

# The Oregon Trail *Evangelist* an edition of Episcopal Life



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

August 2009



Photo by Willis Moore

## *Bishop Rivera: reflections at the close of General Convention*

This is the letter that The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, provisional bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, wrote at the close of General Convention to the bishops from across the Anglican Communion who were in her Indaba Group at the 2008 Lambeth Conference. *Indaba* is a Zulu word that means gathering for purposeful discussion.

### *My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

I have taken a long time to write to you about our General Convention and the work we have done in these last two weeks. I had decided not to send this letter until I had prayed a day and a night about what I have said. Today our Presiding Bishop said some of the same things I have said below. Perhaps we were awake in the same hours in the middle of the night. I invite you to read her closing sermon to the Convention. It should be on her website soon.

In this Convention our church struggled to tell the "truth in love." We have wrestled with the hard questions of mission and ministry, of resources and context. We have made statements about sexuality that are offensive to both those who think The Episcopal Church has gone too far, and to those who think we haven't gone far enough. In our statement we were, in the end, primarily descriptive and clearly acknowledged the differences of opinion that exist within TEC and the Anglican Communion.

For many of us in TEC, our mission field includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. We believe that same-sex couples can and do live in lifelong committed relationships "characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication and the holy love which engages those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God." (This language is from the text of a resolution we passed in 2000.) In our context, where people do not know or have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ, we must, I think, preach a gospel and an ethic that calls all people to faithfulness and to a willingness to love one another as Christ has loved us.

It is clear to me in my reading of the Gospels, that Jesus met people where they were and invited them into a deeper knowledge of God. The Samaritan woman at the well, who was the first to proclaim Christ as Messiah, was told the truth in love and called to a deeper relationship with God. Jesus offered her new life in the Spirit just as he offered  
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PB in EDEO: The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, (center) visited the Diocese June 9. Her day in Bend included a clergy retreat, a "meet and greet," Evening Prayer, and a question and answer session. Bishop Nedi Rivera is to the left of the Presiding Bishop.  
Photos by Jeanie Senior

## Welcoming the Presiding Bishop

By Jan and Dan Blair  
St. Patrick's, Enterprise

*Editor's note: The Blairs were in Bend June 9 for Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's visit to the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. Their impressions were published in the St. Patrick's newsletter, which Jan edits; they agreed to share them with The Oregon Trail Evangelist.*

We found the presiding bishop to be a clear-thinking leader, with a firm grasp of every issue she was asked about, and a calm, well-modulated way of addressing even the most emotional of issues. She is impressively knowledgeable.

She truly exemplifies the Episcopalian "middle way" in her approach to people and to problems. Following are just a few of the notes we took on her responses to questions asked by clergy and laity:

▮The Episcopal Church she serves as primate includes 110 dioceses in several nations; calling it "Episcopal Church USA" is inaccurate, even offensive to some.

▮We are created to be in service to others. The Episcopal Church is directed more toward mission these days. "Church is to mission as fire is to burning," she said.

▮The presiding bishop said the church is "waking up to the reality of poverty all around us." First it was in foreign nations, now we are also looking inside the U.S., beginning on Native American reservations.

▮"The church is called to do both emergency response ('what do we do right now?') and structural response



('what can we do to reduce the reasons for poverty?')."

▮Replying to a question about how to retain young people, she recalled a visit to St. James Episcopal in Cathlamet, Washington, where young people are expected to participate fully in the life of the church. The St. James model is: "We don't let adults do anything children can do." (to page 2)

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## Brownings receive Sayre peace award



Patti and Edmond Browning, receiving Sayre Award in Anaheim July 11. Photo by Willis Moore

[ENS] Former Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning and his wife Patti, hailed by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship as “living examples of Christ’s prophetic witness,” received the John Nevin Sayre Peace Award July 11 in Anaheim.

The Brownings, who live in the Hood River Valley, were surrounded by family, friends and former colleagues as they received a copy of an icon originally commissioned for former Utah Bishop Paul Jones, a pacifist forced to resign his episcopate because of his opposition to World War I.

Brian Grieves, outgoing director of the Episcopal Church’s advo-

cacy center, lauded the Brownings for their “deep commitment to justice for the Palestinian people” and recalled Edmond Browning’s famous declaration when he accepted his election as presiding bishop at the last General Convention held in Anaheim, in 1985: “In this church of ours, there shall be no outcasts.” Browning served through 1997.

“I think this has been one of the most meaningful things that has happened during the course of our time together and our ministry together,” Browning said. “We feel extremely blessed and loved in a way that ... has meant everything in the world to us.”

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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.

The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera,  
Provisional Bishop

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**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

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**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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## Presiding Bishop: We must reach out to the unchurched

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She said “We Episcopalians used to reproduce ourselves,” but birth rates have fallen in industrialized nations; the era of Sunday Schools filled with our kids is past. We must reach out to the unchurched (and there are many) if we want growth in the future.

Asked if the Church has a position on civil disobedience, she commented that Jesus’ overthrowing of the money-changers’ tables in the Temple could be considered an act of civil disobedience. She said those who engage in acts of civil disobedience should be aware of the consequences, and she added that the acts should be “I would hope, non-violent.”

She said, “We’re living on the edge of a post-denominational period,” when the lines between denominations are becoming blurred. She noted John’s Gospel account of Jesus praying to the Father that “they might be one, even as we are one...We Anglicans value dialogue with other traditions while our own faith is deepened through dialogue.”

The presiding bishop said she was reading *Reasonable and Holy* by Tobias S. Haller, BSG, and recommended it to those wanting to study and consider the conflict over homo-



Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, speaks to a crowd in Bend June 9. Photo by Jeanie Senior

sexuality within the Anglican tradition.

Regarding the Episcopal Church’s stance on stewardship of all of creation, she discussed how our actions in this nation often impact people on the other side of the globe.

For example: our production of ethanol means some in Kenya are going hungry—the result of corn (maize) being grown for conversion to ethanol fuel rather than for food.

She didn’t think the Church needed to respond to President Obama’s remark that the U.S. is not a Christian nation—but the comment is factual. Most of the Founders, she pointed out, were Deists who

provinces of the Anglican Communion also have disagreements within their bodies on these important questions and they urged us to speak our truth as best we can. Learning to live with disagreement, learning to be in conversation and continuing growth in the Spirit seem to be part of what it means to be Anglican.

So, what this resolution means for me is that TEC cannot and will not make a false choice between the Anglican Communion and those whom we are called to serve (including those with whom we serve Christ.) We will be Christians, which (to me) means we will sacrifice ourselves rather than others. And we will be Anglicans. We will walk the via media, which demands a compromise that can include all—both/and rather

believed in a Creator but not necessarily in Jesus Christ, and the U.S. Constitution was carefully crafted with what we recognize as Christian values, but to preclude establishment of a state religion and to prevent a theocracy.

Ratio of women to men priests? One-third of presently active priests are women; she is uncertain of the ratio among the newly-ordained. In the House of Bishops the ratio is still heavily weighted toward men (only 16 or 17 women are bishops “despite the evidence before you,” she said to laughter, referring to Bishop Nedi Rivera and herself.

than either/or.

I think this is what it means to follow Jesus who has always been a scandal. He offended religious leaders who themselves were trying to serve God faithfully. He continues to challenge us to re-examine the meaning, call and demands of love. These questions, our resolution and the response to it invite each of us to love one another as Christ loved us. What that means for our human church polity and how we live into Christ’s prayer that we all will be one remains to be seen.

My sisters and brothers I hope to continue to walk with you. I believe our branch of the Church and of the Communion has spoken the truth in love. Let us love one another as Christ loved us.  
Benediccion, Nedi

## Bishop’s letter (cont’d)

it to the religious leader Nicodemus. Jesus came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Christ might be saved. Not that he never got angry, but His anger appears to be reserved for those who want to lay heavy burdens on others and are unwilling to help carry them. It’s important for us who are church leaders to remember that.

Finally, we remember that bishops are only one order of Christ’s One, (whether we see ourselves that way or not) Holy, Catholic Church. At this General Convention we have had Anglican and ecumenical visitors from around the world who are priests, deacons and lay people as well as bishops. Many of them help us see that like our own church, other



After Holy Eucharist, celebrated by The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, eastern Oregon clergy gathered June 9 for a group photo with the Presiding Bishop and The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon. That morning, clergy met with the two bishops for a retreat, and clergy spouses gathered with Dick Schori, the presiding bishop's husband, and The Rev. Bob Moore, Nedi Rivera's husband.

Photo by Jeanie Senior

# News from eastern Oregon parishes

## **St. Barnabas, Bonanza; St. Paul's, Klamath Falls; St. Luke's, Lakeview**

Parishioners from the three churches that make up the Southwest Convocation--St. Barnabas, St. Paul's, and St. Luke's--will gather at Lofton Reservoir on Saturday, Aug. 15 for a noon Holy Eucharist followed by a potluck picnic.

The second annual convocation picnic also will be a chance for the three parishes to share their Millenium Development Goals efforts, especially for primary education.

## **All Saints of the Cascades/ Sunriver Christian Fellowship, Sunriver**

The theme of Summer Sunday School at Sunriver is *Let All Creation Praise*, with students learning to care for our fragile earth. Sunday school classes surveyed parishioners, seeking answers to several questions: how does their family reduce, reuse and recycle? are they involved in a political or faith group with local, regional or worldwide concerns? The children will "read, discuss and tally your responses," said a story in the SCF newsletter.

This year's art show will include more outdoor art; the Country Fair is expanding its animal activity area this year to include a Mustang rescue exhibit. Earnings from the popular event, Transfiguration's major annual outreach project, go to a number of community charities and social service agencies.

## **St. Patrick's, Enterprise**

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of St. Patrick's outdoor chapel at Wallowa Lake. It was dedicated by Bp. Lane Barton on July 26, 1959.

During July and August, celebrants at the 9:30 a.m. service at St. Patrick's in Enterprise also lead services at Lake Chapel. The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake, St. Stephen's, Baker City--one of the EDEO's circuit riding priests, led the 50th anniversary commemoration.

## **St. James, Milton-Freewater**

The community garden at St. James is growing well. Parishioners are tending two plots whose produce is going to the Food Basket, a community food relief program. Flowers for the church are blooming in another plot, and of the four remaining plots, two were planted by St. James' members, two by people from the community.

## **St. Andrew's, Prineville**

The Rev. Dcn. Kristin Uffelman White starts work in September as one of two associate rectors at The Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, Ill.

She grew up in Prineville and belonged to St. Andrew's--where her father, The Rev. Steve Uffelman, is a priest. A 2009 graduate of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, she was ordained to the transitional diaconate in May..

Her sponsoring parish as she studied for the priesthood was St. Hilda's, Monmouth--coincidentally the parish where Kristin's mother, Jan, became an Episcopalian. The deacon at St. Hilda's is The Rev. Dcn. Bill Mosier, whose brother is The Ven. Jim Mosier, of St. Matthew's, Ontario, archdeacon of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

Kristin's duties will be threefold at Holy Spirit, a church with a membership of about 700 families: she will be the associate assigned to newcomers' ministry; oversee a confirmation program with 70-80 seventh and eighth graders enrolled; and work with the church's Hispanic partner parish in Waukegan, 15 miles north of Lake Forest.

"It became the thing that I couldn't not do," Kristin, who was a high school teacher, said of her decision to go to seminary. As she moved through the process, "it felt like I became more and more the person I was called to be." She will be ordained to the priesthood in December.



The Rev. Dcn. Kristin White (center) and her parents, Jan and Steve Uffelman of St. Andrew's, Prineville.

## **Trinity, Bend**

Soprano Susan Rahmsdorff headlined "Feed the Hungry with Song", a concert benefiting the Family Kitchen of Trinity Episcopal Church July 18 at St. Helen's Hall, part of the Trinity complex. Donna Jacobsen was accompanist.

About 75 people attended the concert.

The daughter of Trinity parishioners Mr. and Mrs. Terry

Rahmsdorff, Susan is a doctoral candidate at the University of Kentucky



Susan Rahmsdorff, (l) and Donna Jacobsen (r)

## **St. Paul's, The Dalles**

St. Paul's, The Dalles is encouraging parishioners and members of the local community to Plant A Row in their garden, with the produce designated to feed the hungry.

The church sold organic vegetable starts as a fund-raiser, and The Rev. Janet Fullmer is blessing the produce every Sunday and Monday before it's distributed to local food charities.

Ron Fullmer and St. Paul's Senior Warden Monte Dickinson, with plant starts for the parish's Plant A Row project.

Photo by Jerry Frazier



## **Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters**

Transfiguration's 14th annual Art Show and Country Fair is Aug. 7-8, beginning with the Art Show Preview Sale on Friday, Aug. 7 from 5-8 p.m. The Country Fair is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Left, Melanie Charles, (l) and Lilah Basile (r); enjoy the Slip N Slide at Discovery Camp at Cove; as does Tophier Basile, above. Below, senior campers pose for a traditional group photo.



## ASCENSION SCHOOL UPDATE

# Excellent camp adventures!

The vegetable garden at Ascension School Camp & Conference Center is flourishing--it furnished lettuce and peas for Senior High Camp meals, tomatoes and broccoli and carrots for later camp.

It's also become an integral part of the camp's 2009 curriculum, Handle With Care, which focuses on taking care of God's creation.

And during Discovery Camp, it was the site for Holy Eucharist, celebrated by The Rev. Sarah Stanton, St. Peter's, La Grande.



At the spring youth retreat, campers made brightly painted wooden signs to mark the rows of vegetables. "Now, when you go over to the garden the signs say what's growing there," said Patty Olson Lindsey, Ascension's executive director.

Enrollment numbers have been good this summer. High school camp attracted 35 young people, plus two others who came for the weekend in the middle of the session. "Closing Eucharist was really great, and emotional," Olson Lindsey said. Graduating seniors helped The Rev. Pat Bell, a former EDEO priest who

now is rector of St. Luke's, Coeur d'Alene, Id.

Camp fees for about 20 children were paid for by the Caring and Sharing scholarship program. Money for Caring and Sharing is donated by parishes around the diocese to cover the cost of camp for children with a parent who is incarcerated, or with a parent in the military.

Scholarship campers came from both categories, Olson Lindsey said. Funds from central Oregon parishes paid for about 15 scholarships.

New this year is Reunion Camp, a chance for former campers aged 23-40 to get back together.

The session is scheduled for September 4-7.

"I think we'll probably have around 20, we may have more," said Olsen Lindsey, herself a former camper, as is Cori Brewster, camp program director.

## ASCENSION SCHOOL LATE SUMMER SCHEDULE

**Art Festival and Cove Cherry Fair Aug 13-15 (all ages)**  
**Reunion Camp Sept. 4-7 (returning campers, adults 23-40)**

# Diocesan Calendar

- July 30-Aug 2** Adult Ed Camp, Ascension School
- Aug 2** Ascension School board meeting, Cove; Bp. Rivera will be at Ascension School
- Aug 3** Bp. Rivera at St. Stephen's, Baker City
- Aug 13-15** Art Festival/Cherry Fair, Ascension School
- Aug 19** Bp. Rivera will meet with St. Mark's Vestry, Hood River
- Aug 20** Bp. Rivera will preside at Confirmation St. Paul's/ St. Mark's
- Aug 21-22** Diocesan Council, Diocesan Office, The Dalles; Bp. Rivera will attend
- Sept 4-7** Reunion Camp - Ascension School
- Sept 7** Diocesan Office Closed - Labor Day
- Oct 3** Ascension School Board meeting, Cove
- Oct 9** Diocesan Commission on Ministry - St. Paul's, Klamath Falls 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Oct 9-11** 39th Annual Diocesan Convention St. Paul's, Klamath Falls
- Nov 13-15** Diocesan Council Retreat - Ascension School, Cove

# Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- Aug 2** For St. Paul's, The Dalles
- Aug 9** In thanksgiving for Adult Education Camp and for individual growth and formation in our faith
- Aug 16** For members of diocesan staff
- Aug 23** For the Southwest Convocation
- Aug 30** For St. Luke's, Lakeview
- Sept 6** For those who teach and those who learn, as the new school year begins
- Sept 13** For the Domestic Missionary Partnership, which includes the Diocese of Eastern Oregon
- Sept 20** For St. Barnabas, Bonanza
- Sept 27** For St. Paul's, Klamath Falls
- Oct 4** For the upcoming Diocesan Convention
- Oct 11** For the Central Oregon Convocation

# Former EDEO Chancellor The Rev. Larry Rew dies

The Rev. Larry Rew, who served as chancellor of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon in the early years of this decade, died July 18 of cancer. He was 73.

A second-generation attorney and a rancher, he was ordained to the priesthood at his home parish, Church of the Redeemer in Pendleton, in November, 2007.

He retired as a partner at the Pendleton-based Corey, Byler, Rew, Lorenzen & Hojem law firm in 2005, after he was diagnosed with cancer. A past president of both the Oregon State Bar Association and the Pendleton Round Up Association, he was a passionate advocate for legal aid and in 1991 received the Oregon Bar's President's Public Service Award for exceptional pro bono contributions.



The Rev. Larry Rew, at his November, 2007 ordination to the priesthood.

Photo by Helen Harder

His memorial service was July 25 at Redeemer.

"When you step back and look at the accomplishments of Larry Rew's life, the legacy he and Judy have left us is quite amazing," wrote The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey, Assisting Bishop of Alaska and retired Bishop of Eastern Oregon. "Enterprising wheat rancher and cattleman, successful lawyer, civic leader in Pendleton and above average golfer...the list could be extended but what I am most personally grateful for is the thoughtful faith and commitment Larry brought to The Episcopal Church.

"His ordination to the priesthood later in his life was a reflection of how he never stopped seeking and growing. Indeed, the gifts God gave him were lived into admirably. He was a great friend, and I thank God for the quiet, relentless, striving for the good that so typified Larry's life."

Survivors include his wife, Judy, of Pendleton; son Robin, of Taos, N.M., daughter Shawna Rew-Blanc of Pendleton, four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.