

The Oregon Trail *Evangelist* an edition of Episcopal Life



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

MARCH 2009

Seeking a provisional bishop...

By Jeanie Senior

By the time this newspaper arrives in your mailbox, the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon may have a provisional bishop.

Members of Diocesan Standing Committee interviewed a candidate for the part-time position on Feb. 14, and issued a call.

Standing Committee subsequently requested that Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori appoint the candidate to be Provisional Bishop of Eastern Oregon.

"I'm filled with tremendous hope about this possibility," The Rev. Nancy Green, president of Standing Committee, said at the January Diocesan Council meeting. Standing Committee interviewed another candidate in December, and opted to continue its search.

The diocese has been without a bishop, and Standing Committee has had ecclesiastical authority, since The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg resigned in early 2007 to become assistant bishop of North Carolina.

The February interview went well, according to The Rev. Janis Johnson, standing committee member and the group's spokeswoman.

A provisional bishop, according to church canons, is someone already consecrated as a bishop, either retired or active.

After Jefferts Schori appoints the provisional bishop, there will be an affirming convention, to which convention delegates and all Episcopalians in the diocese will be invited, Johnson said.



"In the name of Christ, we the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon are dedicated to relationship, spiritual growth, and service in our congregations, our communities and the world."

This proposed vision statement for the diocese emerged from the joint Diocesan Council - Standing Committee meeting at the end of January. Do you have a comment--positive or negative-- about it? If so, please call 541-298-4477, or drop a note to the diocesan office at P.O. Box 1548, The Dalles, OR 97058, or email dadams@episdioeo.org



Katrina Relief Crew working in New Orleans in mid-February included (L to R) Willis Moore, St. Paul's, Klamath Falls; John Adams, St. Paul's, The Dalles; Jim Rutledge, St. Mark's, Hood River; Fabian Baker, St. Barnabas, Bonanza; three volunteers from an Episcopal church in Boston; Ron Fullmer, St. Paul's, The Dalles; in front, Kellie, crew supervisor (L) and volunteer from Holland. Story, page 2

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By The Rev. Janet Fullmer
St. Paul's, The Dalles

If months were like weeks, I think February would be Wednesday--"Hump" month. Winter is not yet done--in fact frequently the most severe weather of winter will come then--but it feels as if it should be over! I'm ready for Spring--for the showers and crocuses and daffodils; I'm ready for change, too, so that there can be new growth and new life. That goes for my garden or yard as well as myself. This process of growth and change happens in our spiritual lives all the time but there are certain times when events conspire to urge us onward in our quests to grow in ways we cannot ignore.

As you prepare for Lent, and consider this time of reflection and change of habits and ways of being, know that no one finds this easy. Rarely do we have only one or two unnoticeable or innocuous little habits to correct. More often, we find we need to get to our roots--turning up the settled soil of our lives as we get to the heart of the matter; plowing up the fields to make the soil arable. Thanks be to God, we have the Comforter to help us with this task. Truly, Lent is a joyful season, bringing new growth, new blooms, a hardy and healthy plant; for the end of hard work of digging to the roots is new life!

For see, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2: 11



Children at *St. Mark's, Hood River* celebrated the season with an Epiphany pageant. Players, left to right, are Glenden Steinkellner, Luke Samuels, Kennedy Steinkellner, Tyr Anderson, Beren Anderson (in front), Cody Hipkind, Sadie Hipkind, Declan Liddiard, Aidan Liddiard. Photo by Jeanie Senior

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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.

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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

Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10017

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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Still rebuilding in New Orleans

For the second year in a row, a team from the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern turned faith into action, working to rebuild houses in New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

It was both hard work and a great time, said Ron Fullmer, St. Paul's, The Dalles. But he said so much work remains in the stricken city "that you just don't know if it's ever really going to get all done."

The diocesan team also included John Adams, St. Paul's, The Dalles; Fabian Baker, St. Barnabas,

Bonanza; Jim and Penny Hamilton, The Rev. Alison Dingley and Willis Moore, St. Paul's, Klamath Falls; Jim and Penny Rutledge, St. Mark's, Hood River.

Members of the eastern Oregon group worked under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response, and stayed on the ground floor of the rectory at St. George's Episcopal Church in New Orleans.

They were assigned to two projects: the Hamiltons and Penny Rutledge did finish carpentry on a house about to be returned to its owner.

The others installed insulation and sheetrock in a house that had been gutted to its rafters. Other volunteers at the house included a four-person team from an Episcopal church on

Beacon Hill in Boston, and a tourist from Holland who decided to spend some of his visit doing relief work.

Moore, who has organized both of the diocesan Katrina relief trips, said New Orleans residents continue to show their gratitude to volunteers.

In some of the city's neighborhoods, recovery has been "very slight," he said. One of the city's major hospitals, Charity Hospital, remains vacant and out of service, while debate continues over whether it should be torn down or restored.

Fullmer said the diocesan disaster relief office, which functions on donations and a grant from Episcopal Relief and Development, is concerned that its money is running out, although the need for volunteers is expected to last at least a decade.

New Northern Michigan bishop has Eastern Oregon ties

The Rev. Kevin Thew Forrester, who with his wife The Rev. Rise Thew Forrester was area co-missioner in central Oregon from 1997-2001, and who also was ministry development coordinator for the diocese from 1998-2001, was the only candidate on a Feb. 21 ballot to be Bishop/Ministry Developer for the Diocese of Northern Michigan.

Kevin Thew Forrester received his PhD from Catholic University of America in 1992; Rise Thew Forrester is a 1993 graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, where the couple met. She is the daughter of Bill and Ann Thew of Crane and the niece of The Rev. Richard Thew, Cove.

Ann Thew is senior warden at St. Andrew's, Burns.

The couple have been working in the Diocese of Northern Michigan since 2001.

There are 27 churches in the diocese, which includes all of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The diocesan see is in Marquette.

Cursillo Community invites new members

Eastern Oregon's Cursillo community will hold its 43rd Cursillo Weekend at Ascension School, Cove April 30-May 3.

The Cursillo Movement offers an opportunity for Christian growth and an experience of Christian community. "Cursillo" is Spanish for "short course." The Rev. Alison Dingley will be Cursillo's spiritual advisor.

Anyone who is interested in taking part is invited to talk to a Cursillo member about being sponsored for the weekend. Contacts include Jerry Lear, 541-389-2490; John Bolen, 541-280-477; Cindy Wiggins, 541-350-8664; Bob Thomson, 541-490-8276; Robanai Disque, 541-989-8535.

News from EDEO Parishes



Members of the Inland Northwest Musicians perform at a December benefit concert at St. James, Milton-Freewater, part of the church's ongoing concert series.

St. James, Milton-Freewater

Area musical groups, from the Wednesday Night Band to the Inland Northwest Musicians and The Reel Fling are headlining a benefit concert series at St. James, Milton-Freewater, with the proceeds going to combat hunger.

On Friday, March 6 The Reel Fling, a Scottish string band, will offer an evening of Celtic music in honor of St. Patrick's day. On Friday, April 23, St. James will host a Gilbert and Sullivan evening. Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Other events are to be announced. St. James parishioners Melinda Pankl--who as the church's outreach coordinator is organizing the events-- and Clark Collahan are among musicians performing at the concerts.

Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton

In addition to the regular Wednesday noon Eucharist, Redeemer, Pendleton is offering a 7 a.m. Eucharist on Wednesdays through Lent, continuing through Holy Week; the last early service will be on April 8. The church again is participating in ecumenical services and soup suppers during Lent, alternating Wednesday evening meals and services with First United Methodist, First Presbyterian and Peace Lutheran churches.

Redeemer is the host church on March 6 for the annual ecumenical observance of World Day of Prayer.

St. Patrick's, Enterprise

Twelve parishioners in attendance at the annual meeting for St. Patrick's approved a \$17,303 operating budget for 2009, a slight increase over 2008 because of an almost \$400 increase in the cost of insurance and an anticipated increase of as much as 20 percent for electricity.

St. Andrew's, Prineville

Generous donations to St. Andrew's discretionary and outreach funds in January paid for \$380 to assist four families with rent; \$75 to assist a family with their water bill, and made available a gift certificate from a local grocery store.

All Saints, Heppner

In the February church newsletter, The Rev. Janis Johnson, rector at All Saints Episcopal and pastor of Hope Lutheran, Heppner, suggests donations to Episcopal Relief and Development to buy treated malaria nets for \$12 each, and donations of non-perishable food items to a local charity. "Rarely do I ask people to give money, but this is a cause that warrants our attention," Johnson wrote, referring to the nets, which are distributed in regions where malaria is widespread.

"This Lent I am encouraging us to give and know that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This way our gifts will go locally and internationally."

Johnson is the author of Forward Movement Publications 2009 Lenten study guide, *40 Days of Lent, Spending Time in God's Word*.

She dedicated the Lenten guide to the people of both churches.



Associates of the Episcopal Community of the Holy Spirit who live in the Klamath Falls Basin, together for a Feb. 9 retreat: front row, L-R, Avril Fischer, Dorothy Deloe; second row, Betty Radcliffe, Eleanora Staley, Edith Walsh, Bev Sibbett; back row, Connie Mousshardt, The Rev. Martha Hurlburt, Ramona Smith.

St. Paul's, Klamath Falls

Local associates of the Community of the Holy Spirit gathered at St. Paul's in Klamath Falls for a "Mini Retreat" February 9. Priest-Associate The Rev. Martha Hurlburt celebrated the Eucharist and presented the meditation. The some 15 associates who live in the Klamath Basin keep a personal discipline of study and prayers for the Community and gather occasionally for corporate worship and fellowship.

Although the community was established as a teaching order, the Sisters now follow various ministries. They have a convent in New York City and a retreat center in Brewster, NY. Sister Claire Joy will be presenter at the annual Oregon Associates Retreat, the weekend of April 17 at Mt. Angel Abbey. For more information, call Ramona Smith at 541 882-0155. The community's website is www.chssisters.org



Members of the choir at *Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters*, along with a number of other parishioners, left on a 10-day European tour Feb. 24. The trip starts in Berlin and continues through to

Liepzig and Halle, where the choir will join about 400 singers from around the world in singing Handel's *Messiah*. Other stops: Prague, Czech Republic, and Salzburg, Austria.

At Ascension, new staff, new camp theme

Summer camp at Ascension School Camp and Conference Center is going green, carrying out the theme "Handle with Care."

Ascension School Interim Director Patty Olson Lindsey said the new curriculum has campers and staff considering the biblical mandate to be stewards of creation, learning "specific ways to Handle with Care our wonderful environment."

The camp theme will be the basis for an expanded number of outdoor activities for campers, from day hikes to bird watching at Ladd Marsh, to field trips coordinated with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and "river trips focused on river cleanup and getting wet," she said.

Traditional camp activities still will be part of the program, Olson Lindsey said, noting that "you can't make too many god's eyes at camp, and no one can have a summer without a good game of 'Giants Wizards and Elves Oh My,' or a messy pudding fight."

Olson Lindsey, who became interim



director at Ascension after The Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley's departure in December, had been director's assistant. She's a former Ascension camper and resident staff person. So is Cori Brewster, who will be camp program director this summer. Brewster is an assistant professor at Eastern Oregon University.

"If there's any conversation locally for support of Ascension it needs to be for scholarships," said Arnold

Coe, vice-chair of Diocesan Council and head of the Ascension School Board. Investment funds that formerly yielded scholarship money have fallen prey to the economy.

Ascension continues to seek scholarships for the Caring and Sharing program, set up last year for children with a parent in jail or prison; this year, it is expanding to include children whose parent or parents are serving in the military.

"Things are just going full bore at Ascension," Coe told Diocesan Council. "We have to turn the corner and get camp numbers back up."

A Dec. 15 letter announcing Hartley's termination said that Standing Committee, "after much prayer and discussion...made the decision that Ascension needs leadership with different skills in the further development of the School, Camp and Conference center...to increase its viability and ministry to this diocese and beyond."

The decision was influenced, the letter said, by the fact that the camp operated \$26,000 over budget in

2008, and has been in the red for the last three years, while camp enrollment has continued to decline.

Standing Committee's letter continued, "We want to be clear that "there has been no indication of any impropriety, either personally or financially, in Sherry's performance. In thanksgiving for Sherry's years of service, she was offered and has accepted a just severance package."

Ascension Schedule 2009
Work weekend May 22-25
Senior High June 23-July 3 (grades 9-12)
Discovery Camp July 9-13 (preK-grade 2, plus adult)
Beginners Camp July 12-18 (grades 3-5)
Junior High July 19-25 (grades 7-9)
Intermediate July 26-Aug 1 (grades 5-7)
Adult education Aug 6-9
Art Festival/Cherry Fair Aug 13-15 (all ages)
Reunion Camp Sept 4-7 (adults 23 - 40)

Kimsey is Alaska's Assisting Bishop

A stretch of frigid Alaska temperatures, ranging to 47 degrees below zero, are "a good test of my missionary resolve!" The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey, newly named Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Alaska, joked in a recent email.

Kimsey, who retired in The Dalles after serving as Bishop of Eastern Oregon from 1980 to 2000, has agreed to serve

the diocese until the election of its next bishop, in 2010. Alaska has been without a bishop since The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald left in 2006 to become national



indigenous bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada; he also is assisting bishop of Navajoland.

This is Kimsey's second bishop stint after retirement. He was interim bishop of Navajoland from 2005-2006.

The Diocese of Alaska has 53 congregations, spread over a vast area.

In an e-mail sent Feb. 13 from a school building in Arctic Village, Kimsey said he has been responding to a schedule of visitations to interior villages. "I was thwarted from two

initial trips because the weather was too severe, but I have begun to make some tracks."

Bishop Rowe, Alaska's first Episcopal bishop, "focused on the interior villages of the major rivers in central Alaska and on the fringe of Arctic Coast from Kotzebue north to Point Hope, Point Lay and Barrow. Essentially I am retracing a portion of his rather awesome efforts during my first chapter here," Kimsey said.

"My first episcopal visit was to Nenana. I assisted with a funeral for an impressive elder who was 105 years old, Bennie Albert."

On a visit to Venetie, an interior village, (temperature -47) he spent three days visiting villagers with the local priest, presiding "at a gala Eucharist/Confirmation during which seven young people were confirmed." Also on the schedule: visits to Fort Yukon, then a deanery of Episcopal congregations on the Arctic Coast in Point Lay [which] I believe to be the northernmost Anglican parish in the world."

He added, "I see my time in Alaska as a chance to encourage people in their labors for Christ in incredibly difficult environments. They have much to share with us of how their faith is a springboard for hope, support and confidence as they face into winters that are extreme beyond measure."

Diocesan Calendar

March 1 Ascension School Board meeting, Cove
March 13-14 Diocesan Council meeting, Diocesan Office, The Dalles
April 10 Good Friday (Diocesan Office closed)
April 17 Diocesan Commission on Ministry meeting, Ascension School
April 17-19 Ministry Weekend, Ascension School
April 19 Ascension School Board meeting, Cove
April 30-May 3 Cursillo, Ascension School
May 4 Archbishop Desmond Tutu will give Collins Lecture, Portland
June 9 Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, details to be announced

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

March 1 For the retreat and renewal of Lent
March 8 For those in the ordination process
March 15 For the members of the Diocesan Council
March 22 For the Northeast Convocation
March 29 For St. Peter's, La Grande
April 5 For St. Patrick's, Enterprise
April 12 For St. Stephen's, Baker City
April 19 For the ministry of the laity
April 26 For St. Brigid in the Pines Community Church, Sumpter
May 3 For Cursillo

Archbishop Tutu speaking in Portland May 4; Presiding Bishop will be in E. Oregon June 9

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be in Portland to deliver the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's annual Collins Lecture on Monday, May 4 at the University of Portland's Chiles Center.

Tutu, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, will speak on "Transformative Power of Reconciliation in Society." Tickets, which cost \$20, are available from www.TicketMaster.com or at the Chiles Center box office. The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon is a leading sponsor of the event.

The details--time and place-- of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's June 9 visit to the diocese have not been announced by her office.