

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

Number 170

December 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.

Message from Bishop Ohl

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we look through the dark tunnel of Advent, we can begin to see the light of Christ. Advent is always a time of preparation. It is always a time of expectation and anticipation and it is always a time of anticipatory joy. May this Advent Season 2005 remind us that Christ has come and Christ will come again. May Christ be born in our hearts in ways that will lift the spirit of a broken and devastated world around us.

In Christ

C. Wallis Ohl, Jr.

Bishop of Northwest Texas

***Emmanuel, San Angelo, Church Resource Helps
Churches Welcome Families with Children***

Emmanuel's Christian Education Committee has created a "pew card" with tips for worshipping with children. This card was presented during this summer's national Christian Formation Conference at Kanuga as part of a workshop offering ideas for making churches more welcoming to families with children. The card begins, "May we suggest...Just Relax. God put the wiggle in children; please do not feel you have to suppress it here in God's House." The card has a delightful design offering simple, practical tips. It can be viewed in the online edition of Episcopal Teacher, the newsletter for the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.

http://www.vts.edu/ftpimages/95/misc/misc_23610.pdf (page 9).

Contact Amy Kitten, Director of Religious Education at 325-653-2446 or amy@emmanuel-sa

2006 IRS Mileage Rate / Supply Rates

The 2006 IRS and diocesan rate for mileage reimbursement is 44.5 cents per mile and is effective January 1. The supply stipend rate is \$100 for the first service and \$50 for each additional service on the same day plus mileage at 44.5 cents per mile.

***Advent Resources
on the Millennium Development Goals***

(Even though we are well into Advent you might be interested in the following resource. These are the Millennium Development Goals about which Katharine Jefferts Schori talked when she was with us at convention.)

As the weeks of Advent begin drawing us to Christmas, the Church invites us to prepare for Christ's coming by examining the patterns of our lives and relationships with God and one another. As Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold wrote, we are called by Advent to "submit ourselves to undergo repair, re-ordering, and reconciliation in the model offered to us by God in Christ." In order to help the Church pray and reflect upon how this ministry of reconciliation and repair can be lived out in our world, the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations is pleased to offer several Advent resources on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for home and parish use. These include a theological reflection on the MDGs by the Presiding Bishop, a litany for use in the parish, and a short service of Evening Prayer that can be used with an Advent Wreath in the home or parish.

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3654_69672_ENG_HTML.htm

HEC Christmas Holiday

The HEC will close from noon on December 22 until January 3.

BQCC Contact Information

For questions or to contact new Quarterman Conference Center Director **Jamie Goldston**, call 806.383.6878 (office); **806.584.1995** (cell), 806.356.9185 (residence) or bqccctx@aol.com.

Clergy Formation Event Open to All January 13 - Theology

The Rev. Scott Mayer, Rector of Heavenly Rest, Abilene, will lead a class in theology on January 13th from 7 to 9:30 PM at St. Christopher's Church in Lubbock. The class is for those in deacon formation as well as others who are interested in attending. There is no cost for the class but please call 806.765.0037 or email canterbury@nwt.org in order that sufficient materials will be prepared for the class. Future classes are: February 3, Addiction and Co-dependency led by John Southern of St. Andrew's, Amarillo, and May 5, The Anglican Ethos, led by the Rev. Kelly Schneider-Conkling of Emmanuel, San Angelo.

Pathways to Ministry 7th National High School Conference St. Michael and All Angels, Dallas - April 21-23, 2006 www.saintmichael.org/pathways 214.363.5471

2006 United Thank Offering Grant Forms Available

Contact Carolyn Hearn at diocese@nwt.org or 806.763.1370 x 204 for 2006 grant applications. The application must be submitted to the diocesan office by **January 3** to be eligible for consideration.

Ordinations/Transitions

Darla Jimenez was ordained by Bishop Ohl to the transitional diaconate on December 3 in Andrews. Darla is serving the churches of the Sandhills Episcopal Ministry (Andrews, Kermit and Monahans). **Ryan Kuratko**, seminarian from St. Christopher's, Lubbock, was ordained by Bishop Ohl to the transitional diaconate on December 14 at the Virginia Theological Seminary Chapel. **The Rev. Jon Stasney** was deposed on December 6 by Bishop Ohl with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

WWW.NWT.ORG

Don't forget to check the web site for new and updated information.

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.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ERD Gifts for Life Catalog

Browse the catalog online at er-d.org/waystogive or call 800.334.7626x5129. Care for children and families, help in times of greatest need, strengthen communities and build hope. Tax deductible. Give a special gift of life in honor of a friend, associate or loved one. E-cards also available. Or contact Cora McGowan at coram56@aol.com.

Prayers and Thanksgivings:

Please keep in your prayers for healing: The Rev. John Austin (retired, Lubbock) recuperating from surgery 11/15 for a broken wrist. **The Rev. Mary Dean Whitfield**, undergoing treatment for myasthenia gravis at St. Paul Hospital (5909 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas 76390). **Deacon John Marshall** (St. Mary's, Big Spring) in the death of his mother. **The Rev. Jim Smart** (St. Mark's, Abilene) in the death of his mother. **The Rev. Monte Jones. Brother Richard Thomas, SD.**

The Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulsey celebrated the 25th anniversary of his consecration to the episcopate on Tuesday, December 13.

CALENDAR

December

16-17 *St. Nicholas', Midland, Pastoral Visit/Quiet Day
18 *Brownfield, Good Shepherd, Visitation
22-30 HEC Closed - Christmas

January

1-2 HEC Closed - Christmas
7 Permian Basin Deanery, St. John's, Odessa
8 *Levelland, St. Luke's - Visitation
9 *ETSS Dean Search Committee, Austin
12 Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, San Angelo
13 Clergy Formation (Theology), Lubbock
17-18 *Clergy Small Group I, HEC
21 Community Ministry Task Force, HEC, 10-2
22 *Midland, Santa Maria - Visitation
25 *Standing Committee, HEC, 10 AM
27-29 Midwinter, BQCC (senior high)
29 *Clarendon, St. John's - Visitation
31 *Trustees, HEC, 10 AM