

The Oregon Trail *Evangelist*

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The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

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Task force charge: look at EDEO's future

It's called the Task Force on Diocesan Futures, and its charge from the bishop and diocesan council is critical: explore ways for the cash-strapped Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon to move forward.

The first paragraph of the charge, approved at the June diocesan council meeting, says "Diocesan Council and Bishop recognize that the financial condition of the Diocese may not sustain current diocesan ministry models and because we are committed to the mission and ministry of the people of eastern Oregon, we therefore appoint a task force to explore alternative models for mission and ministry."

Earlier this spring, the plan was to direct a group to examine the diocese's financial dilemma: a forecast \$100,000 shortfall for the 2011 budget, which amounts to about 20 percent of the \$567,548 budget for 2010.

But the Rev. Chuck Christopher, Bend, who will chair the task force, said that during the group's lengthy meeting last month, "it was really clear to us that although the conversation focused on taking a look at the financial situation, the picture is far bigger than that."

Finances, he said, "are a critical piece, but they're not the critical focus. The central issue is, how are we going to continue to be supportive of one another as a people in eastern Oregon seeking to do mission and ministry?"

In addition to looking at alternate models for the diocese, the task force will propose ways to increase sources and funds for operation--as well as ways to reduce expenses.

Besides Christopher, the task force currently includes the Rev. Ted Rodrigues, Sisters; Diocesan Council member Bob Thomson, Hood River; Doug Harder, Pendleton and diocesan treasurer Jerry Frazier, The Dalles.

Other members are likely to be recruited.

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Dressed in red for Pentecost, parishioners at Trinity, Bend flank the steps to St. Helen's Hall on May 23, after processing around the building. "Now O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, sanctify this place," Bishop Nedi Rivera said, formally blessing and dedicating the former Lutheran church, now Trinity property, as an Episcopal worship space. Following tradition, the bishop rapped on the church doors to gain entrance, then used her pastoral staff to mark the threshold with the sign of the cross, saying "Peace be to this house and to all who enter here." Rivera also dedicated the pulpit, lectern and baptismal font, pouring into the font water from Whychus Creek and the Crooked, Deschutes and Metolius rivers.

James Mosier ordained to the priesthood

The crowd attending James Mosier's May 22 ordination to the priesthood quickly filled the nave at St. Matthew's, Ontario and spilled into the parish hall, where they watched the service on television monitors. More than 300 people, from all over the diocese and from Idaho, were present.

"I'm still quite taken aback, it was overflowing," said Mosier, a long-time vocational deacon who became archdeacon of the diocese eight years ago. He spent most of last year in the Diocese of Idaho, preparing to be ordained.

Mosier now is priest at St. Matthew's.

Mosier grew up in The Dalles; he and his wife Vicki moved to Ontario in 1976. Their daughter Christine Crysler and her family live in Ontario; daughter Kimberly Tracy lives in Baker City with her family.

Moving into his new job, "there were people kind of waiting in the wings to come talk to the priest," he said. "Others, it's like well, okay, now you are who we've always thought you were."

Mosier's wife, daughters, grandchildren and siblings all took part in the ordination, as well as his sister and brother, both vocational deacons.



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(R) at his ordination, Jim Mosier kneels before Bp Nedi Rivera

A diocese engaged in common prayer?

Jesus sent them out two by two, carrying no extra provisions to be completely dependent on their hosts. He sent them to proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom of God.

Members of Diocesan Council (and friends) went out two by two, carrying questions, newsprint and markers. They went out, not to proclaim, but to listen, to ask questions, and to learn. They went out to learn how congregations of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon proclaim the Kingdom of God: What does mission and ministry look like in Eastern Oregon? What is it that makes our congregations vital and alive? What can we do to support one another in ministry?

We learned about food ministries: community gardens, hot meals, food pantries, Meals on Wheels and community meals. There are sewing and knitting ministries: quilts, prayer shawls and lovely dolls are made and distributed locally and around the world.

There are prayer groups, outreach to individuals, hospitality and support for 12 Step groups. There are healing ministries: people who sit with the dying, or those who are alone; people who pray and lay hands and anoint the sick. There are stories of those who have found new life – either by giving or receiving the Good News of God in Christ. There's a horse pasture where three colts were born this spring.

And yet, there are folks who feel like Elijah. People who have a zeal for God but think that because they are an hour away from the closest Episcopal Church, they are all alone; people who feel no connection to the rest of the diocese. As Council reflected on this, we asked ourselves, "What can we do as a whole to change that? What can we do to support and uphold one another in ministry? What is St Paul's, Nyssa to St Paul's, Klamath Falls and who are they to St Patrick's, Enterprise or to Trinity, Bend? What does it mean that we are in this together?"

What is it that we have that we can share with one another?

Prayer – the deep communication of our hearts and souls with God and one another. Prayer – the focusing of our time, energy, love on God and on God's Creation. Most especially, Common Prayer which since Pentecost is one of the important ways we have stayed connected to each other from Paul's prayers for the churches he founded, prayers and support for the church in Jerusalem to our worship today. Bear in mind that the Book of Common Prayer was written as a way for people to pray together even though were apart from one another or differed in their understanding of God's call to us.

There's a congregational prayer group that prays together daily – in time but not in the same space. What if we were to do that as a diocese? Say, every day at 5:55? We can do this right here, right now.

What if we were, as we pray our diocesan prayer list, praying the specific prayer requests of those congregations? We're working on this.

What if there were a small book of prayers for one another circulating through the diocese in accordance with the Cycle of Prayer? We've started this.

What difference would it make if knew ourselves to be a diocese engaged in Common Prayer?

*Benediccion,
Nedi*



Bishop Nedi Rivera

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The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, founded as the Missionary District of Oregon in 1907, became a diocese in 1970. It includes all of Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains as well as Klickitat County, Washington—some 69,000 square miles. There are 22 parishes and more than 2,600 Episcopalians in the diocese.

The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera,
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The Episcopal Church, organized in 1789, is a community of 2.5 million members in 114 dioceses in North American and abroad.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop

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The Anglican Communion is a global community of 70 million Anglicans in 37 member provinces around the world.

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

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Notes after seminary...a new job, new challenges

By the Rev. Dcn. Michelle Meech

When the editor asked me to write for the newspaper about my experience in seminary, I wondered what I could possibly say that could speak to such an incredible journey.

Now that I've finished the last paper and turned in the final projects, the one thing I can definitely say right now is that I'm very glad to no longer have a few hundred pages of theology to read a week but I'm also going to miss a lot... mostly the people.

The camaraderie developed amongst a group of people who move through a lengthy process together is unparalleled. I'm sure there are experiences in your life in which you recognized that the one reason you got through the whole thing was because you had friends who were walking along with you. I believe that it is in the community of friends where you find the most evidence for the existence of God.

This experience of community is perhaps the biggest argument voiced against changing the way theological education is done. Because the church is changing, there is much discussion these days over how to deliver education. The change has less to do with a lack of people or a lack of money, and more to do with how the Episcopal Church can and should participate in the in-breaking of the reign of God.

When we work together in the world, even though it can be incredi-



bly difficult at times, we form a deep bond with one another. The love of God is what binds us because that is what drives our hearts to respond as a missional people and indeed as a missional church.

As such, theological education can and should change to support this new direction in the church. Rather than change the content however, the goal should be to change the structure and the delivery method. A three-year graduate school degree is the necessary form of education for many people, but there are other forms that are appropriate for certain circumstances and particular people.

The recently developed Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation for the Episcopal Church at www.formation-charter.com is a challenge to commit ourselves to ongoing Christian formation, to find our mission through connecting our hearts and our actions to our Baptismal Covenant.

The challenge becomes one of developing ways of creating and encouraging community amongst learners who might not be together in one physical space.

Some new forms of communications technology admittedly are more conducive to building community than others. But we can look at how they might work together to help develop community, so that we can more easily hear the voices of priesthood of all the baptized.

This is why I'm very excited about my new job, as director of the Center for Anglican Learning & Leadership (known as CALL).

I am working from an office at

CDSP, locating and contracting people to teach in a variety of formats: online, retreats, conferences, distributed learning formats, etc.--as well as reaching out to the larger Church to find out how CALL can be more helpful in delivering theological education in the Episcopal Church.

I'll be visiting parishes all over the church (mostly in Province VIII at first) to learn more about how CALL can support people in their quest for theological education. I am very interested in hearing from you.

I will still be canonically resident in Eastern Oregon but I will be "on loan" to the Diocese of California. Bishop Nedi has asked that I find a parish home in which I can be a worker priest – a place to preach, preside and teach but not be paid by the parish.

The bishop and I haven't started discussing plans for my ordination to the priesthood yet so I don't know when or where it will be.

I thank those of you who were able to make it to Bend to attend my ordination to the transitional diaconate on April 13. I am deeply grateful for your presence there, and to all of you for your prayers of support these years that I have been in seminary. They have been both the hardest and most joyous time of my life and I feel incredibly blessed to be serving both the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the Diocese of California as well as the Episcopal Church.

And so, I'm off – to love and serve God as best I can.

If you get a chance, take a look at our website: cdsp.edu/center.php

Three parishes welcome clergy

Three eastern Oregon parishes--All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran in Heppner, St. Marks, Hood River, and St. Matthew's, Ontario recently welcomed new clergy.

In addition, St. Alban's, Redmond, has signed a six-month contract with a missional priest.

Other parishes are at various stages of the search process: Redeemer, Pendleton is seeking applicants; St. Peter's, La Grande is naming a search committee; and St. John's, Hermiston is in conversation with the Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer, diocesan deployment officer.

The Rev. Katy Anderson, a Lutheran minister who grew up in La Grande, will be the pastor/rector in Heppner. The two churches have been without clergy since the Rev. Janis Johnson's departure; she has taken early retirement due to health issues.

St. Mark's new rector, The Rev. Anna Carmichael's celebrated her first Sunday on May 13. A graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific, she previously was on the clergy staff at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in San Juan Capistrano, California. St. Mark's previous priest, the Rev. Mary Lujan, resigned in October 2008.

At St. Matthew's, the Rev. James Mosier is a familiar face in a new role. A longtime parishioner, and vocational deacon, he had been Archeacon of



The Rev. Jim Mosier



The Rev. Anna Carmichael

St. Michael's Cathedral.

The Rev. W. Paul Morton will serve St. Alban's on second and third Sundays, and have office hours on the second and third Wednesdays, when he also will celebrate Holy Eucharist.

Morton succeeds the Rev. Chuck Christopher, who contracted to serve St. Albans for 21 months.

The clergy search at Church of the Redeemer was boosted by a \$50,000 bequest from the Rev. Larry Rew, whose will specified that the money was to be used for a rector's salary. The vestry voted to distribute the money over three to five years, based on the need each year.

The Rev. Frank Moss III ended his term as interim at Redeemer in January.

the diocese for about eight years. He was ordained May 22 after a year of study and mentoring at two churches in Boise, St. Stephen's and

In Heppner

Fasting for outreach

An ecumenical youth group gathered at All Saints, Heppner in late May for a 30-hour fast to raise money for the Christian relief group World Vision, the latest of several fund-raisers.

The fast lasted from noon on May 21 until 6 p.m. the next day. Members of the youth group, which includes unchurched teens as well as Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists and Lutherans, showed up with sleeping bags and pillows and items to keep themselves occupied. They played games, had a boys' beauty pageant, watched movies and spent time in reflection, prayer, and journal-writing.

Shelli Britt, one of the youth group leaders, said the movie "Invisible Children" had a particular impact.

This fall the youth group donated \$300 in proceeds from a calendar fundraiser to purchase a large print hymnal for Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner, gave money to a Pendleton family whose home burned, and donated to a youth outreach program in Pendleton. They helped a church member with fuel money when she had knee surgery; gave postage money to a local group making blankets for Haiti residents, and in April raised \$400 at Heppner's MS walk.

In front of Wal-Mart, a little old fashioned evangelism

Editor's note: the Rev. Susan Ackley's story about how members of her New Hampshire parish, Church of the Holy Spirit, offered prayers in front of Wal-Mart blends in nicely with ongoing discussions in EDEO about taking the church's mission into our communities. The piece first appeared in the New Hampshire Episcopal News; thanks to Susan Ackley and to editor Cate McMahon for sharing it with Episcopalians in eastern Oregon.

PLYMOUTH, N.H.--We've been doing our WalMart ministry now for a year or so, off and on. It is a fascinating project, not like anything I've ever experienced.

Our basic group of five people has built up quite a collection of memories from our two hour stints sitting outside the Plymouth WalMart on Friday afternoons (originally) and Saturday mornings (our current practice.)

In the past few months we've been mightily aided by the cookies baked and donated by our youth group. There's something about homemade cookies on a pretty platter that evokes a level of comfort and trust in people passing by our table. Our new sign assures them in no uncertain terms that both the cookies and the prayers we are offering are "Free--ABSOLUTELY!"

Have you wondered what it's like? It's pretty simple, really. We set up a card table and chairs on the sidewalk outside the store. On the table we have a pretty tin box, a stack of cards for prayers, and a bible. In the center of the table is the homeless artist Matthew's print of the Good Shepherd carrying a lost person home--since I believe that's what the "Good News" is all about--and along side it we have Church of the Holy Spirit postcards and brochures.

What happens at the table? We simply make ourselves available by returning smiles and saying "Good morning. Would you like a cookie?" We do not strong arm anyone (we are Episcopalians, after all!).

Part of the wonder of this ministry for us is how unpredictable it is. The first time we went out a little boy asked us to pray for his fish who was dying. A woman asked for laying of hands on a strained muscle in her arm. A woman told us about her husband who had recently died in Iraq. Recently a young woman returned to the table two weeks after she had asked us to pray for a heart condition and reported with a smile that she was much better. The same day a boy about 12 or so came up to the table with a wad of dollar bills in his hand. He asked what we were selling. We assured him that both the cookies and prayers were absolutely free.

He asked "Does it count if you pray for someone who's been dead a month?" We said, "Yes, of course." "It was my grandfather," he said. A moment of quiet and afterwards, a few tears.

On a recent Saturday I had a conversation with a conservative evangelical. We happened to wind up in the WalMart line after our first encounter outside. He said, "I'm glad you're bringing Jesus to the world. What kind of church is it you belong to?" I answered, "Episcopal." Silence. Then, "Well, I don't hold much with your church, but you're doing good work." We continued talking as we walked outside and parted with genuine affection. I suspect we were the

first Episcopalians he'd talked to for years.

These kinds of experiences occur week after week. We have often looked at one another and known without speaking that we should take off our shoes because right there in front of WalMart we are standing on holy ground.

Why do we do it? What are we hoping for? We hope to bring a sense of Christ's openness and mercy to people who may be generations past any kind of church experience. We hope to throw open the doors of the church and walk our own experience of the power of prayer out in the world as a gift to others. Something St. Peter says in the Acts of the Apostles expresses this simply and beautifully: "Silver and gold I have not but what I have I will give you." Prayer is what we have and what we give.

Every time I go I experience an immense tenderness for the people who ask us for prayers. It is, we have observed, incredibly humbling each time the personal barriers drop (this is New England, after all) and someone bravely confides the truth of their heart to us.

I feel honored that the Holy Spirit has called us to this ministry and I invite you to join us. It is a challenging, eye-opening way to be a follower of Christ.

Diocesan Calendar

July 10 Visioning retreat, Ascension School
July 25 Bp Rivera at St. Patrick's, Enterprise
Aug 5-8 Adult Education Camp, Ascension School
Aug 6 Diocesan Commission on Ministry meeting, Ascension School
Aug 10 Bp Rivera at St. Patrick's, Enterprise
Aug 13-14 Diocesan Council, The Dalles
Aug 15 Bp Rivera at St. Mark's, Hood River
Sept 2-6 Family Camp, Ascension School: led by Bp Rivera

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

July 4 St. Andrew's and Peace Lutheran, Burns
July 11 St. Stephen's, Baker City: Connie Boone
July 18 St. Andrew's, Prineville: Janet Warner
July 25 St. James, Milton-Freewater
Aug 1 Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters: Ted Rodrigues, Jane Dey, Roger Fairfield
Aug 8 Adult Education Camp
Aug 15 St. Peter's, La Grande
Aug 22 St. Paul's, Klamath Falls: Alison Dingley
Aug 29 St. Patrick's, Enterprise
Sept 5 St Thomas, Canyon City

Crowd gathers to celebrate Mosier's ordination



**God Willing and by
the Consent of the People
The Rt. Rev. Bavi Edna (Nedi) Rivera
Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of
Eastern Oregon
Will Ordain
James David Mosier
As a Priest in the Episcopal Church
On Saturday, May 22, 2010
11:00 a.m. (Mountain Daylight Time)
At St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Ontario, Oregon**

At Jim Mosier's ordination to the priesthood May 22 in Ontario, clockwise from top left: Mosier approaches EDEO Bishop Nedi Rivera, with the Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey behind him; Clergy lay hands on the candidate; Mosier and his siblings, all ordained clergy: the Rev. Dcn. William Mosier, the Rev. Jim Mosier and the Rev. Dcn. Linda Hale, who works in the Diocese of Spokane; next, Mosier displays a painting of a steam locomotive and grain elevators in The Dalles, done by lifelong friend Ed Bonham. Photos by Jim Spell and Tim Lanterman



On a trip to Condega, Nicaragua earlier this year, Trinity parishioners Dick and Celine Burke visit Los Pipitos school for deaf children; below, the "washing machine" at Los Pipitos dormitory; the dorm is funded by Trinity.

Trinity Condega project turns 10

It started modestly. In January 2000, Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend sent a three-person delegation to Condega, Nicaragua to investigate the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, and see if the church could help.

They found plenty to do. That first visit led to creation of Trinity's Condega Project, which in the decade since has raised and sent more than \$75,000 to support people and programs in Condega.

The project kept a dormitory for deaf children open, so the children could receive an education.

It sponsored a solar oven program, which resulted in a women's cooperative opening a juice business.

The project has purchased thousands of dollars worth of medicine, and school uniforms.

Parishioners collected, packed in suitcases and delivered well over a thousand pounds of school supplies.

The Condega Project spread outside Trinity to the Bend community. The church lobbied successfully for Bend's adoption of Condega as a sister city, something that happened in 2004. Since then, the mayor of Bend has visited Condega four times.

Trinity also twice brought the mayor of Condega to Bend.

On one of these visits a local firefighter met the mayor of Condega in the living room of a Trinity parishioner. The Bend Firefighters' Foundation subsequently donated two fire trucks and several tons of lifesaving equipment to Condega.

Bend-based Strictly Organic Coffee also got its start in Condega through Trinity; the company presently imports

\$50,000 worth of coffee from Condega annually.

Ten parishioners, including two young people, traveled to Condega earlier this year. "The business part of our trip had its ups and downs," wrote Rick Negus, a Trinity member. "The deaf children, in spite of the fact that school started two weeks earlier, were not at the dormitory. After a frank discussion about our expectations, we agreed that next year we would send our funding a little earlier and they would guarantee the children would be in the dormitory at the start of the school year. We ended up signing a contract with Los Pipitos that pays the program \$55 per child per month, up to \$7,000. At the end of each month our staff person in Condega counts the number of kids in the program and we pay accordingly. The kids have to be in the program before any money is disbursed to Los Pipitos."

The delegation provided \$1,000 for medicine for the coming year and \$3,500 for school uniforms. They bought a blender, an iron and four mattresses for the dorm.

After funding existing programs, "there is money available to consider new one-time projects," Negus said. "We spent part of our time in Condega looking for new ideas that make sense to fund. We came back with several recommendations to present to the Condega Project members for consideration."

The people who go on the annual trips pay their own way, Negus said, and "make every effort to guarantee that the money you donate to the Condega Project is well spent."

St. Paul's organizes Haiti Team

Organizers at St. Paul's, The Dalles are defining the mission of The Eastern Oregon/ Haiti Project, prompted by a Haiti trip this winter.

The project's goal: improve educational opportunities for children in Cap Haitien, a city on the north side of Haiti where Fr. Noe Bernier is priest and administrator at the church and school of the Holy Spirit.

Members of the EDEO team visited Fr. Noe in January. The project will establish a long-term relationship with the Episcopal priest, and provide support in five areas: purchase books for children at the elementary school; pro-

vide scholarship money for children from Haiti's earthquake devastated region to attend school; provide needed equipment and materials for a vocational trade school and women's center; provide professional development for teachers; establish an annual medical clinic at the elementary school.

The project has a \$2,600 seed grant from EDEO. Supporters are planning fund raisers, including a series of car washes at the church. Volunteers are sought to participate in fundraisers or donate money; to serve on the steering committee; to be part of the mission teams traveling to Haiti.



Stack of Rag Dolls to Love, made by a weekly sewing group at St. Paul's, The Dalles, are going to children in Haiti. R- Laurel Kirby hugs a couple of favorites. photos by Ron Fullmer

Tea time at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls



The annual English Tea at St. Paul's, which marked its 25th anniversary this year, is a much-anticipated social event in Klamath Falls.

"Most of St. Paul's members were involved in some way in making the tea a success," said the Rev. Alison Dingley.

St. Paul's members served about 160 guests; the money raised, this year about \$2,300, customarily goes to outreach. In past years, tea revenues have gone to an orphanage in Honduras, Klamath Falls programs for youth and the homeless, and the Salvation Army.

In keeping with the English theme, the tea included an outdoor exhibit of English automobiles.

Photos by Kerry Tingley and Terry Joakimides



Eastern Oregon is not the only struggling diocese

EDEO--continued from page 1

Bishop Nedi Rivera said she'd like to see women involved, as well as representatives from the more rural parts of the diocese.

The group must keep the diocese informed about its efforts, providing monthly progress reports. There also will be regular updates posted on a new page on the diocesan website. Task force news also will be included in the diocesan e-newsletter.

At its Aug. 13-14 meeting in Hood River, Diocesan Council will get a preliminary report from the task force; a full progress report will be presented to Diocesan Convention, Oct. 1-3 in Hood River.

Recommendations ideally will be part of the Convention report, but if they are not available by then, they will be ready for Diocesan Council retreat in November.

"To me, our role is to report and recommend," Thomson said. "It's such a critical issue that the council and the bishop need to be very involved."

As for the search for a new bishop-- "I think that's on hold until we find out what models are out there," Christopher said.

Rivera, as provisional bishop, works one-third time for the diocese. She is in the second year of a three-year contract.

"There's already an assumption, which is that the finances will not support a traditional model," said the Rev. W. Paul Morton, Bend, a member of Standing Committee.

The largest share of diocesan income, projected to be \$424,000 in 2010, comes from the 25 percent assessment paid by every parish. Another \$43,000 comes from investment income, a figure that dropped \$10,000 from 2009 to 2010.

Also last year, \$54,000 was transferred from reserve accounts; the account will be depleted in 2010 when the last \$17,000 is spent.

A major share of the 2010 budget--about \$273,000--goes to pay salaries and benefits: for the bishop, the canon of transition ministry, the bishop's executive secretary, and the business manager.

Both Rivera and Frazier said that eastern Oregon isn't the only diocese that's struggling.

A canon in the Diocese of Northern California told him, "we're watching eastern Oregon very carefully; we consider you the canary in the coal mine."



Stained glass window at St. Patrick's, Enterprise. photo by Terry Joakimides

Rivera agreed. "Absolutely, we are."

Charging the task force, the council stressed that it should look at a wide range of ideas.

"The committee has to have the freedom to explore anything. You can be as rogue as you want, we can always rein you in," said Terry Joakimides, Klamath Falls, the secretary of convention.

Council and standing committee members reviewed at length their meetings with diocesan

parishes in May and June. They vowed to revisit parishes before diocesan convention, to continue the conversations.

Dingley, priest-in-charge at Klamath Falls, was one of several visitors who remarked on how involved in their communities the members of the diocese's small churches are. "Folks in these little church know everything about what's going on in their community and they are involved, individually and corporately.

"We need to invite people into activities that are diocesan-based," Thomson said. "I think there's a lot of new people who are not aware of the diocese and not

active in the diocese. They haven't met the people."

In the parish meetings, Dingley said, "it became clear this communication thing is a two-way street. People don't just want to know what's going on, they want to know they are heard, they are listened to."

The bishop suggested hands-on service projects as a way to strengthen connections across the diocese. As an example, she suggested a community effort to weatherize St. Patrick's, Enterprise.

"The people of Enterprise can't worship in their nave between November and March because it's too damned cold," she said, proposing a two-pronged effort: raise money to purchase insulation and thermal windows, and get together to install them in the church's basement, where parishioners now gather on Sundays in the coldest months to avoid high utility bills.

The bishop also suggested that parishes or convocations, could pick a weekend to help build the Habitat for Humanity house sponsored by St. Paul's, The Dalles.

"The point is for us to be communicating with each other, talking to one another. Getting together to work on St. Patrick's means we all would have an investment in St. Patrick's. "That's the sort of thing I would like to see us do."

Letter from England: Ivor writes about his new ministry

Editor's note: The Rev. Ivor Hughes, was priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls and St. Barnabas, Bonanza for three years; he and his wife Anthea returned to England two years ago.

With much sadness and very happy memories, we left Oregon in November 2008 to begin a new season of life and ministry back in England -- a season called 'retirement.'

The Church Times, a national Church of England newspaper, lists those who have retired under a heading 'Over and Out.' Anthea and I feel neither over nor out.

As I prayed about what might lie ahead, it came to me that my 'calling' was 'to be available.' Very quickly we discovered that such availability was being taken up with many things -- not necessarily the things I had thought I might be doing, but things I appreciate being able to do.

It has come to me that whilst for over thirty years my ministry had been within the centre of the Church, now I am being called more to the

edge -- to the borderlands -- concerned not so much with the institution but more so with individuals.

At times this seems an isolated place. On the other hand there is a freedom and exhilaration in being released from the demands and pressures of parish and diocesan commitments.

It seems to me now that for so long I was church orientated and I may have missed the kingdom perspective. I spent so much time sustaining the church in ministry at local, diocesan and national level that I may have missed the challenge of promoting a life-affirming spirituality.

I have been struck by a comment of an American comedian, Lenny Bruce: "Every day people are straying away from church and going back to God." I sense this comment reflects the yearning of many to encounter the sacred mystery of God's loving presence and thus be inspired, stimulated, cleansed, nourished, renewed. Sadly, I sense that many churches have become barren places, devoid of any sense of mystery, wonder, joy, purpose or Presence.

The work with which I am increasingly involved focuses on a person's discovery and enjoyment of a closer relationship with God. I try to help those with whom I meet, either in Spiritual Direction work or in Ignation Retreat work, to recognise, understand and respond to the presence and present work of God in their lives. I believe this aspect of ministry feeds the hunger that many people are feeling for a deeper connection with God ... a connection they are not finding in church on a Sunday.

As a spiritual companion I meet with people regularly, usually monthly, or possibly more frequently over a more intense short period of time, such as a two week period of guided prayer.

This spiritual companionship (direction) is intended to help a person discover their true identity as God's beloved child ... an identity based on who we are and not on what we do ... or fail to do. This can be liberating for busy people, clergy and laity alike, worn out by years of living on the treadmill of church

demands and activity. Such spiritual companionship will involve the exploration of God's unconditional and personal love and hopefully help a person discover their unique gifts and calling ... discerning God's will for their life and ministry.

I think that at last it has got through to me, head and heart, that it is time to stop replaying the tapes of past ministry ... to stop regretting or feeling guilty about what I did not do ... to stop dreaming of what might have been 'if only' ... to let go of the past ... to be not anxious about the future. 'Here' and 'Now' is enough to be dealing with.

And yet, and yet ... I cannot stop dreaming about Oregon. I thought I might have shaken it off by now. No way ... it is in the blood ... in my heart. Our current thinking is that if we cannot come back tomorrow (and I check fares and flights almost monthly) at least we can make plans ... serious plans ... for a visit in August /September 2011. Anthea and I are counting the days!

Ivor and Anthea Hughes.

News from Eastern Oregon parishes

St. Andrew's, Burns

The Conn electric organ at St. Andrew's, Burns needs work, and Senior Warden Ann Thew is hoping someone in the diocese can steer her to the right person to clean, repair and tune it.

"I know the cord needs replacing and it needs cleaning. I'm told the tubes are okay," she said. "It hasn't been played for a very long time and I know it's very dusty inside."

The organ is a Conn model 720, serial no. 703763; according to the plaque on the back it is 115 volts, 60 cycles, 380 watts.

"We would like a recommendation from someone who has had their organ worked on. I really don't want to just pick a name out of the phone book," Thew said, adding, "more likely nowadays that would be a name off the Internet."

If you can help, call Ann Thew at 541-493-2649, or email her at thewal@centurylink.net



Denise Denstedt and the non-working St. Andrew's organ.

St. Paul's, The Dalles

The Pentecost tradition of reading the gospel in many languages was well and truly observed at St. Paul's, The Dalles on May 23.

Readers included Don Dickinson, speaking Swedish; Ron Fullmer, Haitian Creole; Lynne Gill, French; Michal Kawka, Polish; Bernie Maly, Czech; Joy Maly, Italian; and Kaethe Worcester, German.

Trinity, Bend

The Fireside Room at Trinity, Bend was officially dedicated May 22 in gratitude for the ministry of the Very Rev. Bill Ellis, rector of Trinity for a decade before he left in 2006 to become dean of St. John's Cathedral in Spokane. The May 22 event included a blessing of the church's new columbarium and memorial garden.

The tea party was itself a remembrance of Miss Jean Webster, a Trinity member and Bend teacher who lived to be 100 and had a beloved tradition of inviting children to seasonal tea parties.

Earlier in May, the parish celebrated the ministry of Jean Gillespie, another longtime parishioner, who recently moved to New Hampshire to be closer to her family. Gillespie for many years edited the Trinity Trumpet, the church newsletter, and also served as a General Convention Deputy.

Also at Trinity a mite box program that focused on the message in Matthew 25:35-- "For I was hungry and you fed me"--raised more than \$1,500 during Lent for the Family Kitchen, a six days a week community meals program based at Trinity that also involves other Bend churches. The money will be used to purchase food.

St. Andrew's, Prineville

"Three times as much water, a precious God-given resource, is used to make a plastic bottle than is used to fill it," Denise Steffenhagen of the Green Ministry of St. Andrew's wrote in the parish newsletter, in a list of seven reasons why water in plastic bottles is harmful to the environment.

Other reasons: in the U.S., where 60 million plastic bottles a day are manufactured, "producing and distributing bottled water uses up to 2,000 times the amount of energy used to produce tap water."

Steffenhagen's advice: "Since it is important to drink water and have emergency water supplies on hand, let's use reusable stainless steel, glass or plastic #2, #4 or #5 bottles."

St. Peter's, La Grande

"Traditionally summer is a slow time around St. Peter's, with a curtailment of many of our activities, and the move to one service each Sunday," Senior Warden Sam Royes wrote in *The Fisherman*, the parish newsletter.

The single service is at 9 a.m.; the church will resume two services after Labor Day.

He also asked for a volunteer to serve as clerk of the vestry. "This is a crucial position. An aging congregation like St. Peter's can have difficulty remembering what we decided if we don't have someone to write it down."

St. Stephen's, Baker City

High Seas Expedition is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School, to be held Aug. 2-6 in Nevius Hall at St. Stephen's, Baker City. Kids and adults, according to the church newsletter, "will get caught up in the excitement of finding places and situations where they see God in action...they'll receive a colorful Watch for God wristband to wear throughout the week as a reminder to keep watching for God every day of VBS--and beyond."

St. James, Milton-Freewater

The community garden in St James' parking lot has eight raised beds; two, for the Breadbasket food pantry, are planted with potatoes and onions. Two rows of corn are planted next to the raised beds; one plot has flowers, for use in the church; the other five beds are tended by parishioners and by neighbors.

St. Paul's, Klamath Falls

Associates of the Community of the Holy Spirit at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls, discussing the value of focused prayer offered in community, decided that rather than being in community in a place, they would be in community at a certain time. At 7:30 each evening, members gather in spirit and pray for all children in distress; our wounded environment; people with illness, physically or mentally; the homeless, the hungry and the jobless; wayfarers and travelers. They end with prayers of thanksgiving.

"We invite you to join us and spread the word," said Ramona Smith, an associate. "We have no sign-up sheet, it won't cost you a penny, but it will make a difference, thanks be to God!"

She suggested setting an alarm until the habit becomes ingrained.

St. Matthew's, Ontario

St. Matthew's, Ontario held its annual charity golf tournament June 19 at Country View Golf Course in Vale. The event is a major fund raiser for the parish, with proceeds divided between Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) which provides school supplies for children in need, and The Next Chapter Food Pantry, which is located in a building adjacent to, and owned by, St. Matthew's.

Last year, Love INC provided school supplies for 850 children.

The tournament is a major fund-raiser for St. Matthew's, yielding as much as \$7,000 some years. "You can make a lot of money with a golf tournament," said the Rev. Jim Mosier, priest at St. Matthew's.

Parishioner Ryan Gentry, owner of Gentry Auto Group and Edge Performance Sports, in past years has donated a car to be given to a golfer who scores a hole in one. This year, he opted to give the church a \$1,000 check to help sponsor the tournament. "The money can go wherever it needs to go," he told the Ontario *Argus-Observer* newspaper.

Redeemer, Pendleton

A Morning Prayer service at Redeemer, Pendleton on May 23 marked the graduation of five people from four years of Education for Ministry (EFM),

Graduate Wilmalu Tomlinson of St. James, Milton-Freewater, led the service and the others--Carol Akers, Frank Cupp, Fritz Miller and Karin Power--participated in the readings and prayers. Each graduate also spoke briefly about their experience with EFM, an extension course created by the School of Theology at the University of the South.

Except for a couple of years, Redeemer has had an active EFM program since 1992. Including the most recent graduates, about 25 persons have graduated from Redeemer EFM classes.

This fall, seven persons will be enrolled in years two through four, and another first year group is ready to start.

EFM's first two years focus on the old and new testaments. In years three and four, students learn about the evolution of the church and theological thought through the centuries.

Portland organist Bill Crane returned to Pendleton June 5 for a concert to celebrate the renovation of Redeemer's pipe organ. "It's great that Redeemer has put their organ in first rate shape and I can't wait to give it a vigorous road test," Crane said, promising to "show off what this recently revved-up instrument can do...And yes, there will be some rip-roaring knuckle-buster of a toccata at the end."

July 10 retreat will envision Ascension's future

Many Episcopalians consider Ascension School to be "the heart of the Diocese" --so it is important to ask what they think about the future of our camp and conference center.

A **July 10 visioning retreat**, led by spiritual director and corporate retreat leader Tom Cashman, will examine our priorities and goals.

This is our 86th year as a summer camp, and it has been over ten years since a large group of people came together to discuss Ascension's future. It is time to revisit those past goals and objectives, to determine if we have met them, and to do groundwork for the future.

If you haven't had the chance to experience the wonder and beauty of Ascension School, this could be a great opportunity. We would love to have you visit. Sometimes the most important input comes from newcomers, who have a unique and valued perspective.

I hope that we will end the weekend with clear priorities and goals, so that we can evaluate our program and facility on an annual basis, and that we can plan and pray together for the future of Ascension School Camp and Conference Center, an essential ministry of the diocese.

Summer Camp got off to a great start with the first camp session, our first-ever Film Camp. Enrollment maxed out at 24 sixth through eighth graders. Film Camp is a new partnership with the Oregon Writing Project at Eastern Oregon University--EOU.

All of our camp counselors arrived in late May for a busy training session, getting ready for campers to arrive.

We are blessed this year to have another intern from Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Molly Haws, who will be camp chaplain.

Our 2020 theme is To Love and To Serve, a theme that was developed by diocesan youth at their 2010 spring youth retreat. Senior High campers will explore the millennium development goals and look for ways to take action on a local level.

Younger campers will do at least one service project, whether helping build new beds for the local community garden, preparing food boxes or hanging more bird and bat houses around the community of Cove.

We will build on last year's theme of sustainability by tending the camp garden, "upcycling" crafts and exploring the beautiful Eagle Cap Wilderness.

New this year: representatives of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will talk to campers about stream ecology and what we can do to help keep streams clean and safe.

Campers will explore the outdoors on field trips to Moss Springs, Anthony Lakes and Catherine Creek State Park. The Film Camp group took a field trip to Eastern Oregon University to visit the film lab.

We hope to steadily increase our

arts and crafts offerings; this year we're resurrecting the pottery wheel, working with clay and using our new kiln, donated by Lori Shippy.

Adult Education Camp Aug. 5-8 will feature the Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler, who will focus on Matthew's Gospel: Insights for Studying, Praying, and Preaching.

Nestler is director of the new Utah

Ministry Formation Program, and the former dean and president of the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, California, where she also taught church history, preaching, and Anglican history. She is a popular teacher, preacher and speaker, noted for her passion for continuing education for clergy, and for adult formation and education.



What do camp counselors at Ascension School read during staff training? *Camper* magazine, of course. L - R, below: Devon McBride, Cove; Isabel Fiebert, Ontario; Dani Cox, Ontario; Alex Smith, Jessie Swain, La Grande; Taylor Disque, Heppner. Above, Alex Smith and Jessie Swain practice camp songs.



Join Bishop Nedi at family camp, Sept 2-6

Aslan is on the move!!! The Peveny children have gathered in Professor Digory's study and are ready to explore Narnia.

You are invited to join them, to meet Mr Tumnus, Mr & Mrs Beaver, the White Witch and Aslan himself.

We will watch the film, play games, make shields and have a good time together.

Come and bring members of your family, your godchildren, your neighbor's children or come by yourself and find a loving family at Ascension School. Begins late afternoon on Thursday and ends with Eucharist Labor Day morning.

ASCENSION 2010

Discovery Camp July 7-9
Pre-K- Grade 2

Beginners' Camp July 11-16
Grades 3-5

Junior High Camp July 18-24
Grades 7-9

Combined Camp July 25-31
Grades 4-6

Adult Education Aug 5-8

Chapel Art Show, Cove Cherry Fair Aug 21

Family Camp Sept 2-6
For everyone!

www.coveascensionschool.com

St. James' Vestry creates Lutcher Memorial Scholarship Fund for Ascension School participants

The Vestry at St. James, Milton-Freewater voted this spring to create the Lawrence and Anita Lutcher Memorial Fund at Ascension School Camp and Conference Center.

The initial \$2,400 in the fund comes from gifts given to Mrs. Lutcher's memorial fund at St. James. The Lutchers who received the Bishop's Cross for service in 1985, were founding members of St. James.

The Lutcher Memorial Fund is to be used for scholarships to encourage individuals from the Diocese of Eastern Oregon to attend events at Ascension School.

"It is our hope that this Memorial

Fund can continue to grow and continue to provide scholarships," the St. James Vestry said.

In addition, vestry members also voted to use money from the Anita Lutcher Memorial Fund at St. James to send a Contra dance instructor caller and band to Ascension School this summer to enhance the camp's program.

Band members will include members of St. James.

The Lutchers' son Lawrence, who went to camp at Ascension while growing up in Milton-Freewater, enthusiastically supported use of the gift money as a scholarship fund, according to the church newsletter.

Works sought for first Chapel Art Show

Entries will be accepted until July 14 for the first annual Chapel Art Show, held in conjunction with the Cove Cherry Fair on Aug. 21, and sponsored by Ascension School.

Original works entered in the fine art and limited craft exhibition must include an image imagined or in part of the Ascension School Chapel. Weather permitting the exhibition will be in front of the chapel.

Categories allowed include sculptures, paintings, drawings, print-making, photography, mixed media/collage, ceramics, glass, jewelry, fiber. For more information contact Ascension School.