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From The Dalles to Jerusalem

Proceeds from Palestinian dinner at St. Paul's, The Dalles, will go to American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The menu included piyaz, talattouri, kibbeh, hummous and sfeeha; the retired rector of St. Paul's wore a traditional Arab headdress; and belly dancers provided the after-dinner entertainment.

In short, the fundraiser for Palestinian relief held at St. Paul's, The Dalles in January wasn't your usual eastern Oregon church supper.

It attracted a crowd of local residents in addition to St. Paul's parishioners and netted more than \$2,000. In all, said co-organizer Harriet Langfeldt, more than \$2,400, plus infant clothing, drug items, hand-knitted hats, socks and scarves, will go to the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem, directed to the needs of children in the war-ravaged region.

Langfeldt, whose husband The Rev. John Langfeldt was priest at St. Paul's from 1988-1999, called the fundraiser "a reminder that our Palestinian brothers and sisters con-

tinue to bear hardships beyond our wildest imaginings."

John Langfeldt's concern for Palestinians is decades-old. When he served an Aramco congregation in Saudi Arabia in the mid-80s, the couple traveled extensively in the Holy Land, Jordan and Cyprus.

Their work as advocates for residents of the Holy Land has continued since their move to The Dalles.

American Friends' stance, Harriet Langfeldt said, is that "we as an Episcopal family have been in the Holy Land since 1841 and we will be there with our friends, not leaving or wavering because of the turmoil of political warfare." The ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem including health care and education, are available to all Palestinians, Christian or Muslim.

"Every day all the peoples of this area experience the hardship of fasting in the desert," Harriet Langfeldt said. "Keep them in your prayers."



Kemelia Scott, Indianapolis, and her mother, Amy McIlvenna (top) provide entertainment after Palestinian relief fundraiser dinner at St. Paul's, The Dalles, where McIlvenna is a parishioner. Bottom photo, the cooks who prepared the dinner. L to R: Jill Durow, Denise Beasley, Kim McCullough, John Adams, Harriet & John Langfeldt, Phil Swartz. Photos courtesy of Harriet Langfeldt.

What matters most is where we are in our hearts this Lenten season.

It is a time of reflection and a time of penitence, leading to Holy Week. Is there a burden or perhaps a grudge that you may be carrying that needs to be a matter of prayer? Is there a need of forgiveness or something specific that has previously been something that you have not been able to give to Jesus?

Lent is not about legalism. Lent is about Love, and the Lord of Love who gave himself for us that we might give his love to others.

Celebrate Lent in a new way this year. Please remember it is not what you do, but why you do it. Pray, smile at those you meet that seem to need a smile, or send a note of encouragement to a community member...and when you awaken and before you go to sleep, you might want to pray the Jesus prayer: "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner."

And remember that Sundays in Lent are still feast days...so consider ways where the joy of Jesus is the focus of each Sunday in your family.

In Peace, Janis+

This Lenten reflection, written by The Rev. Janis Johnson, pastor/priest at Hope Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal churches, Heppner, first appeared in the combined ministries' newsletter.

The church's changing lexicon

It's time to stop thinking in terms of deployment and searches and start considering transition and discernment, The Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer says.

His job title with the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon--Canon for Transition Ministry--is itself a sign of the changes that are taking place in the church. "We're transitioning to the language of transition, which on some level is exactly right and on some level sounds ridiculous."

The change is affecting the whole Episcopal Church "but we just happen to be in an episcopal transition now so maybe it's on people's minds a little bit more," he said.

The church's traditional use of the word deployment has more than a hint

of the military about it, Kiefer suggested. "I don't know how powerful that is in terms of how people understand what goes on in the search process, but if you think about it as a deployment process there's almost a sense of, we're calling in the Marines."

Moving away from that terminology, then, leads clergy and congregations to the idea of transition: how to say goodbye to the priest who's leaving, the most effective ways to welcome the new priest to the parish.

The ministry is happening at Trinity, Bend, where a new priest joins the congregation April 1. "There is a group of people who have taken on the ministry of helping them move into town to get started at Trinity." (cont'd on 2)

New lexicon

(continued from page one)

he said. "It makes the transition so much easier, and what a ministry it is."

"Any congregation that's in a search--and by the way, that's more language that I really don't like, we need to move more toward discernment--should get away from the idea of deployment and towards the concept of calling someone."

On its website, the national Church Deployment Office defines itself in the new language: "We are here to serve your needs during a time of transition. Whether you are a clergy person or lay professional, a member of a congregation or a community entering into a time of discernment and transition, we offer support and resources to assist you."

Those tasks are a key facet of Kiefer's job. He's presently working with The Dalles, for example, as it moves through the search process. "St. Paul's is sort of caught in the middle--in some ways it's the best of both worlds and the worst of both worlds."

Ideally, he said, "we would have three to six people engaged in a process of discerning who is going to work best with that congregation, is in the best position to help them meet their needs, is best able to lead them to achieving what they understand their ministry to be. The old language is, let's hire somebody, hand them the keys and tell them we sure hope everything's going to be good."

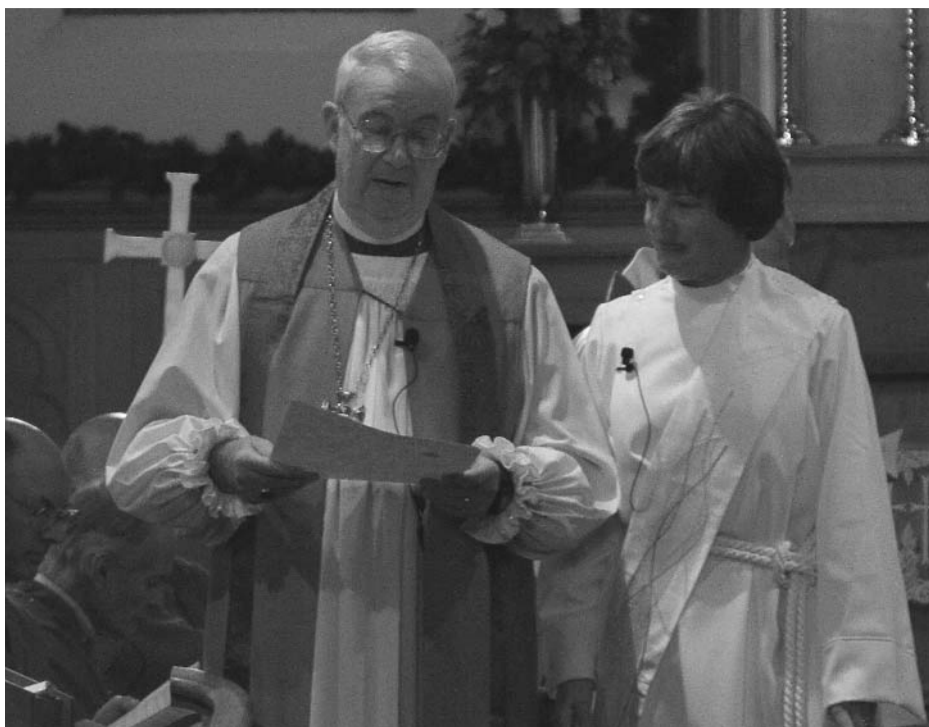
Among the challenges still out there are finding ways to do a valid assessment of a congregation when it starts looking for a new priest.

And, he said, "Right now, seminaries aren't keeping up with demand, thus the importance of locally trained people. That's one place this diocese has really been a shining star; we've been able to raise up and train locally ordained people. They are not second class priests, they have the knowledge they need to be priests in the church. Notice I didn't say home parish, or this diocese."

"They're a real source of inspiration for other dioceses, that this can be done," Kiefer added.

"I know there is some enthusiasm on the national church level for us trying to do things a little bit differently...We're going to create something new, nobody is quite sure what that's going to look like. Our job at this point in time is to be relatively non-anxious about that."

"I believe we have an opportunity in this diocese to do something nobody else has done, to create a model for ministry that will work in small rural dioceses across the church."



The Rev. Dcn. Gaye Lawson, ordained at Trinity, Bend, by The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey, Fifth Bishop of Eastern Oregon.

Gaye Lawson ordained to diaconate at Trinity, Bend

About 150 people braved stormy winter weather January 5 to attend Gaye Lawson's ordination to the diaconate.

Rustin Kimsey, fifth Bishop of Eastern Oregon, presided.

Lawson, a Bend resident for 30 years, is the diocesan EFM coordinator and a retired special education teacher.

Her preparation for ordination included studies in the diocese as well as a year at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA, where she earned a certificate of theological studies. She will be a permanent deacon, Lawson said, and may be assigned to the Diocese of Eastern Oregon's circuit rider ministry.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

(Includes Ascension School Camp Schedule)

March 8 Maintaining Healthy Boundaries training - 9 a.m. - Noon, St. Peter's, La Grande

March 14-16 Lenten Retreat - Ascension School

March 15 SAFE Church training, St. Matthew's, Ontario

March 21 Diocesan Office closed, Good Friday

March 23 *Easter Sunday*

March 29 Commission on Ministry Meeting - The Dalles

April 4-5 Diocesan Council Meeting

April 11-13 Spring Retreat - Ascension School

April 22 Green building workshop, Community Presbyterian Church, Redmond

May 16-17 Collegium Meeting - Trinity, Bend

May 23-26 Family Camp/Work Weekend - Ascension

May 26 Diocesan Office Closed - Memorial Day

May 30-June 1 ELCA Synod meeting

June 6-7 Diocesan Council meeting

June 14 Commission on Ministry meeting, Ascension

June 18-28 Sr. High Camp

June 29-July 1 Discovery Camp, pre-K-grade 3 +adult

July 6-12 Beginners Camp grades 3-5

July 13-19 Jr. High Camp grades 7-9

July 20-26 Intermediate Camp grades 5-7

July 29-Aug 3 Adult/ Continuing Education Camp

Aug 14-17 Art & Music Camp, Cherry Fair All Ages

August 15-16 Diocesan Council meeting, The Dalles

Sept 1 Diocesan office closed, Labor Day

Sept 12-14 Ministry Weekend

Sept 19-20 Collegium meeting, St. Paul's, Klamath Falls

Oct 10-12 38th annual Diocesan Convention/ 100th

Convocation, St. Stephen's, Baker City

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 23 parishes and more than 2,600 Episcopalians in the diocese.

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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.

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Stories shared at Winter Retreat

Postponed for three weeks due to Christmas-New Year week snowstorms, this year's Winter Retreat at Ascension School in Cove drew Episcopalians from eight parishes to reflect--and pray-- for the past, present and future of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

Beth Hartwell of St. Mark's, Hood River, and Willis Moore of St. Paul's, The Dalles, shared their observations of the gathering with *The Oregon Trail Evangelist*. Two hours of the stories told at the retreat were videotaped to be shared throughout the diocese.

Pulling into the Ascension School campus, anticipating the time set aside from daily life to reflect on our relationships with community, spirit and nature. Ah, but to arrive after being on treacherous roads, seeing snow piled around you, the bright lights of Kimsey Commons glowing, that is a pleasure all its own.

Opening the door, hearing your name sung out, welcoming hugs, questions relating to any needs—especially hunger.

The storms that caused the winter retreat's postponement were worse than the weather facing those who drove to Cove Jan. 18 for the rescheduled event. The theme of the retreat remained timely—a chance to look to the year ahead, and back to the history of our lives and our diocese.

Advertised as one of several opportunities to celebrate the diocese's 100th anniversary as an Episcopal jurisdiction, the retreat was planned and facilitated by Bill Spofford, Fourth Bishop of Eastern Oregon, Rustin Kimsey, Fifth Bishop of Eastern Oregon, and Gretchen Kimsey.

New visions

Bill, Rustin and Gretchen shared stories and found ways to quicken our memories and lead us to new visions of the next 100 years.

The sessions in the cozy fireplace room at Kimsey Commons elicited stories of life, spirituality, the church and the diocese. There were accounts of lifelong relationships with God, of awakening, of life histories in eastern Oregon and at Ascension School—and of the welcome, later in life, found in eastern Oregon and at Ascension.

Bill Spofford recounted his upbringing with a remarkable and influential father, as well as of the challenges within his family. He spoke of serving as a priest, of his many trips to the west, where he and his wife Polly knew God was leading them to serve.

When Bill became bishop of the Missionary District of Eastern

Oregon in 1969, he was the last person elected by the House of Bishops to lead a missionary district; now they are self-standing dioceses on equal footing with the rest of the church. (Navajoland, where Rustin Kimsey was interim bishop from 2004-2006, is the last of the "special districts" in the Episcopal Church.)

Bill resigned as bishop in 1979 to take a position on the staff of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Sharing his tales of each community he and his wife served, he would say "and Polly got another

The Rev. Alison Dingley, St. Paul's, The Dalles, (L), The Rev. Dcn. Bob Carsner, The Dalles, (partially hidden) and Gretchen Kimsey, The Dalles, talk to retired Bp. Bill Spofford at Winter Retreat at Ascension. Below: Bill, Rustin



degree there." His love for her, and sorrow that she couldn't join the retreat due to failing health, were evident.

For his part, Rustin Kimsey spoke eloquently about the importance of sharing our stories—an activity that draws us more closely together when we remember landmarks in our personal life, congregational life and diocesan life. He emphasized the "unguarded heart."

He also spoke adamantly about our personal significance in the world, in our communities, our families, and the daily acceptance of that significance. As context changes, we change, and even our view of God may change, he said.

Rustin also shared a number of lighthearted recollections—of pranks as a camper at Ascension School, of his education, and his good fortune in meeting Gretchen. Elected bishop of eastern Oregon, he served from 1980 to 2000, when he was succeeded by Bill Gregg, who resigned in early 2007 to take a job as assistant bishop of North Carolina.

Gretchen Kimsey guided the liturgy and music for the retreat. She focused on belonging, and on her lifelong faith, emphasizing how important it is to call one another by name, especially children. It is, she said, one way of knowing we belong

and are part of the community that supports us, encouraging our growth, development and service.

She led the group in identifying our stories on a triangle of Bible, Theology and Community. As each person spoke, they often wrote a key word near one of the sides of the triangle, relating their personal story to the Bible, to theological reflection and to our communities.

Lane Barton, who was third bishop of Eastern Oregon from 1946 to 1968, also was "present" at the

retreat, thanks to tape recordings brought by the Kimseys. The late bishop was instrumental in the formation of Rustin and Gretchen, and in his bold, booming voice he shared stories of his life, his views, his convictions, and of Oregon.

Several people also recalled the bishop and the candy he always carried in his pocket, perhaps to soften the edges of his strong presence.

The weather during the weekend of the retreat didn't lend itself to walking across campus or to the chapel, but one's eyes could wander far into the hills and the fields of white just outside the windows. A contemplative room was set aside: rest and reflection are as important to finding words as the stimulation of sharing.

For retreat participants, there was a growing feeling of the importance of sharing stories in and about the diocese, to form an underpinning as we move forward and in new directions in the 21st Century.

Eucharist on Sunday morning, led by the two retired bishops, concluded the gathering. It was followed by a speedy lunch so we would not have to hurry on winter roads to find our front doors before dark.

The Historiographer features diocese centennial

Stories about the 100-year history of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon account for almost a third of the December issue of *The Historiographer*, published by the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists and the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church.

It's the first time ever that a diocese has been featured in *The Histori-*

Cove update: Scholarships, Wi-Fi, snow!

Spring will be welcome at Ascension School in Cove, where fierce winter weather caused two retreats to be postponed and at least once closed the road between Cove and La Grande.

It's also brought elk down from the mountains; there's been a cougar sighting and moose tracks were found in the field in front of Kimsey Commons.

Installation of an underground cable for video conferencing will have to wait till the ground's thawed, said The Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley, Ascension's executive director.

Meanwhile, however, eight churches--St. Andrew's, Burns; St. Barnabas, Bonanza; St. Andrew's, Prineville; St. James, Milton-Freewater; St. Patrick's, Enterprise; St. Thomas, Canyon City; St. Mark's, Madras and St. Stephen's, Baker City already have contributed 25 camp scholarships for children of the some 8,000 persons incarcerated in prisons in eastern Oregon.

Hartley's goal was to fund 40 of the Caring and Sharing scholarships in the effort's first year. "But we can always go beyond our goals," she said, adding "We have indications that more scholarships will be coming."

Two central Oregon congregations are working with local agencies to identify scholarship recipients. Ascension also is working with chaplains at each correctional facility and local parish representatives to identify the youth who will receive the scholarships.

The Caring and Sharing children will attend regular camp sessions appropriate to their ages.

"I think it's a wonderful program," said Hartley.

The venture, she said, is breaking new ground for outreach within the Episcopal church.

Hartley also issued an invitation to Episcopalians in eastern Oregon: "Come spend a week at camp this summer as a volunteer staff member."

ographer, said Willis Moore, The Dalles, who wrote several of the articles, which include profiles of The Rev. Dr. Reuben Nevius, considered the father of the Episcopal Church in eastern Oregon, and The Rt. Rev. Robert Lewis Paddock, the first bishop. Copies of the magazine are available at the diocesan office in The Dalles.

Shrove Tuesday pancakes fund scholarships, more



St. Marks, Hood River, and All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran, Heppner, were among the Episcopal parishes that marked the beginning of Lent with Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers. Clockwise from top left: Macie Kingsley, St. Marks, serves pancakes and Beth Hartwell cooks; John Edmondson, All Saints, serves; The Rev. Janis Johnson and George Jefferies visit.

It's a great Anglican tradition. And across the diocese, from Bonanza to Sisters, Ontario to Heppner and beyond, Episcopalians served--and ate--a lot of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Money raised at the suppers will go to a variety of good causes..

At All Saints/Hope Lutheran in Heppner, earnings of about \$700 will be set aside to send parishioners Bob and Aloha Despain to General Convention in Anaheim, California in the summer of 2009.

The couple will be honored at Convention for their cross ministry, the small wooden pocket crosses they have made by hand, prayed over, and given away for years. They presently are making 2,000 crosses for distribution to convention deputies.

The pancake supper returned to St. Mark's, Hood River, after several years' absence. The \$280 earned will fund Caring and Sharing scholarships to Ascension School.

St. Matthew's, Ontario, netted about \$950 at its pancake supper, about \$200 more than in 2007.

Earnings pay for Ascension School camp scholarships. Scholarship recipients helped serve the pancakes and coffee. One 11-year-old even donated the \$1.25 tip she received to the scholarship fund, according to The Rev. Anne Slakey.

Around the diocese...

Hospice chaplain honored

The Rev. Roy Green, chaplain at Hospice Center, Bend and a member of All Saints of the Cascades/



Sunriver Christian Fellowship, was one of two chaplains to receive the Oregon Hospice Association's fifth annual Dream Team award.

Green, a retired Episcopal priest who worked in parish ministry for 30 years, is married to The Rev. Nancy Sargent Green, priest at All Saints.

New rector coming to Trinity

The Rev. Christy Close Erskine, Associate at Church of the Good Shepherd in Vancouver, WA. since her 1994 ordination, will become rector of Trinity, Bend on April 1.

A native of Mercer Island, WA., Erskine got her undergraduate degree at the University of Puget Sound, an MBA from the University of Washington, and worked in health care management before her call to the ministry. She is a graduate of Yale Divinity School. Her husband, Jack Erskine, also an Episcopal

priest, has worked as a stay-at-home father since the birth of the Erskines' youngest child, Joshua, 9. Their other children are Eliza, a sophomore at Boston University, and Sophie, 16.

Erskine succeeds The Rev. Bill Ellis, now Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Spokane. The Rev. Chuck Christopher has been interim at Trinity.

Also starting work at Trinity in March is Mary Wells, who will be the parish's first ever family ministries coordinator. Wells, who has a master's degree in social work, worked in California as a therapist; she also worked as a founding board member for a central California land trust.

Devotions during Lent

All Saints of the Cascades, Sunriver, is doing Stations of the Cross on Friday nights; both St. Mark's, Hood River and St. Paul's, The Dalles are reading *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, by Diana Butler Bass; at Trinity, Bend, the Lenten series is called Faith and Politics. Redeemer, Pendleton and St. Paul's, Klamath Falls are rotating Lenten studies with other area churches.



The snow-capped Cascade Mountains that define Bend's western skyline --and the wildflowers that bloom in the meadows at the base of the mountains--are faithfully depicted in needlepoint in an impressive set of five altar rail kneelers recently dedicated at Trinity, Bend.

Some 30 women worked on the project over several years, including (L to R, above) Julie Lear, Dawn Doorn, The Rev. Dcn. Gaye Lawson, Riki Strong and June Serley. The design is from a five-panel painting done in the early 1990s by Joy Carey, a parishioner who now lives in California.

The five cushion covers traveled from stitcher to stitcher, said Lawson, who credits Eileen Macbeth for getting the project back on track after a period of dormancy..