

The Oregon Trail *Evangelist* an edition of Episcopal Life



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

APRIL 2009



The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, called by Diocesan Standing Committee to be assisting bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

About the electing convention:

It's scheduled because church canons direct that a provisional bishop must be elected, in order to vote on behalf of the EDEO in the House of Bishops, and to act on disciplinary matters.

The convention date? Saturday, May 23 at 1 p.m. at Ascension School, Cove.

Who will vote? clergy, wardens, and elected convention delegates. Clergy and laity vote as separate orders; a simple majority of each order is necessary to elect.

What next? Official notice of the election and delegate certification forms will be in the mail by March 24; certification documents are due at the diocesan office by April 8; registration forms are due by April 30 to establish that a quorum of both lay and clergy will attend.

Bishop called, election May 23

The Rt. Rev Nedi Rivera, called March 1 to be assisting bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, is well aware that getting acquainted with the sprawling diocese is no small task.

"I don't have the opportunity to come in and immerse myself," says Rivera, 63, who will work about one-third time for EDEO; for the remainder, she is obligated to the Diocese of Olympia, where she is in her fourth year as suffragan bishop.

"My real goal is to do a lot of listening," she says, to talk with people, listen to their concerns, and hear the stories of each parish. She promises to visit "each and every parish by the end of the year, hopefully sooner." Her diocesan email address is nrivera@episdioeo.org

"I think the first thing we need to do is get a bishop back on board and learn to live with one," Rivera adds. "Then we can move forward to whatever else we need to do."

The diocese has been without a bishop since early 2007, when The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg, sixth bishop of eastern Oregon, resigned to become assistant bishop of North Carolina.

Rivera will be assisting bishop until she becomes provisional bishop at an electing convention May 23 in Cove. The election, at Ascension School, will be followed by Holy Eucharist and a celebration of her ministry. She must be a provisional bishop in order to vote on behalf of the diocese of eastern Oregon in the U.S. House of Bishops.

Standing Committee decided last August to seek a provisional bishop to lead the diocese, setting forth a job descrip-

tion for the position that included rebuilding trust in the diocese, ministering to clergy, raising up new leadership and helping to start a capital campaign. Also on the list: someone able to think creatively, who embraces shared ministry and can work collegially with existing leadership--and who understands the church in the West.

"When I read about the qualities you sought in a provisional bishop, I heard a call," Rivera said in a letter to Episcopalians in eastern Oregon after her call from the standing committee.

"This is work I believe I am called to do."

Born and raised in Visalia, Ca., where her late father, The Rt. Rev. Victor Manuel Rivera, was an Episcopal priest who later was elected Bishop of San Joaquin, Rivera has an M.Div. from Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Her husband, The Rev. Robert Moore, also is an Episcopal priest; they have four adult children and five much-loved grandchildren.

After her ordination to the priesthood, she served in parish ministry. Before her election as suffragan in 2004, she served a decade at St. Aidan's in San Francisco; during her pastorate, the church developed an after-school ministry and a youth ministry.

The bishop celebrated Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's, Hood River on March 8. She will be at St. John's, Hermiston on April 5 for Palm Sunday. On April 4, she's meeting with parishioners of Redeemer, Pendleton and St. James, Milton-Freewater, and with convocation clergy on Sunday afternoon, followed by a dinner with clergy and their spouses. She also will be Ascension School for part of Ministry Weekend.

Greetings from Bishop Rivera

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What an honor it is to join you on this new adventure! Our journey in Christ always calls us into new possibilities, new understandings, and new ways of living. In EDEO we are being called into newness none of us can begin to understand right now.

It has been my conviction for many years that the church in the West, and particularly in Province VIII of The Episcopal Church which

is the region including the nine westernmost fifty states plus Navajoland and Taiwan! Just considering the description of our Province in this way is enough to make one's head spin. The diversity of cultures in our Province includes dozens of languages, several sovereign nations, the full rainbow of skin colors and different ways of being community -- all of which are represented in significant numbers and congregations.

The church in the West is also different from other parts of the country because of the large numbers of people who don't go or who have never (for two or three generations) gone to church. Here in the "None Zone" -- the Pacific Northwest -- where the largest group of religious affiliation is 'None', we are a minority, and to many, a trivial minority.

What this means is our work is cut out for us. We have seen the fallout and the failure of consumerism, individualism, profit motivation and

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Ready to cook: Ryland Beil, St. Thomas, Canyon City

Bishop Rivera sends greetings to eastern Oregon

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self-centeredness. We share lives with people who have lost their jobs, their homes, and their sense of self.

You and I know that our identity in God is more than what we do or what we have. We know, and we know only too well, that God is calling us to a life of faith that is open to new possibilities, new ways of being. So, my beloved sisters and brothers, even as the work seems more daunting, the call is more urgent. We are called to be the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and we are called to do so not only for our own sake but also for the sake of the world.

Walter Brueggemann says, "Easter is God's gift of new life beyond our categories." We in EDEO are learning to imagine church outside the categories we know. Our buildings, our beautiful music or what we have been in the past will not define us. We cannot do business as usual. Just as the Church had to change when it spread from Jerusalem to Rome to Britain and to the Colonies, we now must change to respond to new time and a new culture.

The church in Eastern Oregon has a great opportunity – to build a new church; to find a new way to be Church,

to be the forward looking face of the church. We will be trying new ideas, reshaping old forms into new ones; we will be the church where everything old is new again.

We have a Great Adventure before us!

Bendición

Nedi



The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera celebrates Holy Eucharist March 8 at St Mark's, Hood River. Photo by Jeanie Senior

Participation matters, says Redeemer's rector: "Being together strengthens us as a diocese"

Editor's note: Attending the installation of The Rev. Janet Fullmer was a great pleasure, says The Rev. Frank H. Moss, but he was disappointed by the few people from the diocese, including clergy, who attended. This thoughtful letter came out of that concern.

Dear Friends in Eastern Oregon:

My first parish assignment as a Rector was in the Diocese of Vermont, a diocese not unlike our own.

Sparsely populated, a small number of Episcopal parishes and a large expanse of geography, it was very different from anywhere I had ever lived.

When I came there to interview with Bishop Bob Kerr, he explained to me his expectations for all the clergy who were interested in serving in his diocese. "We are a small, poor, diocese", he explained, "and we cannot function without the full participation of everyone, including the clergy. If you come here, I expect you to give a third of your time to the diocese. If you are not willing to do that, please don't come."

Bishop Kerr's words have influenced my ministry ever since. I have always been active in diocesan affairs and have always tried to give my support to the other clergy and parishes in the diocese. I have been

greatly enriched, as have my parishes, by the support that we have received from the diocese, its clergy and its parishes.

What that has meant for me in practical terms is that whenever there is an important milestone in my life or that of my parish, I have invited the whole diocese to participate. More importantly, whenever any of my colleagues or their parishes has something really important going on, I have made every effort to be there to share with them. It's not really optional. As Bishop Kerr told me, it is part of my responsibility as a priest in the Diocese.

On February 21st I had the great pleasure of participating in the installation of Janet Fullmer as the new Rector of St. Paul's in The Dalles. It was a glorious service with a good preacher, a very touching presentation of gifts and symbols for the ministry of Janet and the congregation and the whole service symbolized a wonderful start to this new ministry. The service was followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the parish. All in all, it was a great and joyful event.

The only real disappointment for me about the day was how few people were present from other parishes in the diocese. There were five of us from Pendleton and five from Hood River. The Rev. Nancy Green came all the way up from Sunriver, but I think that there were actually more people here from Colorado where Janet served before than from our Diocese.

It was still a thrilling day for Janet and St. Paul's but I came away wishing that more from the Diocesan community were present. We missed a real opportunity to be the diocese and to let Janet know how pleased we were to have her here.

I am not a great fan of guilt trips (they really don't work, anyway) and I am sure that many of you had very legitimate reasons for not being at Janet's special day. My purpose in writing to all of you is to encourage you to see our participation in Diocesan events (particularly the installation of new clergy) as a major priority in our life as a diocese.

I still think that Bishop Kerr was right in suggesting that supporting each other and being present for the major milestones in each other's lives is part of who we are as a diocese. We can find lots of excuses for not attending, but in the end there is nothing that is more touching than having our clergy and lay colleagues present to join with us in the celebration.

Being together strengthens us as a diocese. The next time you receive an invitation for a diocesan event, particularly the celebration of a new ministry for one of our parishes, please mark it on your calendar and make every effort to attend. Our diocesan community will be greatly strengthened by your presence.

In Christ,

The Rev. Frank H. Moss III
Interim Rector,
Redeemer, Pendleton

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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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Assisting Bishop

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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.

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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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Around the diocese: Epiphany cakes and Shrove Tuesday pancakes, Lent studies, and St. Paul's, Nyssa adds accessibility with a stairlift



At **St. Peter's, La Grande**, Jim Wiseman, Fran Hayden and Sean Rohan staff the kitchen; Kemp Jones and Susanna Ogston serve; Mike and Phyllis Kemp enjoy the food and chat with friends.
Photos by G Royes



Stephanie Timm and Deb Jones, kitchen helpers at **Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton**, don mardi gras beads; Steve Mohrland mans the grill; and diners include Rudy Uhlmann and daughter Eleanore. About 60 people came to the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, prepared by members of the vestry. Photos by Helen Harder



Sisters Marta Faulkner and Annie Wall enjoyed the Epiphany cake at **St. Thomas, Canyon City**; Marta got the ring. Carol Thompson got the coin, and Chris Beil, in background, got the ring. Next, Tracy Unterwegner and guest Elaine Husted relax after the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Photos by Beth Spell

Parishioners at **St. Paul's, Nyssa** recently got a boost--with the installation of a stairlift that moves a passenger between the church sanctuary and the kitchen/ social area in the basement. St. Paul's treasurer Fred Bierig said a bequest from the late Marjorie Eastman paid for the device, which was installed by parish members.

The Lenten study at **St. Mark's, Hood River**, is focusing on Israel/Palestine, reading The Rev. Constance Hammond's book *Shalom, Salaam, Peace, A Liberation Theology of Hope*. Hammond, who lives in Portland, will be present for two of the study sessions.

At **St. James, Milton-Freewater**, there was a meatless soup supper on Ash Wednesday. St. James parishioners are reading *40 Days of Lent, Spending Times in God's Word*, the Lenten meditation series authored by The Rev. Janis Johnson, priest at **All Saints Episcopal and Hope Lutheran, Heppner**.

Johnson's meditations, published by Forward

Movement Publications, are completely sold out.

St. Paul's, The Dalles, held an Irish Stew luncheon--also featuring soda bread and green jello salads--after church on May 15 to raise money for **Ascension School** scholarships.

The Rev. Dcn. Robert Carsner is staging a second annual community Organ Crawl on April 19, a chance to hear performances on pipe organs at five churches in The Dalles, including St. Paul's.

Two study groups at **St. Mark's Episcopal and Good Shepherd Lutheran, Madras** are reading *The Shack* by William Paul Young.

Trinity, Bend held a Mardi Gras celebration on Feb. 22; the parish has three separate Lent studies: *God Has a Dream*, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and *The Last Week*, by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. The third program is a five-film series that includes *The Old Man and the Sea* and *To End All Wars*.



Senior Warden Julie Sarazin tries out the stairlift at St. Paul's, Nyssa
Photo by Fred Bierig

Ascension School update:

Ministry weekend, youth retreat up next

Ascension School in Cove kicks off a busy spring with Ministry Weekend April 17-19.

The Rev. Bob Honeychurch, the Episcopal Church's program officer for Congregational Vitality, will be featured presenter.

As an adjunct instructor at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, he teaches courses in parish leadership. He has served in the West as a rector of small churches, and his passions are "building and maintaining healthy, life-giving viable models of congregational life."

The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, assisting bishop, will be at the conference for at least part of the weekend.

Workshops scheduled for the weekend include training sessions on Safeguarding God's People and Safeguarding God's Children, plus training for lay eucharistic ministers and for treasurers.

Other offerings include a session on outreach, featuring the Next Chapter food pantry and community garden at St. Matthew's, Ontario, and a workshop for Cove parish coordinators--how to get a congregation excited for summer camp and scholarship fundraising.

The April 24-26 Spring Youth Retreat, for 7th through 12th graders, is the launch of this year's camp theme, Handle With Care, which is centered on how to be good stewards of God's creation.

It also will be a chance for campers to meet Patty Olson Lindsey, Ascension School Interim Director,

and Cori Brewster, summer program director.

Olson Lindsey said discussions will include summer activities--related to the environmental theme. Campers are going to plant a garden and grow some of their own food this summer, and the youth retreat will consider where the garden can be planted.

"We also will be offering counselor-in-training activities for kids that will be interested in being counselors over the summer."

Cost for the weekend is \$90; scholarships are available.

Meanwhile, volunteers for camp resource staff are being sought.

Resource staffers assist counselors and resident staff. They stay in Ascension housing, arriving the night before a camp session starts for orientation. Volunteers can expect to have lots of free time to explore the area or spend with the kids, she said.



Ascension Schedule 2009

Ministry weekend April 17-19
Spring youth retreat April 24-26
April 30-May 3 Cursillo
Work weekend May 22-25
Electing Convention May 23
Senior High Camp 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)

St. Paul's, The Dalles celebrates new ministry of Janet Fullmer

St. Paul's, The Dalles was alight with daffodils for the installation and celebration of new ministry of The Rev. Janet Fullmer Feb. 21.

The Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer presided at the installation, leading those present in the Litany for the Renewal of the Church: "Let us pray to the Lord and Giver of life that the Church of God may be renewed and strengthened for its mission in our day, That the Church may become alive again with the fire of its first charity, fearless of danger and reckless unto death, in the splendor of that Life which is the light of the

world."

The preacher was The Rev. Dr. John L. Kater, a professor at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Fullmer's alma mater.

Fullmer came to The Dalles in November from the Diocese of Colorado, where she was a curate at the Church of the Ascension in Denver.



The Rev. Janet Fullmer and The Rev. Dr. John Kater.



CDSP classmates and fellow priests present for the Feb. 21 installation of The Rev. Janet Fullmer: (L-R) The Revs. Marilyn Cornwell, Seattle; Esme Culver, Portland; John Kater, Berkeley; Fullmer, and Heather Payton, Boulder, Colo.

June conference will cover regional, church history

The Oregon Trail, native peoples and the church, their stories, records and future are the focus of a June conference and workshop that will take place in eastern Oregon June 14-21.

Historians and archivists are invited, as well as people interested in doing parish histories, oral histories

and archival organization. Attendees will visit historic sites and hear presentations from historians at Bonneville Dam, Timberline Lodge, Fort Dalles, Maryhill Museum and Tamastlikt Cultural Institute and Ascension School.

For cost, registration, information: oregontrail2009@gmail.com

Diocesan Calendar

April 10 Good Friday (Diocesan Office closed)
April 17 Diocesan Commission on Ministry meeting, Ascension
April 17-19 Ministry Weekend, Ascension School
April 24-26 Spring Youth Retreat, Ascension School
April 30-May 3 Cursillo, Ascension School
May 4 Archbishop Desmond Tutu will give Collins Lecture, Portland
May 22-25 Work weekend, Ascension School
May 23 Electing Convention for Provisional Bishop, 1 p.m. Ascension School, Cove
May 24 Ascension School Board meeting, Cove
June 5-6 Diocesan Council, Trinity, Bend
June 14-20 Conference: The church along the Oregon Trail
June 9 Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, details to be announced

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

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
May 10 For the North Central Convocation
May 17 For St James, Milton-Freewater
May 24 For those who work to prepare Ascension School for summer programs and ministries to youth
May 31 For our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Oregon

Tutu in Portland May 4; PB in Eastern 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.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit the Diocese of Eastern Oregon on June 9, but the details of her visit--time and place--have not been announced by her office.