



Newsletter

Diocese of the West

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Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ

In an effort to keep us all in touch and informed as to what is going on in our different parishes, we are in the process of developing a newsletter for the Diocese of the West. We are asking for assistance from each parish to enable us to succeed in doing so.

It would be nice to have updates on events and prayer requests for each parish. The more aware we are of each other's needs, the more we can pray. We all know the Power of Prayer.

It would probably work best if we had one person from each parish supplying the information to us. If you could, please select a person and forward their name and email address to us. This will also be the person receiving the newsletter by email. That person will be responsible for distribution among your parish. You can also let us know if anyone else in the parish wants to receive an email copy. Just send their email address as well. Please have the person you have chosen email your parish news, photos and prayer requests to me at smprp@sbcglobal.net.

The Bishop's Corner Letter From The Bishop

Holy Cross Day 2014

For the first time, the letter from the Bishop is coming to you in the context of a diocesan newsletter. A very big thanks to Susan Peterson, who is willing to serve as editor. It is a job requiring significant effort and skill. You can help by making sure that Susan has the news from your parish, has photos of your events and articles of your observations and thoughts. You can also send her, or Cherie Salmon, the diocesan assistant, as many email addresses as possible so the newsletter can gain wide coverage.

Those who have participated in diocesan synods or clericus know that our Diocese is special, with its own distinct character (and characters) and that it has a richness as a result. It should be something all the people of the Diocese (the "laos tou theou," the people of God) can share in and benefit from. This newsletter, assuming that it has wide circulation among us, can be a crucial means for incorporating all of us in that richness, help us to know each other across the rather wide distances of the Diocese and build that strength into each congregation as well. If, as said from very early

Bishop's Corner (continued)

days, the "Church is gathered where the bishop is," it means that we need to know each other and feel a part of the Diocese, which is none other than the organization where the Church community gathers around the bishop.

Vacancies

There are currently three vacancies for rectors:

1. St. Augustine, Deming, NM:

Someone out there has the heart for mission to rebuild a congregation that is eager to begin a partnership with a new priest. Deming is a poverty place, economically and spiritually, and it needs a priest (or deacon) to reach beyond just being a chaplain to Anglicans, to those burned out on church, alienated by legalism and neglected by the usual churches. There are few cradle Anglicans or Episcopalians, but the good news of God's grace is badly needed.

2. Christ the King, Arroyo Grande, CA:

Lots of kids are in the congregation, participating in the life of the parish. A rector who is a good teacher is important here to help Christian formation for the kids and also for the adults, most of whom are new Anglicans. There is a lot of vibrant life in this bunch.

3. St. Lukes, Los Altos Hills, CA:

One of the oldest Anglican churches in the U.S., St. Lukes has a rich worship life and a solid community of people. It needs someone to continue the good pastoral care the parish has had over many years, and to help the people to reach out creatively to those around them in this affluent suburban area.

Talk to me if you think of anyone interested in one of these vacancies.

Diocesan Changes

Deacon Herman Roark, our Diocesan Secretary, has suggested the need for a Department of Finance to look after the range of financial activities among us.

Bishop's Corner (continued)

As often happens, he has been appointed chair and the committee is now formed. We will expect to hear much from them.

We also now have four deaneries in the Diocese. The deans are:

Pacific Northwest: Harley Crain

California/ Nevada: Michael Penfield

New Mexico/ Arizona: Koos van Leeuwen

West Texas: Donald Hughes.

Especially in a diocese such as ours where distances are great, the deanery can be a good way to get together and I urge you to use this structure.

Diocesan Synod

Mark your calendars now for Synod 2015. We will be meeting in Reno, Nevada, with Christ Church of the Sierra as our host, on June 30-July 1-2.

Archbishop Foley Beach

We are founding members of the Anglican Church in North America. As such, we are observing the formal installation of the second ACNA archbishop next month. Archbishop Beach is already on the job. I would commend to you his letter on the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, and especially the need to give assistance to these brethren, as he outlines.

Holy Cross Day

September 14 is not celebrated much among us as Holy Cross Day. But at a time when congregations are beginning a new Fall start, it is a valuable focus for getting our priorities right in the year to come.

May the blessings of the sacrificial love which led our Lord to the Way of the Cross be yours.

Your Bishop,
+Win

Parish News

To get us started, we have included an update on what is going on in our mission in Mesquite, Nevada.

Every Sunday morning, Bob Peterson, along with Lay Reader, Bobby Cox, conducts a multi-denominational service using the Book of Common Prayer. Marleah Cox, Annette Sheldon, Joe and Patsy Stagner and Brenda Story are faithful workers in the service as well. Our parishioners are mainly wheel chair bound and come from a wide variety of denominations. They are a wonderful group of people, all having a wonderful story to tell. We consider them our family and love them all dearly.

On Wednesday afternoons we have a wonderful group of volunteers from different churches, who along with me and our Sunday morning group, conduct a sing-a-long. Both hymns and familiar secular songs are sung. We use a wonderful enlarged print song book and matching CD we acquired through the Sonshine Society located in the state of Washington. It is amazing how those with memory problems can remember the songs they grew up with. It is pure joy to hear them belt out the songs.

Bob also performs a service of Holy Communion the last Friday of each month, usually to 12-15 participants.

Prayer Requests

Included in this first letter are requests that are known to me at this time. Hopefully, I will soon be adding the needs from your parish as well.

- Pray for Marjorie, Helen, Stanley and Evelyn, residents of Highland Manor. They are in need of God's healing and comfort.
- Pray for continued healing and good health for Micki, Bishop Mott's wife.

News from other Diocese

Ethelyn Watson, a retired missionary, and active member of St. Timothy's in Mt. Holly, NJ, celebrated her 100th birthday on September 10th. It would be nice for us all to send her a note to congratulate her and thank her for her many years of service to the Church. You can send correspondence to: Ethelyn Watson, c/oWiley Mission, 99 E. Main St., Marlton, NJ 08053

Lastly, we can all use a little humor. If you have any cartoons or funny stories you would like to share, please email them to me.



“Can't you find a different shirt to wear to church?”

I want to thank you all in advance for your support and look forward to working with you.

God Bless.

Susan