

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

Number 151

May 15, 2004

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.

Preaching Excellence Conference

Seminarians Celia Ellery (Good Shepherd, San Angelo), attending the Seminary of the Southwest, and Amber Sturgess (St. Stephen's, Lubbock), attending the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, have been nominated to participate in the Preaching Excellence Conference to be held June 5-11 at Villanova University. Rich Nelson, a seminarian at Seminary of the Southwest from Wyoming and soon to be a member of the Northwest Texas family, will also be attending the conference which is organized by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation in cooperation with the seminaries. The conference is designed to provide further instruction and training in the ministry of preaching and is designed for the most promising future preachers. Participation in the event is awarded to the seminarians by their seminary deans and homiletics professors.

Ordinations

Richard (Rich) Nelson will join the staff of St. Stephen's, Lubbock on June 1, and will be ordained to the transitional diaconate June 5 at 10:00 AM by Bishop Ohl for the Bishop of Wyoming. Rich will also serve as Chaplain at All Saints' School, Lubbock. Rich, a new graduate of the Seminary of the Southwest, is married to Karen, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and they are the parents of a son, R.C., who is four.

James Hudson Smart, Jr. was ordained by Bishop Ohl to the transitional diaconate on May 8 at St. Mark's, Abilene. Jim is a native of Abilene and will serve as a Local Priest for St. Mark's when he is ordained to the priesthood. Jim is an attorney and is married to Pat. He has a B.S. from McMurry in Abilene and a J.D. from Texas Tech. St. Mark's has been a part of the Community Ministry program for several years and Jim was called to discernment and the priesthood from that process.

St. Paul's, Lubbock, Calls New Rector

The Rev. Dr. Steven Alan Sellers will be the Rector of St. Paul's-on-the-Plains in Lubbock beginning July 25. He has served as Rector of Trinity Church, Marshall, TX since 1999 and in other ministries in the Diocese of Texas since his ordination in 1987. He received his Master of Divinity from ETSS and a Doctor of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Seminary. Welcome to Steve and his wife Dixie.

Texas Conference of Churches "From Violence to Wholeness"

The TCC is offering several experiences with an interactive curriculum called "From Violence to Wholeness" exploring how spirituality and the practice of active nonviolence can enrich our lives and the lives of our churches, communities and nations. Session 1 is June 18-20 at the Jarrell Retreat Center, 40 miles north of Austin. Lodging, meals and materials are included in the \$75 fee. Session 2 is August 24-25 at Cedar Break Center in Belton and the fee is \$95. Contact 512.451.0991 or carynw@txconfchurches.org or the TCC website at www.txconfchurches.org. TCC will also offer a Level 2 facilitator training course in Houston, November 4-7, for those who wish to increase facilitation skills.

Clergy Renewal Program

The Lilly Endowment seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing periods of renewal and reflection for clergy. The National Clergy Renewal Program provides up to \$45,000 to congregations whose pastors wish to take time for reflection and renewal. Deadline to apply is June 25. www.grantstation.com/insider.asp for information.

Happy Camp News

A big thank you to all who have sent donations and names for Happy Camp. Nominations for over thirty children have been received for Happy Camp 2004 and there is a waiting list at this point. Happy Camp is an outreach ministry of the Diocese of Northwest Texas for non-Episcopalian children who otherwise would be unable to have a camp experience. Please send your Happy Camp donations to 1802 Broadway, Lubbock TX 79401. For information contact the Ven. Dana Wilson, 432.699.4322 or dana@marshall.com.

2004 Nominations Deadline August 2

Nominations for Standing Committee, Trustee, Ecclesiastical Trial Court, and Deputies and Alternates to General Convention 2006 and Provincial Synod are due in the diocesan office August 2. For forms and information please contact your church office or Carolyn at diocese@nwt.org.

Begin a Journey Called Faith!

Disciples of Christ in Community Summer Conference, June 19-22, Sewanee, TN. 800.722.1974 or theology@sewanee.edu.

Prayers and Thanksgivings:

The Rev. Joan Rudolph, has returned to her home in Coleman from MD Anderson. Please continue to keep Joan and Baker and their family and those who minister to her in your prayers. Please continue to keep **Deacon Phil Corbett**, Brownfield, in your prayers as he continues chemotherapy, and **Edna Chambers**, diocesan Business Manager as she continues treatment for Chrones's disease.

Congratulations to Celia Ellery, ETSS seminarian, has received a grant from the Society for the Increase of the Ministry for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Welcome to Don Ferguson, new Headmaster at St. Andrew's School in Amarillo and to his wife the Rev. Dru Ferguson. They will arrive in Amarillo in June. Don has been serving as the Headmaster of Canterbury School in DeSoto.

Farewell and Godspeed to John Sessing, long-time Choirmaster at St. John's, Odessa, who is moving to Fort Worth, and to **Peggy Nunn**, Parish Secretary for ten years at St. Barnabas', Odessa. Thanks to both for sharing their many gifts with us.

Updates:

St. Cyprian's Church, c/o Christian Heritage Church, 900 S Nelson, Amarillo 79104, meets on Sunday evenings at 6 PM.

The Rev. and Mrs. John Githiga have moved to their new home at 70 Hunsley Road, Canyon 79015, 806.655.5759.

Deacon Greg and Mary-Margaret Sinclair have a new address: PO Box 3434, Abilene 79604 (home 402 CR 245 Ovalo TX 79541), 325.554.9005, gsincedeac@Juno.

The Adventure Available Memorial Day Weekend

The Pentecost issue of The Adventure will be available on the diocesan website, www.nwt.org, by Memorial Day Weekend. Features include Planned Giving, Sheila Ohl's trip to the Dominican Republic, Happening, the September ECW Conference and Retreat led by Sylvia Maddox, and the new Christian Formation Resource Center. Please send articles and ideas for future issues to co-editor Claire Cowden at ministry@nwt.org.

ETSS "Doing Theology as if People Mattered" and "Preaching Hope in a Time of Conflict"

June 7-11, 2004

Bob Kinney at bkkinney@etss.edu or 512.472.4133 x 343

New Intensive Hispanic Ministries Course for Lay and Ordained

ETSS, Austin, June 21-25

Jaime Case, 512.477.2644 or Jaime_case@sbcglobal.net.

Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat

June 23-27 - Contact lynn.witherspoon@gpisd.org

CALENDAR

MAY

- 22 *Executive Council, St. Paul's, Lubbock, 10 AM
BACAM, St. Christopher's, Lubbock
- 23 *Brownfield, Good Shepherd - VISITATION
- 25 *Trustees, HEC, 10 am
- 31 Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED

JUNE

- 4&5 *BQCC Board Retreat, BQCC
- 5 *Rich Nelson Ordination, St. Stephen's, Lubbock,
10 AM
- 6 *Dalhart St. James' - VISITATION
- 7-11 Happy Camp, BQCC
- 13 *Quanah, Trinity - VISITATION
- 13-19 Senior High Camp (completed grades 8-12)
- 20-26 Primary Camp (completed grades 2-4)
- 27-7/3 Junior High Camp (completed grades 5-7)

JULY

- 1 120 Days to Convention
- 4 *St. Paul's (Bishop Ohl supply)
- 29-8/1 Cursillo #64 - Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton

AUGUST

- 1 Loaves and Fishes Grant Deadline
- 4 *Standing Committee, HEC 10 AM
- 7 Cursillo Secretariat, St. Christopher's, 10 AM
Permian Basin Deanery, St. Barnabas', Odessa
- 14 *St. Stephen's, Lubbock, Men's Group, 7:30 AM
- 22 *St. Peter's, Borger - VISITATION
- 24 *Trustees, HEC, 10 AM
- 28 Fresh Start, HEC
- 30 60 Days to Convention

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 - June 10.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED