

The Oregon Trail

# Evangelist

*an edition of Episcopal Life*



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Volume 2 Number 1

January 2008

*In Baker City, Klamath Falls, Pendleton*

## Diocese welcomes four new priests



Smiles light the faces of four newly-ordained priests: (clockwise from top left) The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake and The Rev. Michael Chase, ordained Dec. 13 at St. Stephen's, Baker City, by The Rt. Rev. James Waggoner Jr., Bishop of Spokane, center; The Rev. Martha Hurlburt, ordained Nov. 28 at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls, by The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, Bishop of Northern California; The Rev. Larry Rew, ordained Nov. 18 at Church of The Redeemer, Pendleton, by The Rt. Rev. William Spofford, fourth Bishop of Eastern Oregon, right. Baker City photo by Charlene Chase; Klamath Falls photo by The Rev. Ivor Hughes; Pendleton photo by Helen Harder.

It was quite a month. From mid-November to mid-December, the Diocese of Eastern Oregon gained four priests, whose ordinations, in Baker City, Klamath Falls and Pendleton, culminated three years of intensive study.

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake and The Rev. Michael Chase, both of St. Stephen's, Baker City, will join The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks, St. James, Milton-Freewater, in the diocese's circuit riding ministry, serving small parishes in the northeast part of the state. The Rev. Larry Rew will be an associate at Redeemer, Pendleton. The Rev. Martha Hurlburt will serve St. Barnabas, Bonanza, and St. Paul's, Klamath Falls. Bonebrake is the retired head of the Baker County Library system; Chase is engineering manager for the Oregon Trail Electric Consumer Cooperative; Rew, an attorney, is former diocesan chancellor, and Hurlburt teaches in the Tule Lake School District.

### Inside...

WHoly Trinity closes its doors: 2  
wCanon's prayer beads: many hands,  
many prayers: 3  
wScholarship program aims to offer children a week of joy at Ascension Camp: 3  
wWi-Fi at Ascension 3w The Rev. Ivor Hughes writes about his journey from England to Klamath Falls: 4





The Rev. Dan Gardner (center) presides at the last service at Holy Trinity Church, Vale, on Dec. 8. Acolyte is Ty Lavender. In the front pew, right, lifelong church members Mary Jo Sharp and her sister, Senior Warden Betsy Bates; far right, The Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer. (Photo by Julie Sarazin)

## Saying Goodbye to Holy Trinity, Vale

Betsy Bates, senior warden at Holy Trinity, Vale, intended to say a few words on Dec. 9, when the church held a last service of Holy Eucharist before closing its doors.

"I tried, but I got too choked up," she said. "We didn't get through it very well." Holy Trinity is the church where Bates was baptised, confirmed and married. Her siblings also were baptised there; their father, the late Arnie Lewis, was senior warden.



Membership, attendance and financial support for the church have dwindled for several years, as Vale's economy also has faltered.

"We lost enough members through moving and death that we just didn't have enough of a base," said Jeanie Gardner. "It finally became very, very clear that we just couldn't continue."

Her husband, The Rev. Dan Gardner, a retired math and science teacher, has been priest at Holy Trinity since his ordination as a Canon 9 priest in 1995.

The wood-frame church is just under a century old. It was founded

by a women's group which the then-bishop of eastern Oregon said should be called an "Episcopal Club." They raised money to build the church with teas and bazaars, and Holy Trinity was consecrated in 1909. By the 1950s, the church expanded to the point of being able to employ a full-time priest.

But when the Gardners moved to Vale in 1962, he said, "I think the boom had kind of tailed off."

St. Matthew's, Ontario, canceled its late morning service on Dec. 9 so parishioners could attend Holy Trinity; members of St. Paul's, Nyssa, including The Rev. Roger Williams, were there, as well as The Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer.

Now, it's up to Standing Committee to decide on the building's future. Kiefer, canon for transition ministry, said he will recommend it be protected from the weather but not sold, at least for now. "I don't think we want to let go of the building at this point."

St. Paul's and St. Matthews, each about 20 miles from Vale, are welcoming Holy Trinity parishioners. Bates said she's also been invited to the United Methodist church in Vale.

"One thing we're really focusing on is that our ministry is not over because we've closed the doors," Jean Gardner said. "It's freeing up our energy to do more ministry in different ways than we've ever been able to do before."



### Diocesan Calendar

**Jan. 5** Ordination to the Diaconate of Gaye Lawson, Trinity, Bend, 1 p.m.

**Jan. 11-12** Commission on Ministry, Ascension School

**Jan. 12** Central Oregon Convocation, 1-3 p.m., Trinity, Bend

**Jan. 16** Saints Alive Spirituality Team, 2 p.m., Trinity, Bend

**Jan. 21** Diocesan Office closed, Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

**Jan. 25-26** Diocesan Council meeting, The Dalles

**Feb. 1-2** Collegium meeting, Pendleton

**Feb. 8-10** Lenten Retreat, Ascension School, Cove

## Don & Virginia Scott assist San Diego fire victims

Don and Virginia Scott, members of St. Alban's, Redmond, were called by the American Red Cross in mid-October to go to San Diego to assist people impacted by the calamitous wildfires that swept through the region, burning more than 2,000 homes and 370,000 acres.

Don Scott, along with a Red Cross volunteer from Mosier, drove to San Diego in the Bend chapter's Emergency Response Vehicle.

Virginia Scott flew to San Diego a day later to work in a shelter in the Fallbrook High School gymnasium. A few people spent the night there, she said, but the chief focus "was to feed those who had no ability to fix their own meals."

Don Scott, senior warden at St. Alban's, Redmond, was in Ramona, site of the Witch Creek fire, where the massive damage included 50 homes burned in one trailer park.

The Ramona fire victims included The Rev. Leland Jones, priest at St. Mary's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church. He and his wife Sheila were among the families in the parish who lost their homes. An Oct. 29 San Diego Union Tribune story quoted Jones telling parishioners, "God and us will get through this... we will become a better people, a better community and a stronger people of faith."

**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.

PO Box 1548  
601 Union Street  
The Dalles, OR 97058

541-298-4477  
Fax: 541-298-4477

[www.episdioeo.org](http://www.episdioeo.org)  
[diocese@episdioeo.org](mailto:diocese@episdioeo.org)

**The Episcopal Church**, organized in 1789, is a community of 2.5 million members in 114 dioceses in North America 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

London, England SE1 7JU

Episcopal Life ISSN 1050-0057  
USPS# 177-940 is published monthly by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Inc. 815 Second Ave, New York, NY 10017. Periodical postage paid in New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Episcopal Life, PO Box 20050 Voorhees, NJ 08043-8000

**The Oregon Trail Evangelist**  
Vol. 2, No. 1, January 2008  
Jeanie Senior, editor  
541-386-2091 or 503-936-8835  
[evangelist@gorge.net](mailto:evangelist@gorge.net)

# Ascension scholarships: "a week in the normal world"

When The Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley looks at the number of state prisons in eastern Oregon--six--and considers the number of men and women incarcerated in them--more than 8,800--she sees an opportunity for outreach.

Hartley, executive director of Ascension School, home of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon's camp, is inspired by the words of The Rev. Jacqueline Means, Director of Prison Ministries for the Episcopal Church. Since 2005, Means has challenged dioceses to hold camps for prisoners' children.

"If we can give them a week of unconditional love, there is hope," she said. According to Means, a child with one incarcerated parent has a 70 percent chance of going to prison too; if both parents are in prison, the chance jumps to 90 percent.

Hartley outlined her plan at the 2007 diocesan convention: if we fund scholarships--\$220 pays for a week of camp--the children of incarcerated persons could experience the joy of summer camp at Ascension.

Her proposal is bearing fruit. Two of the smallest parishes in the diocese--St. Patrick's, Enterprise, and St. Thomas, Canyon City--already have sent money for scholarships.

When The Rev. Larry Rew, former diocesan chancellor, was ordained to the priesthood in November, he directed the open plate offering, some \$2,000, to go to scholarships for children of incarcerated persons.

She's also heard from All Saints of the Cascades/ Sunriver Christian Fellowship that they will be sponsoring children.

More scholarship funds are coming from an unexpected, heart-warming source: prisoners at the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario.

When The Ven. Jim Mosier, archdeacon of the diocese, told inmates there about the program, they said that they intend to put together a scholarship.

"They said, we have some money and we want to spend it this way. They wanted to help," Arnold Coe, the head of Diocesan Council, told the members at their November meeting. The council is

supporting the project.

Although some dioceses hold separate camps for prisoners' children, at Ascension "they will be mainstreamed," Hartley said. "We will be inviting them to join us in camp."

They will attend regular camp sessions appropriate to their age. "During normal camp," Hartley emphasized. "That's the premise behind it, to give them a week away in the normal world, without being earmarked as different."

Coe, a retired school administrator, lent a solid endorsement to the idea of not segregating the scholarship children. "As a public school person, I'm up to here with labeling kids," he said.

The program fulfills a Millennium Development Goal, said Coe, also a member of Ascension's board of Directors. "Congregations are asked to reach out to the world beyond them," he said. "It truly is an activity at Ascension that has the potential for far more impact in our diocese than just getting kids to camp."

Hartley hopes to have the scholarship funds in hand by March, so



The Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley: Seeking scholarships so prisoners' children can experience a week of camp at Ascension.

planning can start for summer sessions. Letters seeking support for the program will go to eastern Oregon parishes in January.

The camp director doesn't expect the scholarship campers to pose additional problems. "They can't bring anything else that we haven't already seen," she said.

## Prayer beads well-traveled, much-used

A string of 24 blue and black beads is making the rounds of the diocese with The Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer these days.

"Basically, every meeting I go to at this point I drag the prayer beads out," he said, with an explanation that the beads are to be passed around the meeting, with the person holding them responsible for keeping the group in prayer.

In the last two months of 2007, the beads appeared at more than one meeting at Ascension School, and also went with Kiefer to The Dalles, Redmond, Klamath Falls and Pendleton. "They've been in a lot of hands already," he said, adding, "It's been sort of interesting, I've never had a group say they're not interested. They take them seriously."

"I hope at some point in time, when we elect a new bishop, to be able to hand them to the new bishop and say, these have the history of the diocese, being in meetings when we were trying to discern our future--we thought they might be something you would like to keep with you," said Kiefer, who sees the beads as "another physical reminder of our spiritual journey together."



Prayer beads--in the hands of The Rev. Nancy Sargent Green, Sunriver, at a diocesan council meeting in Cove.

## A message from Standing Committee and Diocesan Council--Going forward together, Preparing for the search for our next bishop

When members of Standing Committee and Diocesan Council met Nov. 16-18 at Ascension School, Cove, for their annual retreat, they voted to send two clear messages to the diocese.

First of all, the Diocese of Eastern Oregon is going forward as one diocese--there is no consideration of parceling it out amongst neighboring dioceses.

Second, the governing bodies adopted unanimously a motion from The Rev. Ted Rodrigues, president of Standing Committee, that lays out the path the diocese will follow in the coming year. It calls for dedicating 2008 to "preparing ourselves and the Diocese of Eastern Oregon for the search for our next bishop." During the coming year, the motion said, the diocese will celebrate its first 100 years, and begin the next 100 years "by ending 2008 with the call to elect a new bishop for the Diocese of Eastern Oregon."

## Ascension gets WiFi, more

Ascension School Camp and Conference Center has many historic charms, but when it comes to computers, historic hasn't been cutting it.

"Sitting on my desk is a computer that's about 14 years old," said The Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley, Ascension's executive director.

Thanks to grant funds from Roanridge Trust and the national church's Domestic and Missionary Partnership, Ascension's getting

two new desktop computers, a new laptop--a first for Ascension-- and a Power Point projector.

With the new computers, Hartley and Ascension Office Manager Patty Olson-Lindsey will be able to keep track of inventories, do ordering for the kitchen--something not possible with the clunker computers.

And more: sometime in January, Ascension will become a WiFi hot spot. "So you can be at Kimsey Commons and have wireless capabilities," Hartley said.

She sees that leap into Cyberworld as more than a convenience for people who want to check their email while staying there.

"We hope eventually to be doing distance learning with the seminaries of the Episcopal Church."

Ascension got a couple more upgrades at the end of the year, in the form of new natural gas furnaces.

One was installed in the girls' dorm, after the existing heating plant died on a nine degree night. "We called and said, we're not fixing this one, we're changing it now," Hartley said. Space heaters were deployed to keep the pipes from freezing in the building.

A second new furnace was installed in the Perkins House, the 1870s dwelling where Hartley lives.

# Ivor and Anthea's journey to Klamath Falls

**Editor's note: It may be one of those Holy Spirit moments that brought The Rev. Ivor Hughes, an Anglican priest, from the Church of England to serve at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls. His last parish, in Yeovil, Somerset, included St. John's, an ancient (14th century) church in the center of a historic market town. At St. Paul's, he serves a parish whose members include a fair number of British expatriates. St. Paul's annual English tea, now in its 23rd year, is a popular community social event. Here, Ivor offers a few views--some of them surprising-- on the differences between the Episcopal Church and the Church of England.**

*Journey to Klamath OR: How I nearly became the Rector of the Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters.*

*By The Rev. Dr. Ivor Hughes, DMin. MTh., priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls*

I was all set to go to Tanzania.

I was working for the Church Mission Society as an Education Officer and was preparing study material on the Church in Tanzania. Sadly, the project was cancelled.

To overcome the disappointment, I was offered a preaching engagement at the Cathedral in Brussels – not quite the same.

However, it was there in 1981 that I met the American Chaplain and his wife, Ted and Penny Berktoed. Four years later, when he was Rector of St Mary's, Eugene and I was Rector of Great Bedwyn, Little Bedwyn and Savernake Forest in the Diocese of Salisbury, England, we arranged a job exchange ... ten weeks in each other's parish.

Anthea and I fell in love with Oregon. One day we happened to be visiting Sisters on the day the church was interviewing for a new rector. As we were looking around the church Anthea was asked if she was the wife of a prospective rector. She said "No."

A big mistake!!

Since that exchange we made several visits to Oregon and the States. In 1990 I had a sabbatical looking at small churches and every member ministry. That took us to



Ivor, in his kilt, and a group of the tea servers at St. Paul's 2007 English Tea, held November 3.

churches down the Oregon coast, to a conference in Scottsdale, on to the Appalachians, to the College of Preachers in Washington and finally to meet Jim Kelsey and see the pioneering work of the Upper Peninsula.

It was a transforming and enlightening experience. I was due to meet up with Jim this October. His untimely death in July was a huge loss to the Episcopal Church.



The Rev. Ivor Hughes and Anthea Hughes, in front of St. Paul's.

In 1995, when I was the National Children's Officer for the Church of England I was privileged to speak at a National Conference for Children's Workers in Bethlehem, PA. London to Bethlehem via Glacier National Park, Grand Tetons and Yellowstone and another stop in Oregon.

I returned to America in September 2001 – not the best of times – for a semester at Harvard Divinity School where I had been awarded a Merrill Fellowship. The focus was on models of ministry.

My last appointment in England was as Rector of St John's and St Andrew's, Yeovil, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

St John's was a large and thriving city center church with a strong civic ministry. I was also Chaplain at a residential Hospice, local academic tutor for Sarum College, a theological college training men and women for the ordained ministry, Convocation Dean and Prebend of Wells Cathedral ... not an idle life!

After ten years hugely enjoying all of that – and having reached the age of sixty - we felt it was time for something slightly less demanding. I

wanted a change and something totally different.

The 25- year dream of working in America suddenly looked possible. Knowing somebody who knew somebody who knew Bishop Gregg (this is how these things work out ... under God, of course) Anthea and I met with Bill up in The Dalles as we were on our way to Phoenix for our nephew's wedding (as I said, this is



St. John's Parish Church Yeovil, Somerset, England



how things come together) and now here we are.

He asked us to come to Klamath Falls which, as he put it, "had been in a little difficulty."

We began work on Ash Wednesday (a day of repentance!) 2006. After a month here, Bill arrived to license me, not--as I had expected--as Interim, but as Priest in Charge.

"Greater flexibility," he said.

We agreed I should stay until the end of 2009.

The week before Bill licensed me he had licensed Ted Rodrigues at Sisters. When he handed over my License he had changed Ted's name to mine but forgotten to change "The Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters" to "St Paul's, Klamath Falls".

For at least two minutes until the mistake was recognized I was Rector of Sisters. God certainly has a sense of humor.

Similarities and differences between the Church of England and the Episcopal Church? There are many of both.

I sense the liturgy of the Episcopal Church is more rigid, less creative than in England – until it comes to exchanging the Peace. When that moment comes here at St Paul's all restraint is thrown to the wind - at least it shows great friendship.

I haven't quite grasped the Episcopal Church's theology of candles. My first test of orthodoxy came when I was asked whether I wanted the

candles placed one hand-span or one book-width from each end of the altar.

I managed to offend all sides by saying I did not mind so long as they were at a jaunty angle. I gather that Episcopal liturgy does not do "jaunty."

I still do not understand why we cannot have the candles lit when there is no music at a service ... and as for the mysteries surrounding the place and use of the seven-branch candle sticks, I have given up!

Hymns? Almost totally new territory. I like 636, "How firm a foundation" but miss stuff written in the last 30 years.

We have tried out one of Bishop Michael Baughan's great hymns, "Sing to God new songs of worship" based on Psalm 98 to the tune Ode to Joy. It has gone down well but I sense its theology could be suspect in the Episcopal Church. It contains the word "new!"

How we need to sing Bishop Timothy Dudley Smith's great hymn, "Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing." Here is verse three:

*Lord of the church, we long for our uniting/True to one calling, by one vision stirred;*

*One cross proclaiming and one creed reciting/One in the truth of Jesus and his word!*

*So lead us on till toil and trouble ended/One church triumphant one new song shall sing,*

*To praise his glory, risen and ascended/ Christ over all, the everlasting king!*

Since coming to America I have wept over the divisions in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, but that is another story.

Am I missing "the big time" of a big church back in England? Not one bit. We could not be happier than at St Paul's, Klamath Falls and St Barnabas, Bonanza. We are having a great time here.

We thank God daily for calling us to this ministry and the wonderful people of this place and diocese.

And yes, dreams come true!



Ivor and Anthea at St. Paul's 2006 English Tea, in front of St. George flag and the Union Jack.