

The Newsletter

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas

Number 202

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Consecration Update

A majority of consents to the election of J. Scott Mayer as the Fifth Bishop of Northwest Texas has been received from the bishops and standing committees of ECUSA. Clergy, clergy spouses and some lay leaders of the diocese have been invited to meet with the Presiding Bishop and her husband, Richard Schori, at lunch on March 20. Clergy and lay leaders will meet after lunch with the PB and clergy spouses will meet with Mr. Schori, as is their custom on visits for consecrations. Bishops and bishops' spouses attending will meet with the PB and Mr. Schori at 4 PM on March 20. A dinner for lay leaders, visiting bishops and spouses, clergy and spouses, and out-of-town guests of the Mayer family will take place Friday evening. The consecration will begin at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock followed by a reception. Please keep the consecration planning committee and the Mayers in your prayers as we approach the consecration date.

If you are planning to attend the consecration, please contact your church office or Carolyn Hearn at diocese@nwtodiocese.org or 806.763.1370 ext 1. This information will be most helpful to the Planning Committee.

Bishop's Vestments Fund

The Standing Committee of the Diocese invites you and your family to be a part of the consecration of J. Scott Mayer on March 21 at 11 A.M. at First United Methodist Church, 1411 Broadway, Lubbock. As an integral part of the consecration, the Diocese has both the opportunity and responsibility to provide our Fifth Bishop with proper vestments and other symbols signifying his office. Please join this diocesan-wide endeavor by sending your contribution to Bishop's Vestment Fund, 1802 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79401. Leon Swift, Standing Committee President

Diocese of Fort Worth Organizing Convention

The Diocese of Fort Worth held its organizing convention the first weekend in February. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori appointed the Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick, Bishop of Kentucky, as Provisional Bishop. To see photos, the Presiding Bishop's sermons, upcoming Lenten speakers, calendars, and more go to episcopaldiocesefortworth.org.

Canterbury at Texas Tech and St. Paul's, Lubbock Call New Clergy

The Rev. Phil Wester will become Canterbury Chaplain at Texas Tech and Vicar of St. Luke's, Levelland, beginning March 15. The Rev. Kiah Webster will become Associate Rector for Youth and Young Adults at St. Paul's-on-the-Plains, Lubbock, beginning March 22. Phil and Kiah have three children: Liam, three; Phillip, 18 months; and Caris, 2 months.

Kiah grew up in St. George's, Dayton, Ohio, before attending Vanderbilt University where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in English. She attended St. David's in Nashville and, sparked by her passion for Hispanic Ministry and the love of the Spanish language, she discerned a call to ordained ministry. Kiah attended the Seminary of the Southwest where she received her MDiv. Since graduation she has served as priest-in-charge of St. Paul's, Chillicothe, and Assistant at St. George's, Dayton, Ohio.

Before moving to Austin, Kiah met Phil Webster of Chillicothe, Ohio. Phil holds a BA in Philosophy and MA in Theology from The Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio and a Licentiate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Phil served at both parish and diocesan levels as youth minister, chaplain, seminary professor and canon lawyer before he, too, discerned a call to ordained ministry and graduated from Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary and was ordained priest by the Diocese of Southern Ohio. He has served in both large and small, rural and suburban congregations and most recently as Assistant at St. Francis' in Springboro, Ohio.

St. Peter's, Amarillo Calls the Rev. Robert Taliaferro

The Rev. Robert D. Taliaferro has been called to serve as Rector of St. Peter's, Amarillo. Fr. Taliaferro's first Sunday will be March 1. He and his wife Maggie have three children: Robert, about to graduate from OU; Mike, graduating from OSU next year; and Anne, graduating from high school this spring. Robert holds a BA in Liberal Arts and an Associate Degree in Management Technology. He is a 1999 graduate of the Seminary of the Southwest. He has served in Norman and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Maggie plays violin, viola and guitar and Robert enjoys golf, tennis travel, camping and the arts, and has been involved in Cursillo and Kairos ministries.

Upcoming Ordinations

Two ordinations to the priesthood will be Scott Mayer's first official acts at Bishop of Northwest Texas: Jean Pearson Scott will be ordained at St. Stephen's, Lubbock on March 27, and Patricia Griffith Russell will be ordained at 11 AM on March 28 at St. Paul's, Lubbock. Jean and Pat studied for ordination in the "reading for orders" track and will serve churches throughout the diocese.

Spring Fling and Happening

The Spring-Fling weekend for middle school students will take place on March 6-8. Happening, for high school students, is scheduled for May 15-17. Both will take place at the Quarterman Conference Center. Contact Jamie Goldston at 806.584.1995, bqctx@aol.com.

Seminary of the Southwest Visitors' Weekend, March 6-7

Explore educational opportunities within the Church and Society. Register at ssw.edu/admissions or call 512.472.4133.

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. Safeguarding God's People will be implemented sometime in 2009. Safeguarding God's Children Classroom Training will be available March 14, 2-5 PM at St. Paul's, Lubbock. For more information contact Nancy Igo, Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, at nigo@nwtodiocese.org or (806) 763-1370 x5.

Province VII Women Lenten Gathering

The second Lenten Gathering Retreat for Province VII Women will take place in Dallas, March 27-29. Brother Michael Gallagher will lead the retreat on Benedictine spirituality. Embassy Suites at Love Field, \$125 plus hotel. Province7.org or Janet Farmer at janet.farmer@gmail.com

Diocesan Calendar

February

21 *Vestry Retreat, St. Nicholas', Midland
23 Fresh Start, HEC, 10 AM
25 *St. Peter's, Amarillo, 7 PM, Ash Wednesday

March

1 *St. Stephen's, Lubbock
4 *Standing Committee, HEC, 10AM
6-8 Spring Fling, Middle School, BQCC
6-8 *Deacon Formation, Lubbock
7 *Executive Council, St. Stephen's, Lubbock
11-18 *House of Bishops, Kanuga, NC
14 Safeguarding God's Children,
St. Paul's, Lubbock, 2 - 5 PM
21 ***Consecration of Scott Mayer, First United
Methodist Church, Lubbock, 11 AM**
22 Presiding Bishop, St. Christopher's, Lubbock
23 HEC Closed
25 *Standing Committee
27 *Ordination to the Priesthood of Jean Scott,
St. Stephen's, Lubbock, 7 PM
28 *Ordination to the Priesthood of Pat Russell,
St. Paul's, Lubbock, 11 AM

April

3-4 Deacon Formation, Lubbock
4 ECW Board, Midland
11 *St. Stephen's, Lubbock, Easter Vigil
12 *St. Stephen's, Lubbock, Easter Day

May

1 Risk Management Seminar,
St. Paul's, Lubbock, 10 AM
1-2 Deacon Formation, Lubbock
3 *St. Andrew's, Amarillo, visitation
5 *Trustee, HEC, 10 AM
8 *Stewardship Conference,
St. Paul's, Lubbock
9 *General Convention Deputy Orientation, Dallas
16 *Executive Council, Lubbock
17-22 *Living Our Vows, College of Bishops, NC