

The Newsletter

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas

Number 203

April 2009

Consecration a Joyous Celebration

On Saturday, March 21, in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Lubbock, eight hundred people looked on as Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and seventeen other bishops laid hands on J. Scott Mayer making him the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Texas and 1035th in American Apostolic Succession. A *Taizé Veni Sancte Spiritus* and the words of the Presiding Bishop, "Therefore, Father, make Scott a bishop in your Church. Pour out upon him the power of your princely Spirit, who you bestowed upon your beloved Son Jesus Christ, with whom he endowed the apostles..." sent a palpable feeling of the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the sanctuary.

Music was an outstanding feature of the consecration and included organists, tympani and brass, the McMurry University Chanters, and a chancel choir of voices from across the diocese led by Conrad Bratton of Heavenly Rest. The Rev. Charlie Cook, retired Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Seminary of the Southwest, preached and described Bishop Mayer as possessing "an intuitive and compassionate heart." Bishop Mayer was presented with the symbols of the office of bishop including a Bible, a pectoral cross designed by Nolan Kelley of Heavenly Rest Church in Abilene, the seal of the diocese, a ring, cope, mitre and crozier. Bishop Mayer's first official words were, "Thank you for your trust." A reception followed in the Great Hall of the church.

On Friday at noon the Presiding Bishop and her husband, Dr. Richard Schori, lunched and met with clergy, clergy spouses and lay leaders of the diocese. A dinner for visiting bishops, lay leaders, clergy and spouses, and friends of the Mayer family took place Friday evening at the American Wind Energy Center.

If you would like a program from the consecration, please contact Carolyn Hearn at the diocesan center. Photographs and a copy of Fr. Cook's sermon may be found at nwt.org. A slide production of the consecration will soon be available at nwt.org.

The Bishop's Blog

Bishop Mayer's blog, a new way of sharing and communicating with the diocese, may be found on the web site at nwt.org. The first installment is entitled, "So, Here We Go."

The Rev. Dr. William B. Wright Heavenly Rest, Abilene 's Interim Rector

The Rev. Bill Wright began serving as Interim Rector at Heavenly Rest on March 15. A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, he is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College (AB), Sewanee (MDiv), and Virginia Seminary (DMin). He has served five dioceses in his forty years of ministry including Northwest Texas. He and his wife Pat have been married since 1964 and have two children and seven grandchildren and make their home in San Angelo.

Ordinations

The ordination to the priesthood of Jean Pearson Scott at St. Stephen's, Lubbock, on March 27 was Bishop Scott Mayer's first official act following his consecration on March 21. On March 28, Patricia Griffith Russell was ordained to the priesthood at St. Paul's, Lubbock. Both Jean and Pat are reading for orders priests and will serve at-large in the diocese. Congratulations to both.

Save the Date

May

- 1** **Risk Management Seminar**, St. Paul's, Lubbock
10 AM - 2:30 PM nigo@nwtocese.org
- 9** **Diocesan Stewardship Conference**, St. Paul's,
Lubbock. frjimstpauls@att.net
- 15-17** **Bishop's Happening** for all high school students (9-
12). BQCC. kimberly.rogers@ttu.edu or 210.262.1213.

June

- 1-5** **SSW Continuing Education - Passing on the Faith:
Practices of Spiritual Formation with Youth**. For clergy
educators, and lay leaders. ssw.edu/continuinged09
- 24** **Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat** - Catholic
Conference Center in Dallas.
dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com or call 214.339.8483.

September

- 11-13** **ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION, AMARILLO**
(Moved from October 23-25)
- 18-20** **ECW Retreat** for all women of the diocese, BQCC
Leader: Debbie Williams, Hill Country Ministries
anne.hover@gmail.com

October

- 17-18** **Phyllis Tickle Lecture**, Book Signing and Preaching,
St. Nicholas', Midland stnicks@stnicksmt.org

National Workshop on Christian Unity

The Rev. Edson Way, Rector of St. Christopher's, Lubbock, will address the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers at its 35th annual meeting April 27-30 in Phoenix. He will speak on Native American Religion and the Episcopal Church. The workshop takes place in the context of the National Workshop on Christian Unity. **The Rev. Canon David Veal** serves as President of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO).

Cursillo - The Fourth Day First

Cursillo is not just a three-day weekend. Cursillo is about your Fourth Day, the day that represents the rest of your life. We cannot proclaim what we do not live. Meeting in small groups called Reunion Groups and in gatherings of the Reunion Groups called Ultreyas are intended primarily as opportunities to get together and share experiences "out there" in the real world. These group meetings are the foundation of the Cursillo movement. They help us to remember and put into action the Cursillo slogan: "Be a friend, make a friend, bring a friend to Christ." If you are interested in Cursillo and would like to know more, contact anyone who has been or Sister Edie DeTomasso, 806.341.6491. Whether you have been to Cursillo or not, join a Group Reunion. If you are in a group, help organize an Ultreya. Either way, your faith in Christ will be strengthened. ULTREYA. *Jeff Kerr, Lay Director of Cursillo*

Live Webcast to address General Convention 2009

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be the topic of a live webcast on Wednesday, May 18 at 10 AM Central. To access the webcast, go to the Episcopal Church website:

www.episcopalchurch.org. Participants will be the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson, Executive Officer and Secretary of the General Convention the Rev. Gregory Straub, and Bishop J. Jon Bruno of the Diocese of Los Angeles, the host diocese. Questions will be accepted via email and from invited guests in the audience.

Diocesan Calendar

April

- 15 +Standing Committee, HEC, Lubbock, 10 AM
- 20 Fresh Start, St. John's, Odessa
- 22 +Permian Basin Clericus, Big Spring, 1 PM
- 23 +Eagle Cove Clericus, Sweetwater, 11:30 AM
- 25-26 +St. John's, Odessa, Visitation

May

- 1 Risk Management Seminar,
St. Paul's, Lubbock, 10 AM
- 1-2 Deacon Formation, Lubbock
- 2 +General Convention Deputies Orientation, Dallas
- 5 +Trustees, HEC, 10 AM
- 7 +Llano Estacado Clericus, Lubbock, 12 Noon
- 9 +Stewardship Conference, St. Paul's, Lubbock
+ Convention Planning Committee,
St. Andrew's, Amarillo, 2 PM
- 9-10 +St. Andrew's, Amarillo, Visitation
- 11 Fresh Start, HEC, 10 AM
- 11-12 +SSW Commencement, Austin
- 16 +Executive Council, Canterbury Lubbock, 10 AM
- 17-22 +Living Our Vows, College of Bishops, NC
- 27 +Standing Committee, HEC, Lubbock, 10 AM
- 28 +Panhandle Clericus, St. Andrew's, Amarillo, 12 Noon
+St. Andrew's School Commencement 7:30 PM
- 30-31 +Heavenly Rest, Abilene, Visitation

June

- 7 +Celebration of New Ministry, St. Mary's, Big Spring
- 14 +Celebration of New Ministry, St. Peter's, Amarillo
- 20-21 +St. Nicholas', Midland, Visitation
- 25 +Commission on Ministry, HEC, Lubbock

July

- 3-4 +St. Michael and All Angel's, Shamrock
100th Anniversary Celebration
- 7-18 +General Convention, Anaheim, CA

+ means Bishop Mayer in attendance