

The Oregon Trail *Evangelist*

Diocesan edition of *Episcopal News Monthly*



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

May 2010

Time to talk about EDEO—its future and its finances

After wrestling at length with a vision for the diocese at their March meeting, members of Diocesan Council and Standing Committee decided the Vision Question is one to take to the diocese.

They are doing so in the context of a reading assignment: a chapter from *Missional Renaissance*, by Reggie McNeal, that looks at new ways of “doing church”, distributed to parishes in late April.

McNeal’s provocative book, cited by the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, will be a starting point for discussions regarding EDEO’s present and future ministry. “We cannot move forward on any questions about electing or not electing a new bishop until we know how we are called to work together—as Episcopalians, and as Christians with sister congregations in our cities, towns and diocese,” Rivera said in a letter to the diocese.

Following meetings with parishes, council and standing committee members will draft a strategic vision for the diocese— goals, objectives and strategies—at their June 18-19 meeting. That draft will go back to parishes for feedback.

Meanwhile, a separate group is reviewing the diocese’s financial situation, with an eye to addressing the \$100,000 shortfall EDEO faces in 2011. Treasurer Jerry Frazier, Council member Bob Thomson, former Standing Committee chairs Doug Harder and the Rev. Ted Rodrigues, and the Rev. Chuck Christopher, interim at St. Alban’s also will prepare recommendations for the June meeting.

One key question, the bishop said in March: “how do we help the diocese thrive while we develop a plan for the future?”



Freshly ordained to the transitional diaconate, Michelle Meech dismisses the congregation at Trinity, Bend April 13. Meech, a Trinity member, graduates from Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley May 21. Around her, L to R, are the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera; the Rev. Dcn. Willie Hoffer; the Rev. Paul Morton; the Rev. Nancy Sargent Green; and the Rev. Chuck Christopher. Photo by Jack Erskine

In Grant County, saying no to hate

The day after the self-described leader of the white supremacist group Aryan Nations visited the John Day newspaper to announce that he wanted to build a national enclave in Grant County the news “was burning through town,” Beth Spell said.

The next day, local residents held their first anti-Aryan protest, and Spell and her husband Jim were out in front. The Spells are active members of St. Thomas, Canyon City; her family moved to Grant County in the 1860s.

“We’ve got to take a stand, we can’t just sit and wait for them to go away,” Jim Spell, a retired Child Protective Services worker, told a reporter.

Two more rallies followed, as well as two standing-room only forums led by civil rights leaders from north Idaho who helped drive the Aryan Nations there into bankruptcy.

Paul R. Mullet, the swastika-wearing Aryan Nations member—who according to the Blue Mountain Eagle has a criminal record—apparently hasn’t been back since his late February visit. But Grant County now has a Human Rights Coalition.

“This kind of opened our eyes,” Beth Spell said, adding that the “wide range of people” who spoke out surprised her. “I wondered, is everybody going to be as upset as we are? It was interesting, there were very few people that did not want to

take a stand. Their politics, whether they were republican or democrat, didn’t seem to matter.”

“Mullet made the mistake of thinking that a deeply conservative, economically troubled, racially homogenous rural area would have lots of people who would be receptive to white supremacist ideology,” said an editorial in the Eugene *Register-Guard*. “But rural does not mean unsophisticated, and homogenous doesn’t mean intolerant.”

(In the photo below, Beth is in red.)



In this issue: ■Ascension School is a “holy place” to spend time, Bp Rivera says, 2 ■News from EDEO parishes: Remodeling in Bend, Natural Church Development in Madras, New rector for Hood River, and new member in Milton-Freewater,3 ■New camps, new theme at Ascension; The Ven. Jim Mosier will be ordained to the priesthood May 22, 4 (right) Kim McCullough and Macauley Baker, Easter at St. Paul’s, The Dalles.





Spring planting: Youth Retreat campers plant strawberries in Ascension School gardens. L to R: Wes Elliott, Cove, staff; Aaron Tensen, Pendleton; Jessie Swain and Alex Smith, La Grande. Photo by Cori Brewster

Bp. Rivera: find "holy place" at Ascension School

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to God with psalms!

GRANNY GOES TO CAMP

One morning when I was a really young girl I awakened in the early, early morning to voices and laughter. I asked my father what was happening. "We're going to camp," he said.

Of course I wanted to go too, and miracle of miracles, I was allowed to come along.

Instead of going in our car, we went 'up the hill' in an old truck known to the congregation as Holy Smoke. That trip usually takes about an hour and a half but that particular day it seemed to take all day because the Holy Smoke kept smokin'.

It turns out that what we were doing was taking the roof from the old entrance to our little church so that it could become the sanctuary of the outdoor chapel at Camp San Joaquin (in Sequoia National Forest.)

A few years later, after I had been a camper for a couple of years, I watched one of the artists in my congregation paint a huge painting of the Transfiguration that was later installed into the back wall of that same small building, that now housed the sacristy in back and the altar in front.

The congregation sat on logs and rocks under the pines and giant sequoias in one of the holiest places in the world.

Ascension School is another one of those holy places. It too has been built and improved by folks who have loved it for generations.

Like Camp San Joaquin it is set in a thin place (a place where heaven



The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera
Photo, Barbara Brower

and earth come so near to one another that they are separated only by a thin spiritual veil.) And even more, like the spiritual home of my youth, it is hallowed by the love, koinonia, prayers, worship, play, friendships, learning and growing of several generations of Christians of all ages.

Like my home camp, it may be difficult to get to, but believe it or not, like most every other spiritual discipline even that difficulty will be redeemed. When you get to Ascension School, you are in a different world, and that is exactly the point.

When kids got homesick (I never did – I loved it too much) it was too far for parents to give in too quickly, and once one became part of that new community, it became home.

When community got difficult, as community always will, there were counselors and chaplains to help us learn how to do it better.

This was where I first experienced candlelight services, quiet nights, and deep friendships at the end of the week that mirrored the homesickness of the beginning of the week.

I remember being challenged to

think more of others, and learning to short sheet a bed. I remember experiencing the fun of planning worship and of climbing onto the meeting hall roof in the middle of the night to stuff the camp bell with newspaper so that when the bishop rang it in the morning, it didn't.

Who do you know that hasn't been to Ascension School? If you're a granny of a young 'un, you can bring them to Discovery Camp with me in July.

Are there children and teens in your congregation that need to know kids who are different from them, who live other kinds of communities, and worship in different congregations?

Are there families who are looking for a vacation that neither expensive nor materialistic? Perhaps they would like to come to Family Camp.

This is one of the most important gifts we can give our children, grandchildren, godchildren and friends. There are scholarships, there are terrific counselors and leaders.

It's a holy place. Make time to go this summer and make it possible for someone else to go as well.

Bendición, Nedi

Diocesan Calendar

May 15-27 Bp Rivera in EDEO

May 20 Bp Rivera at St. Peter's, La Grande

May 21 Ascension School Board meeting, 1-4 pm

May 22 Ordination of James Mosier to the priesthood, Ontario

May 23 Bp Rivera at Trinity, Bend

May 24 Diocesan staff retreat--office closed

May 25 Bp Rivera at St. Andrew's, Prineville

May 28-31 Work Weekend, Ascension School

June 11-13 Young Adult Camp, Ascension School

June 18-27 Bp Rivera in EDEO

June 18-19 Diocesan Council, Diocesan office, The Dalles

June 20 Bp Rivera at St. Alban's, Redmond

June 20-25 Film Camp, Ascension School

June 27 Bp Rivera at St. Stephen's, Baker City

June 27-July 5 Sr. High Camp, Ascension School

July 7-9 Discovery Camp, Ascension School

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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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News from EDEO Parishes

St. Andrew's, Prineville

The open plate offering collected at St. Andrew's the first Sunday of each month is deposited into the St., Andrew's Discretionary Fund. It's available to the parish Ministry Team to be used in emergency situations, for community or individual needs.

In March, according to the church newsletter, the Discretionary and Outreach funds (which come from thanksgiving offerings) provided two families with a total of \$150 for rent assistance, and helped four families pay their electricity bills, a total of \$259.69.

All Saints Episcopal, Hope Lutheran, Heppner

The Call Committee at All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran has completed a ministry site profile and joint profile of the shared ministry, and submitted to the documents to the Lutheran Synod and EDEO. The group hopes to soon be conducting interviews. The churches have been without a rector since last summer when the Rev. Janis Johnson resigned due to ill health.

St. James, Milton-Freewater

When Bp. Nedi Rivera visited St. James, Milton-Freewater on Feb. 22, the Holy Eucharist service included the renewal of baptismal vows, plus the reception of Valerie Smith, right, into The Episcopal Church and St. James Parish. In the photo, right, Smith is between the Rev. Rebecca Hendricks and the bishop. (Photo by Lynn Crawford)



The concert series at St. James continues; the Scottish string band The Reel Fling performed Celtic music on March 12, and an ensemble from the Inland Northwest Musicians presented "Pizzicato Popcorn to Pachelbel" on April 30.

The concerts in the historic church are free; donations from the audience go to Helping Hands food bank in Pendleton, and the Breadbasket in Milton-Freewater.

Also noted in the *St. James Parish Visitor*: the Rev. Ernie Campbell, a resident of Walla Walla, will continue to serve as once-a-month supply priest at St. James. Campbell who retired in 1990, is rector emeritus at St. Paul's, Walla Walla. Thanks to Campbell and the Rev. Rebecca Hendricks, St. James celebrates Holy Eucharist at least twice a month.



The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at *St. Matthew's, Ontario* is a very big deal, as is perhaps evident from the array of ingredients in front of Ann Debisschop and Glorian Crosby (R) and the size of the grill Senior Warden Tim Lanterman and wife Teri (L) are cooking on. This year parishioners fed upwards of 200 diners, according to Archdeacon Jim Mosier.



Ken and Mary Lujan walk down the aisle at *St. Paul's, The Dalles* with their daughter Stella, following her Easter Day baptism by the Rev. Janet Fullmer. Mary Lujan, rector for five years at St. Mark's, Hood River, is the daughter of G and Val Royes of Summerville. Photo by Ron Fullmer

St. Mark's Episcopal and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Madras

The congregation at St. Mark's Episcopal and Good Shepherd Lutheran is using Natural Church Development to discern "how we presently see ourselves as a family of faith--our strengths, our 'neutral' areas, and those areas that need shoring up--in order to continue to grow in mission and ministry," the Rev. Jan Kozak said in the church newsletter.

The NCD process, coached by Pastor Steve Carlson, will take 18-24 months, directed by parishioner surveys that evaluated the church.

"Perhaps the most important thing for us to remember as we enter this process is that we will probably be uncomfortable--at least initially--with some or all of the changes the surveys suggest we make in how we live our congregational life," Kozak said.

Parishioners had a chance to respond to and absorb the survey results, presented by a 25-member steering committee, at an April 18 meeting.

Trinity, Bend

Work starts May 10 on a major remodeling project at Trinity, Bend that will allow the Family Kitchen community meals program to move from Trinity's existing kitchen to more spacious headquarters in St. Helen's Hall, just across the street and part of the Trinity campus.

Grants from the Collins Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust as well as several large private donations boosted the balance in the remodel account to \$141,000, enough to start construction. Next up: raising funds to purchase appliances, shelving and cabinets.

Donna Thayer, chair of the Family Kitchen board of directors, said it's hoped the move to the new facilities will happen this fall.

"We served almost 30 percent more meals in 2009 than in 2008 and we expect the need to continue growing," she said in a story in the *Trinity Trumpet* newsletter.

Purchased with donations, Trinity's automatic external defibrillator (AED) is in place and the church already has held three CPR classes, training 23 people to use CPR and the AED if necessary. More classes will be scheduled. "Those who have taken the training now realize why we were anxious to purchase an AED for Trinity," said a story in the *Trinity Trumpet*.

The device is located in Trinity Hall, and parishioners hope to raise \$1,800 to purchase another defibrillator for St. Helen's Hall.

St. Mark's, Hood River

The Rev. Anna R. Carmichael has accepted the call to be rector at St. Mark's, Hood River. Her first Sunday is June 13. Carmichael and her husband Matt, a graduate student, are moving to Hood River from San Juan Capistrano, California, where she is an associate priest and chaplain at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and School. Carmichael is a 2008 graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley.

Busy 2010 season ahead for Ascension

The year 2010 has gotten off to a great start at Ascension School Camp and Conference Center.

Lenten Retreat, held February 19-

Ascension School 2010

Work Weekend May 28-31 for everyone!

Young Adult Camp June 11-13 College age

Film Camp June 20-25 Grades 6-8

Senior High Camp June 27-July 5 Grades 9-12

Discovery Camp July 7-9 Pre-K to 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

Family Camp Sept. 2-6 for everyone!

Fly Fishing Retreat Sept. (Date TBA)

www.coveascensionschool.com

21, was led by Tom Cashman, a spiritual retreat leader, from the Diocese of Olympia. It was a wonderful time of contemplation and reflection.

People enjoyed Tom's style of retreat leadership so much that we have invited him back to lead a Fly Fishing Retreat in September, a great time to fish in the Grande Ronde Valley. Keep your eye out for more information on this first-ever retreat.



The vestry from St. Mark's, Hood River held its retreat at Ascension School in March. They stayed in Kimsey Commons, prepared their own meals, and worshiped together in Ascension Chapel.

It was a time of discernment and hard work but everyone was happy with the outcome—they were able to go home to St. Mark's and call a priest.

When you get a chance ask a member of St. Mark's vestry about the weekend. This was the second year in a row St. Mark's has held its vestry retreat at Ascension.

Please note, too, that Arnold Coe is available for Vestry retreat leadership. Call Patty Lindsey at Ascension School, 541-568-4514 or Arnold Coe at 541-568-5091 to discuss specifics.

For Ministry Weekend, in early April, we were so excited to have The Rev. Carla Robinson, a priest from the Diocese of Olympia, as guest presenter.

She led the workshop tracks on the theology of preaching, elements of

sermon preparation and techniques of sermon delivery.

It was awe inspiring to listen to Carla's experiences and how she draws upon them to prepare and preach her sermons.

Bishop Nedi led a session on congregational development to conclude the weekend. There was a good crowd for the weekend, with 26 people from all over the diocese taking part.

Campers at Spring Youth Retreat, April 16-18, got a good start on planting the camp garden. They also made camp movies and contemplated what it means to love and serve God in community--To Love and To Serve is this year's camp theme.

They also looked at potential service projects and began planning for summer activities.

Next up is Work Weekend, May 28-31, when we ready Ascension School for the summer session. It's always a fun weekend, a chance to work together with Episcopalians from all over the diocese.

After that, summer camp is just around the corner.

Camp season begins June 11 with Young Adult Camp, a new camp focusing on persons from 18 to 25. The Rev. Shelly Fayette from the Diocese of Olympia will lead the camp; she was the Diocese of Eastern Oregon's seminarian last summer. We think it's great that we can have her back for a weekend this summer.

Next after the Young Adult session is Film Camp, another new camp offering. It's the result of a partnership between Ascension School and Eastern Oregon University, offered to

to Middle school students interested in learning about film making.

Campers will have an opportunity to create a short film from beginning to end, a process that will include traveling to EOU's film lab in La Grande. We are really excited about this new partnership.

I look forward to seeing everyone this summer. If you haven't visited Ascension School, I invite you to come and see what we are all about. We are always open to visitors and would love to meet you.

Blessings,
Patty Olson Lindsey,
Executive Director
Ascension School Camp and
Conference Center



Vestry members from St. Mark's, Hood River on the steps of Ascension Chapel, after Morning Prayer service on the last day of their vestry retreat. Clockwise from top left: Paige Rouse, Jeanie Senior, Chris Samuels, Russ Lamson, Pravin Rajamoney, Bob Thomson and Brodie.

Photo by Sherril Nossum

Transfiguration firewood ministry

"We gave away 40 cords last year"

The firewood ministry at Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters started this winter with a mountain of firewood.

Now, the mountain is gone. "There were 40 cords in that pile and we gave the whole thing away," said the Rev. Dcn. Roger Fairfield, who's led the ministry since 2005.

The Transfiguration group took over from a veterans' group whose aging members wanted to retire from woodcutting. In the years since, they've cut, split and delivered firewood, mostly to Sisters residents but also to Bend and Redmond, plus a couple of loads to a homeless camp.

"Young folks, old folks--it's a ministry primarily to the poor," Fairfield said of firewood recipients. "People who need firewood and can't afford it, people who can't go to get it themselves; anybody having a hard time, we take care of them."

To date, all the wood has been donated. "I don't know where it's going to come from this year, but God will provide somehow," he said.

Referrals come from the Family Access Network.

Woodcutters are assisted by young people doing community service. "The kids love it, it gives them an opportunity to see a bunch of old fogies, all over the age of 60, doing something for nothing to help others." Hearing about the firewood ministry, "that they're doing good for people in the community, they're all ears."



Longtime deacon Jim Mosier will be ordained to priesthood May 22

The Ven. James Mosier, archdeacon of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon for about eight years, and a deacon for 25 years, will be ordained to the priesthood May 22 at St. Matthew's, Ontario.



The ordination, with the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera presiding, is set for 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's. After that, Mosier will be employed as St. Matthew's rector, working part-time.

At the direction of the bishop, who wanted Mosier "to be formed as a priest for the people of St. Matthew's" he spent the last several months working in Boise: at St. Stephen's, Boise, from Pentecost to Epiphany, and at St. Michael's Cathedral from Epiphany through Easter. He preached his last sermon at the cathedral on April 18.

"Those folks have been just won-

derful," he said of the two Boise parishes, where he was involved in bible study, preaching and mentoring. "Actually, they've been mentoring me," he said of the priests at St. Stephen's and the cathedral. "If you want to talk to them they would probably say we've been learning from each other."

Jim and Vicki Mosier were married in Ontario in the mid-60s and moved away, returning in 1976. They've lived there ever since.

He said he expects people from Boise and from throughout this diocese to attend his ordination, which will be followed by a meal, sponsored by St. Matthew's, at the Four Rivers Cultural Center and Museum in Ontario. "It's going to be fun," Mosier said.