

# The Newsletter

*The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas*

Number 200

December 2008

## *The Rev. Scott Mayer Elected Fifth Bishop of Northwest Texas*

The Rev. Scott Mayer, Rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene, was elected fifth bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Texas on the second ballot. The electing convention was held November 22 at St. Paul's-on-the-Plains, Lubbock. The electing process of the convention was held in the context of the Offertory and convention delegates and visitors joined in the Liturgy of the Table which closed the convention. Bishop Ohl in his sermon told the convention delegates they were not gathered to hold an "election," but were there to discern God's will for the next bishop and the future of the Diocese of Northwest Texas. Fr. Mayer responded to his election by thanking the delegates and telling them he was thankful and honored and that he loves the diocese and the people of the diocese. Election results were as follows:

First Ballot	Lay	Clergy
Scott Mayer	65	34
Ronald Pogue	33	08
Chris Roberts	26	04
Steve Zimmerman	17	01

Second Ballot	Lay	Clergy
Scott Mayer	90	38
Ronald Pogue	38	07
Chris Roberts	12	02
Steve Zimmerman	01	00

141 of 170 eligible lay delegates and 47 of 57 eligible clergy delegates registered to vote making 71 the number of votes needed to elect in the lay order and 24 needed to elect in the clergy order.

Fr. Mayer graduated in 1992 from The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and was ordained in the Diocese of Dallas where he served as Curate at St. James' in Texarkana. He has served at Heavenly Rest in Abilene, first as Associate Rector then as Rector, since 1994. He is 53, and he and his wife Kathy have two grown children and one grandson. Fr. Mayer's last Sunday at Heavenly Rest will be January 25, 2009.

The consecration of the Fifth Bishop of Northwest Texas will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2009, at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock.

## *Safeguarding God's Children Online*

Our NEW Safeguarding Online website is operational and may be used for anyone requiring re-certification in *Safeguarding God's Children*. Re-certification must be done every three years to comply with diocesan policy. Interested parties should contact their church office or church Safeguarding coordinator for an information form to be completed and returned to their deanery administrator. Forms may also be obtained on the diocesan website. Deanery administrators will complete the online registration process for each person prior to use of the online course.

Administrators from the four deaneries are:

The Rev. Allan Conkling - Eagle Cove Deanery

Mrs. Debbie Jensen - Permian Basin Deanery

The Venerable Chris Wrampelmeier - Panhandle Deanery

Mrs. Nancy Igo - Llano Estacado Deanery

For more information contact Nancy Igo, Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, at [nigo@nwtodiocese.org](mailto:nigo@nwtodiocese.org) or (806) 763-1370 x5.

## *St. Mary's, Big Spring Calls New Rector*

The Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris has accepted the call of St. Mary's Big Spring to serve as their rector with her inaugural service on Christmas Eve. Rev. Kirk-Norris hails from Bardstown, Kentucky, where she has been rector of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension since August 2004. Rev. Kirk-Norris earned her Master's of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. She has also earned a Master's of Science in Technological and Adult Education from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN., and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. She has served on the Board of the American Red Cross, was a member of Bardstown Rotary Club, and served with the County Chamber of Commerce Women's Council and as an Ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to her ordination Rev. Kirk-Norris worked as a realtor in Knoxville, TN. as well as being involved in numerous outreach positions and chaplaincies. Her husband, Bill, has been employed in the broadcasting industry and will be joining her in their new home. They are both looking forward to the new opportunities in the Big Spring area.

***The Online School for Spirituality and Mission  
Seminary of the Southwest***

If you are interested in a greater understanding of Christian faith and practice, or if you are seeking continuing education to support your vocation, the spring term online courses offered by the Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation at ETSS may be your answer. Learn more about the spiritual insights of Thomas Merton, the primacy of the Great Commandment or the use of the penitential Psalms as prayer. Tuition for each course is \$170 and the spring 2009 term begins on February 16 and concludes April 3. 20 hours of CEUs. Registration deadline is February 9. Detailed course description and registration at [ssw.edu/curriculum/online](http://ssw.edu/curriculum/online) or [msnodgrass@ssw.edu](mailto:msnodgrass@ssw.edu), phone 512.472.4133 ext 344.

***Certificate Programs  
for Youth Ministry and Christian Education***

For lay ministers and part of ETSS's Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation, the program offers a healthy support system as well as course work taught by seminary faculty. The curriculum offers two one-week sessions, one in January (18-24) and one in June. Contact Molly Bennett at [mbennett@ssw.edu](mailto:mbennett@ssw.edu) or 512.472.4133 ext 340.

***Sewanee's Anglican Tour  
May 29-June 9, 2009***

The annual Worship and Travel with Sewanee: A Tour Course in Anglican History and Spirituality is now accepting reservations for the 2009 tour which will be from May 29 to June 9. A registration form and other details can be found by calling 800.438.2403, or at [http://theology.sewanee.edu/anglican\\_tours](http://theology.sewanee.edu/anglican_tours), or [bcrev@cox.net](mailto:bcrev@cox.net).

***nwt.org***

Be sure to check the diocesan web site at [nwt.org](http://nwt.org) for Advent and Christmas messages from around the Anglican Communion as well as the 2009 diocesan calendar and updated convention directory. Bishop Ohl's annual convention sermon and address to convention can also be found there.

The Newsletter deadline January 10, 2009

[diocese@nwt-diocese.org](mailto:diocese@nwt-diocese.org)

Carolyn Hearn, Editor - 806.763.1370 ext 1

***The Newsletter***

**The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas  
1802 Broadway  
Lubbock TX 79401**

***2009 Important Dates:***

- March 21**      **Scott Mayer Consecration**, Lubbock  
**May 1**        **Diocesan Risk Management Conference**  
with Guide One's Risk Management Team,  
St. Paul's, Lubbock
- May 9**        **Diocesan Stewardship Conference**  
with Tom Gossen, Executive Director of the  
Episcopal Network for Stewardship,  
St. Paul's, Lubbock

***Diocesan Calendar:***

- December**
- 20                      Michael Caldwell Ordination to the Transitional  
Diaconate, St. Mark's, Abilene, 11 AM
- 24-1/5                HEC Closed
- 31                      Bishop Ohl retires
- January**
- 7                        *Standing Committee*, HEC, 10 AM
- 9-10                   Deacon Formation, Lubbock
- 19-23                *College for Bishops*, Richmond, VA
- 26                      Fresh Start, HEC
- February**
- 6-7                     *Deacon Formation*, Lubbock
- 10                      *Trustees*, HEC, 10 AM
- 13-14                 *Executive Council Overnight*, BQCC

***Prayers and Thanksgivings:***

**The Rev. James L. Considine**, 89, died on November 7 in Abilene. A celebration honoring the life of a Priest of the Church was held on November 11 at the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene with the Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl as Celebrant and the Rt. Rev. Sam Hulseley as Preacher. Jim served St. Nicholas', Midland; St. Stephen's, Sweetwater; St. Mark's, Coleman; Trinity, Albany and St. Mark's, Abilene in the Diocese of Northwest Texas and as a General Convention Deputy five terms. May light perpetual shine upon him.

**Deacon Ruth Jones** (retired, Lubbock) is at home following two strokes. She continues rehabilitation and is doing better. (3010 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Lubbock 79413, [rwjones10@earthlink.net](mailto:rwjones10@earthlink.net), 806.7931206.