

The Newsletter

of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas

Number 184

March 15, 2007

Holy Trinity, Midland Vestry Withholds Apportionment Payments Rector Requests Alternate Episcopal Oversight

In a letter to parishioners, the Vestry of Holy Trinity, Midland, announced that they have “decided to immediately change our diocesan apportionment payment to an annual basis per the canons.” Holy Trinity’s apportionment for 2007 is \$195,983 of which one payment has been received as of March 12 in the amount \$15,131.29. Holy Trinity has paid its apportionment set by the Annual Diocesan Convention on a monthly basis for many years. The canons of the diocese make no demand for monthly payment of apportionment, however, the Executive Council of the diocese strongly recommends monthly payments in order to finance the budget of the diocese. The diocesan canons provide that a parish may be suspended from the right of representation in Convention for failure to pay its apportionment for the preceding fiscal year and may be changed to mission status or dissolved for failure to pay its full apportionment within three months after the end of the fiscal year.

The letter from the Vestry also states that as a result of the outcome of the primates meeting held in Tanzania, the March 4th special parish meeting would be changed to a town hall meeting, and the resolutions presented by the Vestry to change the bylaws to “revoke any trust relationship which may be alleged to exist” and to “reflect a disassociation with Holy Trinity and the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Northwest Texas” were not voted on. Mark Cannady, Rector of Holy Trinity, has requested *The Newsletter* to clarify that five members of the eight-member vestry which asked the parish to vote on the new bylaws were elected at its annual parish meeting, four new members and one to fill a fifth seat of a vestry member who had resigned

The Vestry further stated in its letter that it had decided to honor a request of the primates to take no steps to remove Holy Trinity’s property from the Episcopal Church without its permission. Fr. Cannady has appealed to Bishop Ohl to drop the lawsuit filed against Good Shepherd Anglican Church in San Angelo which has seized the building and assets of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church even though the primates meeting communique states that both parties to property disputes should take no steps to alienate property from the Episcopal Church or deny the use of property to congregations. Fr. Cannady has informed Bishop Ohl that Holy Trinity wants to be a part of the “pastoral scheme” proposed by the primates and has asked to be placed under the pastoral care and direction of another bishop.

Diocese Files Suit Against Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in San Angelo

The Diocese of Northwest Texas has filed suit in Tom Green County to recover the assets of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in San Angelo currently under the *de facto* control of individuals who voted to leave the Episcopal Church and organize as an Anglican Church under the authority of the Diocese of Mityana in Uganda. The canons of the Church state “all real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Parish, Mission or Congregation is held in trust for this Church and the Diocese thereof in which such ... is located.” and “it shall not be lawful for any vestry... to encumber or alienate the same or any part thereof without the written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese...” In a press release issued February 22, Bishop Ohl stated, “The work of 50 years of Episcopalians who gave financially and of their energy and talent to leave a legacy for generations to come for the spread of the Kingdom of God through the Episcopal Church cannot be abandoned,” and “the lawsuit is the only way we will be able to secure the assets for our diocese and Good Shepherd Parish, and this action is consistent with our fiduciary and moral responsibility to our ancestors, to those who have gone before, and to those yet to come.”

Presiding Bishop to Preach at ETSS and Receive Honorary Degree

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori will preach the commencement sermon and receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree during the May 15 graduation at the Seminary of the Southwest. The Presiding Bishop first came to the Austin seminary in 2005 to visit two of her Nevada seminarians. The graduation marks the first time the Presiding Bishop will preach a Commencement sermon and receive an honorary degree from an Episcopal seminary.

“The Journey” to be presented at St. Nicholas’, Midland

In the tradition of the Medieval period when churches taught bible stories through mystery plays, “The Journey,” a one act play interpreting the individual journey of each Eve, Sarah and Miriam, will be presented March 29 at 7 PM at St. Nicholas’ by Gloria Hocking who is well known for extensive career in drama and who will be coming from an appearance in Santa Fe. Contact 432.694.8856 or rector@saintnicholaschurch.org.

**Diocesan ECW Spring Board Meeting - April 21
Hulsehyer Episcopal Center - 10 AM - 2 PM**
Contact Nancy McReynolds at mcrey@arn.net

**All Saints' Episcopal School, Lubbock
Celebrates 50th Anniversary - April 22-22**

All Saints' Episcopal School will celebrate 50 years of ministry to the Lubbock community with a picnic on April 21 from 11 AM to 2 PM on the school campus and a reception at the United Spirit Arena from 7 to 11 PM. On April 22, a Family and Friends Worship Service will be held at All Saints' Jones Gym.

U2 Eucharist on April 15 in Lubbock

The Rev. Rich Nelson of St. Stephen's, Lubbock, with other churches, has organized a U@ Eucharist which will be held at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The Breedlove Dehydrated Food Plant will be the beneficiary of the offering. The unique worship service will feature a live band and the music of U2.

Contact 806.799.3439 or rnelsonsts@sbcglobal.net

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS:

A memorial service for **the Rev. Patrick Kelso**, will be held at 2 PM on Thursday, March 22, at First Presbyterian Church in Canyon. Pat, who was to be ordained to the local priesthood on April 14, died in Waxahachie March 13. Pat, a retired university professor, served in many capacities at St. George's and in the diocese most recently as a Trustee and member of the Board of the Quarterman Conference Center. Memorials may be sent to the West Texas A&M University Foundation or St. George's Church. Margaret's address is 1207 Brookhaven, Canyon 89015. May light perpetual shine upon Patrick.

A belated thank you and congratulations to **the Rev. Jim Considine** whose 50th ordination anniversary was December 12, 2006. Fr. Considine served as rector of St. Nicholas', Midland from 1964 to 1979, and served churches in Waxahachie, Brenham, Sweetwater, Albany and Coleman, before he retired in 1984. His address is 1250E N 10th St Apt 122, Abilene, TX 79601, jconsidine@juno.com.

Congratulations to **Deacon Suzanne Wilkinson** of St. Matthew's, Pampa, who was honored as Citizen of the Year in Pampa on March 8. She was named Artist of the Year in 2004. **The Rev. Mary Glover's** (CHR, Abilene) mother, Bettie died February 28 in Abilene. Bettie served as the organist at CHR for 22 years. **The Rev. Lauren Browder's** (Canterbury, Lubbock) grandmother, Opal, died in Alabama on February 28.

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1802 Broadway
Lubbock, TX 79401-3016**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Errata: Jim Haney's new email address is haney8@suddenlink.net.

Youth Event: April 27-29 - 30 Hour Famine (grades 9-12) at Emmanuel Church, San Angelo, to raise money to fight world hunger. Contact Ryan Kuratko, 806.762.2893, associatestpaul@nts-online.net.

Calendar:

March

15-20 *House of Bishops, Camp Allen
22 Millennium Goals Development, HEC, 12 Noon
22-25 Deacons' Retreat, BQCC
24 *Reconciliation Committee,
St. Paul's, Lubbock, 10:30 AM
25 *Big Spring, St. Mary's, Visitation
27-28 *Clergy Small Group III, HEC
31 *David Williams Ordination, St. Peter's, Borger, 11 AM

April

1 *Albany, Trinity, Visitation
9 HEC Closed
10-11 *Clergy Small Group IV, HEC
12 *Standing Committee, HEC, 10 AM
*Lubbock, St. Christopher's Vestry, 6:30 PM
13-14 Deacon Formation, St. Christopher's, Lubbock
14 *Beverly Couzzourt Ordination, St. George's, Canyon
15 *Lubbock, St. Stephen's, Visitation
U2 Eucharist, First Methodist, Lubbock, 7 PM
16-18 *Family Systems, St. Louis
19 *Fresh Start, HEC, 10 AM - 12 Noon
20-23 *Texas Day, Washington National Cathedral
21 ECW Board, HEC, 10 AM - 12 Noon
Cursillo Secretariat, St. Christopher's, 10 AM
24 *Budget Committee, HEC, 10 AM
27-29 30 Hour Famine, Emmanuel, San Angelo
27-29 *ECW Conference, Oklahoma City
28 Mission Committee, HEC, 10 AM
29 *Canterbury Blessing, Lubbock, 6 PM

May

1 *Trustees, HEC, 10 AM
3-4 *Planning for Tomorrow Conference, Lubbock
Local Priests' Gathering
6 *Amarillo, St. Andrew's, Visitation
8-9 Clergy Small Group V, HEC