to the Priesthood, Oakland, CA
9 Commission on Ministry, HEC, 10 AM
11 *Holy Trinity, Midland, Visitation
16-18 ECW Conference, BQCC
17 *Executive Council, St. Christopher's, Lubbock, 10 AM
19-28 *House of Bishops, San Juan, Puerto Rico
29-30 *Province VII Synod, Dallas

