

The Oregon Trail Evangelist

a diocesan edition of Episcopal Journal



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON

OCTOBER 2011

Convention business includes look at the diocese's funding, and its future

When the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon holds its 41st annual convention in Hermiston Oct. 14-16, the theme is "Sing a New Song!"

St. John's, Hermiston is convention host.

The convention speaker, the Rev. Eric Law, will focus on "Holy Currencies"--money and sustainable ministry.

Delegates will be asked to approve a \$472,442 budget for 2012, which, because of staff reductions reflects a steady decrease in recent years, down from \$583,745 in 2010, \$499,72 in 2011.

The budget reduces the diocesan assessment on parishes from the long-standing 25 percent to 22.5 percent.

It increases the support to Ascension School Camp and Conference center from \$60,000 in 2011 to \$70,000 for 2012. It funds a communications budget that allows for six issues of The Oregon Trail Evangelist and 12 issues of Episcopal

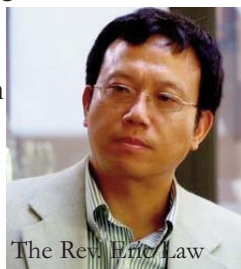
Journal.

Two meetings during convention--one on Friday evening, the other on Saturday morning, will allow delegates to meet with Jerry Frazier, diocesan treasurer, and members of Diocesan Council to review and ask questions about the budget.

Frazier, in his budget message, said the proposed budget "has the tenor of being 'pivotal' in many, many ways. Our resources to continue as a diocese are still adequate, but limited, and the course of our future is still in flux."

The diocesan assessment also is the subject of a resolution to be voted on by delegates. Proposed by the vestry of St. Paul's, The Dalles, it would drop the assessment to 17.5 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Threaded through convention, but



The Rev. Eric Law

not on the agenda for a specific session, will be the consideration of what the future holds for EDEO.

Members of the task force on diocesan futures confronted the issue in 2010, and submitted a list of assumptions adopted at Diocesan Council's retreat last November.

Models for the future of the diocese also were considered at parish meetings held around the diocese this summer.

"We're going to be talking about the future, we're going to be taking stock of the resources we have and taking seriously the call that God has given us and seeing how those things come together," said the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera.

There will be a Saturday afternoon ingathering for Haiti and Here, the diocesan effort that asked parishes to raise money to rebuild the cathedral complex in Haiti. During Sunday's Eucharist the Rev. Dcn. Kathy Macek, will be ordained to the priesthood.



St. Matthew's parishioner Wally Kinney arranges items for the church's Man Cave sale. Tim Lanterman photo

St. Matthew's Man Cave sale brings 'em in

The men at St. Matthew's, Ontario set some ground rules when they planned their Sept. 10 yard sale at the church: No candles. No picture frames. And NO clothes.

What they wanted for their Man Cave Sale, Junior Warden Tim Lanterman said, was guy stuff: sporting goods, tools, yard and gardening gear.

Getting the guys to surrender their stuff turned out to be the challenge, Lanterman admitted. "I gotta be honest with you, we had a difficult time. One of the ladies of the church wrote us a \$40 check--she said, my husband won't give up anything."

In the end, "We really didn't get many tools," Lanterman said. "Mostly fishing and camping stuff. We had a lot more than tools. It still turned out okay."

Okay, and speedy too: the sale tables, including one filled with books and videotapes, were pretty much cleaned out in two hours. The \$700 earned went into St. Matthew's building maintenance fund.

The big ticket items were a table saw for \$50 and a couple of "nice big tents" which sold for \$30 and \$40. Most of the rest was priced between \$3 and \$10.

Members of the women's guild at St. Matthews brought pies and brownies to sell "and those just flew," Lanterman said. "We figured men eat, right?"

"Next year," he said, "we're going to have more pies."

Habitat house is joyful work for St. Paul's

At St Paul's, The Dalles, they call it "Janeal's house," the Habitat house that the parish is sponsoring for fellow parishioner Janeal Booren--with members putting in long hours helping with construction.

When it's done next spring the house will be home for Booren and her young sons Dain and Sage. A lifelong resident of The Dalles, Booren runs the community food bank there.

Groundbreaking for the 1,100 square foot house was May 22.

The Rev. Janet Fullmer said more than a dozen members of St. Paul's, plus others from the community, have been working on the house three to five days a week--persevering through a stretch of blazingly hot weather. Booren's mother Andrea Booren, who is a member of St. Paul's vestry, provides snacks for workers.



Young Corey Fischer found something to teethe on when he and his father, A.J. Fischer were watching his older sisters be confirmed by Bishop Nedi Rivera at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls. Photo by Kerry Tingley

At convention, 'a new song indeed'

Sing A New Song!

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

In the last two plus years I have been with you, I have often found it necessary to get the group singing.

Now to a whole lot of people, that means find the book, find the keyboardist or guitarist, read the music and finally, sing.

But many of you have discovered that it can be a whole lot easier than that. Many of you have sung:

Praise the God of all creation, alleluia!

Praise the same God in our midst, alleluia!

You been so good at singing it, that you have sung it in a round.

At Family Camp we sang it in three-part round with the Doxology floating over the top as a fourth part. It was amazing!

This is music that is singable-it needs no accompaniment, but if you want to, you can add simple chords. It is music that makes people discover possibilities they didn't see before they started singing.

This is music written by the Rev. Dr. Eric Law – our keynote speaker for Convention 14-16 October in Hermiston.

No the Convention isn't about music, but it is about *Singing a New Song*.

It is about finding our new song and singing it to the world. At Convention we will be learning what gifts we have and what gifts we need to make our new future come to pass.

As you know, change doesn't happen just because we make a decision to change. It's like learning a new song – we have to learn the words and the tune, we have to practice and put the parts together – steps to beautiful music.

This fall we are reading the stories of liberation from the book of Exodus. We have heard the story of Moses' call to liberate his people– finding the burning bush and saying "no thank you" to God, challenging Pharaoh to let the people go, and crossing the Red Sea.

Perhaps the hardest part, though, was those 40 years in the wilderness – the time it took them to change from being fearful, anxious slaves to a free and faithful people ready to claim God's Promise.

Convention will begin by look-



ing at how we are on a similar journey.

On Friday night we will celebrate accomplishments, changes and new ministry as we revisit the work EDEO did at the 2006 Convention. (And you thought you'd never see that newsprint again!!!) Eric Law will be with us to offer insights on what he sees and hears.

Then we will learn that it isn't all about leeks and cucumbers and onions. Eric will be our keynoter speaking on sustainability and holy currencies.

As the Convention continues, he will provide regular reflections on our work together, offer workshops and preach on Sunday.

Eric is an amazing leader: A truly creative thinker, writer, teacher, preacher, composer and artist.

We've asked him to help us think about what it means to have sustainable congregations and diocese. I think you'll find that for him it isn't about either scarcity or abundance – it's about something else (come and listen!)

Just before Convention, Eric will offer the 13 hour workshop: Inclusive Communities – which will help us to build inclusive churches, something all of us want to continue to learn to be. This course will also fulfill General Convention's resolution that church leaders do regular anti-racism training. I'm looking forward to getting my training updated and expanded. Please join me, it costs only \$25 – a bargain!

Another thing that will happen before Convention are two (count 'em) opportunities for you to meet

with Diocesan Treasurer Jerry Frazier and members of Diocesan Council to hear about the budget and ask questions.

I encourage you to attend one (or both!) of them: Friday evening 6-7.15 p.m. or Saturday morning 7.15-8 a.m. This is a generous offering by our treasurer and others for you to get in depth answers to budget questions. We hope you will take advantage of it.

AND! There will be dancing!!! The terrific people of St John's, Hermiston have found a band and caller who will teach us contra dancing!

This is your opportunity to dance with a wide variety of folks from all over the diocese and to have fun. (If you can't dance it will be fun to watch.) Dinner that night will be barbeque!

A new song indeed: new conversations and next steps in our diocesan discernment process, discovering how we will continue to be Christ's hands in the world; workshops on Stewardship, Holy Currencies, the Anglican Covenant and Singing with Eric; the celebration of our special offerings for Haiti and Here; dancing and barbeque, confirmation and even an ordination!! Perhaps we will be Singing a New Song – one that proclaims with thanksgiving all that God is doing through us and for us.. Blessings, Nedi

Clergy updates

The Rev. Alison Dingley's first day as interim rector at Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton, was Oct. 1. She has been priest in charge at St. Paul's, Klamath Falls and St. Barnabas, Bonanza since November 2008. Dingley, who moved to EDEO from the Diocese of Hawaii, served St. Paul's, The Dalles, as interim for two years before she took the post at Klamath Falls. She presently is president of diocesan Standing Committee.

The Rev. Ted Rodrigues is on three-month sabbatical leave from Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters; the Rev. W. Paul Morton is filling in during Rodrigues' absence.

Until July, Morton was missional priest at St. Alban's, Redmond.

The Rev. Chuck Christopher now is serving St. Alban's on a six-month contract. He will lead Sunday worship twice each month.

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The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, founded as the Missionary District of Eastern 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,
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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
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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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Candidates for diocesan offices

Standing Committee: elect one lay, one clergy member



The Rev. Jim Mosier St. Matthew's, Ontario

Occupation: priest; retired from the juvenile justice field.

Position sought: clergy member of Standing Committee

Parish activities: Lifelong member of the Episcopal Church in eastern Oregon; member of the Cursillo community, served on the Bishop's Search Committee, Commission on Ministry. Ordained to the diaconate in 1985.

Statement: I have conducted a study of the relationship between the faith community and the Oregon Department of Human Services, conducting community forums throughout the region; this resulted in new partnerships between public agencies and the faith-based service providers. Twenty five years of experience in diaconal ministry. One year of experience as priest and rector of a parish.



The Rev. Ted Rodrigues Transfiguration, Sisters

Occupation: priest

Position sought: clergy member of Standing Committee

Parish activities: Vicar, St. Timothy's, Gridley, CA, 6 years; rector, St. Barnabas, Portland, 13 years; Rector, Transfiguration, Sisters, 5 years. Experienced the church in urban, suburban and rural settings.

Statement: During my 24 years of ordained ministry I have served on many diocesan committees and boards in the dioceses of Northern California, Oregon and Eastern Oregon. In EDEO I have served on Diocesan Council, Standing Committee (including a term as president) and on the Futures of the Diocese Committee.

Lay alternate General Convention delegates: elect one or more



Terry Rahmsdorff Trinity, Bend

Occupation: public defense lawyer

Position sought: lay alternate GC delegate

Parish activities: Lifelong Episcopalian, served on vestry, Trinity rector's search committee co-chair, Diocesan Council member for the five years, co-chair last two years.

Statement: I enjoy the committee and convention process and I look forward to learning more about the governance of my church.

Proposed resolutions would alter canons, lower parish assessments

Delegates to Diocesan Convention will vote on a resolution submitted by the vestry of St. Paul's, The Dalles, that would drop the current diocesan assessment on parishes from 25 percent to 17.5 percent, effective in 2012.

Noting that "many, if not all of the churches" in the diocese are operating with deficit budgets, the resolution says a lower assessment would assist churches in narrowing that deficit "while trying to maintain a vibrant life in their communities." The 17.5 percent assessment resulted from a survey of 46 dioceses in the U.S. that found assessments ranging from seven percent in Virginia to 23 percent in Minnesota and Spokane.

Another resolution, submitted by Diocesan Council, would amend the canon to allow interim clergy seat, voice and vote at Convention.

Diocesan Council: elect two clergy, two lay members

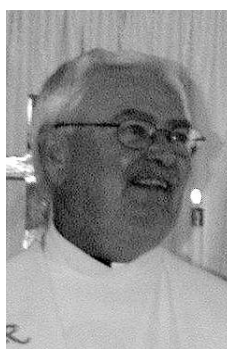


The Rev. Dcn. Roger Fairfield Transfiguration, Sisters

Position sought: clergy member of Diocesan Council
Occupation; deacon; retired digital logic design engineer

Parish activities: At Transfiguration, coordinates firewood cutting, splitting and distribution ministry; twice served as senior warden and junior warden at former parish in Cupertino, CA

Statement: What I will bring to council if elected is a passion for missional ministry...the way we operate as a diocese will not make it in the future--we need to make a significant change in the way we meet the world. We must get outside the four walls of our congregations, work together, and really be God's hands in the world, No Excuses!



The Rev. Rich Landrith St. Luke's, Lakeview

Position sought: clergy member of diocesan council
Occupation: priest at St. Luke's, Stated Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian, Lakeview

Parish activities: at First Presbyterian, responsible for oversight, spiritual development, pastoral care, governance and liturgy for congregation of 70+. Provide same functions at St. Luke's. Served on Presbytery of the Cascades Congregational Support Committee.

Statement: Every day is an ecumenical experience for me. I am well organized, a good steward of my time and do not take responsibility lightly. I sometimes feel far removed from our diocese and would like to be more involved. I have considerable strengths to bring to Council and look forward to serving.



Kim McClain Trinity, Bend

Position sought: lay member of diocesan council
Occupation: Quality Assurance Specialist at a software company

Parish activities: In Arizona, former parish administrator; lay minister for evangelism and discipleship; EFM graduate; morning and evening prayer leader; altar guild; member of Daughters of the King, hospitality, outreach chair; adult ed presenter.

Statement: I can offer my skills in finance/business administration/process analysis to the council, along with my spiritual gifts of service and discernment. I have a strong understanding of the Episcopal Church and would be honored to help with the future direction of the diocese. My recent parishes had a good lay ministry vision which gives me a different insight.



Sue Powers St. Mark's Episcopal/Good Shepherd Lutheran, Madras

Position sought: lay member of diocesan council
Occupation: retired rancher

Parish activities: Former Sunday school teacher, vestry member, lay reader and LEM, senior warden; served on both Standing Committee and Diocesan Council; EFM graduate and Cursillista.

Statement: I am completing a term on Diocesan Council and would be honored to continue to work on the challenges council has currently undertaken for another term.

Around the diocese: building, selling, confirming

Building “Janeal’s House,” a crew that includes several members of St. Paul’s, The Dalles, work on the Habitat for Humanity house that will be home to parishioner Janeal Booren when it’s complete next spring.

Photo by Ron Fullmer



Sorel boots to a string trimmer: St. Matthew’s Junior Warden Tim Lanterman, left, with donations for the Man Cave sale; center, organizers Fran McLean, Bob Lanterman, Chuck Locey; right, Fran McLean arranges the goods.



Confirmations at St. Luke’s, Lakeview, and St. Paul’s, Klamath Falls

We receive you into the fellowship of this communion...



The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera and the Rev. Richard Landrith (top and left) confirm John and Karen Bunch at St. Luke’s, Lakeview.

Confirmants at St. Paul’s, Klamath Falls included Steve Eddy, pictured (right) with the Rev. Alison Dingley, Bishop Rivera, and sponsor Amy Hollweger.

St. Luke’s photos by Pam Warren.

St. Paul’s photo by Kerry Tingley



How do our gardens grow?

They are flourishing --and feeding the hungry-- in Milton-Freewater, Ontario and Madras



The Rev. Jim Mosier, rector of St. Matthew's, Ontario poses by the community garden next to the church. Produce grown in the garden is distributed through the Next Chapter Food Pantry, also located at St. Matthew's, in partnership with the SE Oregon Food Bank. Photo by Vicki Mosier

The phrase "greening the diocese" has a special meaning for EDEO parishes with community gardens.

At St. Matthew's, Ontario, an extensive garden of raised beds grows on a former weed patch, Oregon Rural Network, in an agreement with St. Matthew's, tends the plot.

Don Lewis, husband of the Rev. Karen Lewis, started the garden at St. James, Milton-Freewater eight years ago when Lewis was vicar there. It has eight large raised beds plus two rows of corn. Also planted: flowers for the church altar. Produce goes to the Milton-Freewater Breadbasket, to church members and neighbors.

In Madras, the Episcopal/Lutheran congregation opted for long-lived fruit and nut trees and bushes. The permaculture garden was planted in the spring of 2011.



The stately fountain at the center of the community garden at St. Matthew's, Ontario is a memorial to the late Bill Van Atta, an Ontario attorney known for his care for those in need and his generous Christian life. Van Atta was blind; the fountain is a reminder that obstacles such as blindness need not be a barrier to service to others, said the Rev. Jim Mosier.



In Madras, the congregation of St. Mark's Episcopal/ Good Shepherd Lutheran planted a community permaculture garden, naming it the Margaret Dement Garden of Good Eatin' after a longtime parishioner. Plantings include long-lived bushes and trees that yield fruit and nuts. Church members checking out the garden on a recent Sunday after church include L -R:Rita Nelson, Larry Lewis, Judy Embanks, Nancy Jasa; the Rev. Dcn. Larry Mahon; Bill Vale, Dale Heckathorn, Vern Nelson and Bill Smith.

"It was a fun moment," said the Rev. Jan Kozak. "Then we found ripe strawberries on the everbearing plants, and enjoyed those."



Members of St. James', Milton Freewater pose with some of the produce from the church's community garden. L-R: Norm Wallace, Clyde Ritter, Lynn Crawford, Elma Ritter, Margaret Campbell, Jim Phillips, Floyd Triplett, Margaret Triplett, Pat Bartlett, Bud Bartlett, Marty Nyman, Mike Crawford, Jackie Pease, Beverly McRae, Jon St. Hilaire, Patricia Bier, Alta Crawford, Diane St. Hilaire, and Barbara Coddington, junior warden. The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks and Senior Warden Wilmalu Tomlinson both were out of town the when photograph was taken.,

“Somebody’s got my back covered, all the time”

Working in prison ministry and being blind seems like an uneasy combination.

But the Rev. Doug Jerome, who started volunteering at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton in 1994, four months after he lost his eyesight in a surgical mishap, says fear doesn't enter into it.

“I’m not afraid to walk around in there,” he said. “With a guide dog on my left hand and God on my right hand--with a team like that, I’m not afraid.”

Also, he said, “somebody’s got my back covered, all the time. They’ve always told me that. I’ve learned there are some decent people out there.”

For 140 sessions, he spoke to classes of inmates about stress and anger management. “I told them more jokes than anything else,” he said.

Ordination wasn't in his plans, but the Rev. Jim Mackenzie, former priest at Redeemer, Pendleton, urged Jerome toward the diaconate. He was ordained in 1999, and ordained to the priesthood in 2002, aiming to dedicate himself to prison ministry.

He began mentoring weekly Education For Ministry classes at the prison 12 years ago. The course is expensive, “and I did a lot of begging and borrowing” to raise funds. The Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley wrote a grant that got \$12,000 for the EFM endeavor from Roanridge.

In that time, 21 men graduated from the four-year EFM course. Others dropped out, some were transferred.

Seven of the EFM graduates, he says with pride, have been released from prison and, most notably, none have come back. One is in college and getting married; another, incar-

cerated for 11 years, also has gotten married.

“That makes me feel good,” he said. “If I can help one, that’s what it’s all about.”

Jerome, 71, retired from EFM mentoring this year. He and wife Phyllis will continue to do Holy Eucharist at EOCI once a month.

“There are maybe 15-20 guys there every month, whether they like my sermons or not,” he joked.

The couple also do Christmas and Easter services for the entire prison. With Phyllis, he also takes communion to Pendleton-area nursing homes, and occasionally serves as supply priest at St. John’s, Hermiston, where their daughter Angela Pursell and her family are members.

He will miss EFM, Jerome said, “but I’ve got all these crosses I’m working on.” Cross maker Bob Despain of All Saints, Heppner got him started, he said, and he figures he’s sent at least 12,000 small wooden pocket crosses to U.S. troops.



Clockwise from top left: the Rev. Doug Jerome and his “eyes,” guide dog Taz. Above: While son-in-law Cody Pursell, Jerome’s daughter Angela and granddaughter Alexis watch, he baptizes his youngest granddaughter, Melani, at St. John’s, Hermiston. Senior Warden Leslie Weimer is assists. In May, (L) Jerome received the statewide Volunteer of the Year award from the Oregon Department of Corrections for his ministry at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. In the photo with Doug and Phyllis Jerome and Taz Czerniak, Inspector General for the state corrections department.



Highlights of diocesan council’s August meeting in Klamath Falls

Meeting at St. Paul’s, Klamath Falls in mid-August, Diocesan Council and Standing Committee:

- approved a 2011 diocesan budget that would drop the parish assessment in 2012 from 25 percent to 22.5 percent.
- Standing committee extended the term of the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera's letter of agreement to March 2013.
- approved establishment of a general endowment fund for Ascension School.
- set as a key agenda item at Diocesan Convention the review of three models for the future of EDEO. To be detailed in a document given to delegates, the models include:
 - operating with a full-time bishop, whose salary would be supported by yet-to-be-established endowment for the episcopate;
 - operating with a part-time bishop whose time might be shared with another diocese;
 - apportioning the diocese to surrounding dioceses (Oregon, Spokane, Idaho, perhaps No. California) or reattaching EDEO to its "parent," the Diocese of Oregon.
- Announcing his retirement, long-time Diocesan Chancellor James Foster, The Dalles, told the group that, although EDEO "is an incredible living entity, I do not believe it's economically viable."
- heard from Ascension School Executive Director Patty Olson Lindsey that summer camper count was higher than 2010, adult camp turnout lower.

Diocesan Calendar

October

7 Bp Rivera at St. Paul’s, The Dalles

9 Bp Rivera at All Saints of the Cascades/ SunriverChristian Fellowship

12-14 Inclusive communities workshop, St. John’s, Hermiston

14-16 Diocesan Convention, St. John’s, Hermiston

18-21 Bp Rivera at Lutheran-Episcopal Consultative Council, San Francisco

31-Nov 2 Bp Rivera at House of Bishops Planning Committee, New York City

November

11-13 Diocesan Council retreat, Ascension School, Cove

16-18 Bp Rivera at meeting of Bishops of Small Dioceses, Salt Lake City

20 Bp Rivera at St. James, Milton-Freewater

December

5-7 Bp Rivera at Presiding Bishop’s Council of Advice, New York City

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

October

2 - St. John's, Hermiston: Dan Lediard, Chuck Barnes

9 - St Luke's, Lakeview: Richard Landrith

16 - Diocesan Convention

23 - St. Mark's, Hood River: Anna Carmichael

30 - All Saints Episcopal & Hope Lutheran, Heppner: Katy Anderson

November

6 - All Saints of the Cascades/ Sunriver Christian Fellowship, Sunriver; Nancy Sargent Green

13 - Trinity, Bend: Christy Close Erskine, Jack Erskine, Gaye Lawson

20 - St. Mark's Episcopal & Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Madras: Jan Kozak, Larry Mahon

27 - St Andrew's Episcopal/ Peace Lutheran/Church of the Living Waters, Burns

December

4 - St Andrew's, Prineville: Janet Warner

News from Eastern Oregon parishes

All Saints Episcopal / Hope Lutheran, Heppner

A crew of young people from Arlington drove to Heppner each day to help with the Big Jungle Adventure Vacation Bible School, sponsored this summer by the shared ministry of All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran churches in Heppner.

As the photo to the right illustrates, the Big Jungle Adventure attracted a cool crowd.

The ministry's popular First Friday Friends of Jesus program started its second year Sept. 2.

The two churches decided in July that the Hope Council and All Saints Vestry would meet jointly for six months rather than holding separate meetings that often address similar issues without the benefit of prompt feedback from the other group.



Although there's not a pith helmet to be seen in this group picture, the kids who attended vacation bible school sponsored by All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran in Heppner this summer took part in a Big Jungle Adventure. Photo by Pat Edmundson

St. John's, Hermiston

When St. John's hosted its first-ever Neighborhood Night Out on Aug. 2, about equal numbers of parishioners and church neighbors were there, Karen Bounds reported. Neighbors helped publicize the event, and church members provided the food, from hot dogs to Hermiston watermelons. A follow-up watermelon seed spitting contest drew eight participants; winners got fast food gift certificates.

Highlight of the evening, according to Bounds, "was the appearance of a very impressive fire engine and a friendly fire crew. The kids had a great time checking out the fire truck and the firefighters joined us for some refreshments."

A women's spiritual book club is meeting weekly at St. John's. The group is reading *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. It meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

All Saints of the Cascades/ Sunriver Christian Fellowship

A new video, "Sunriver Christian Fellowship: A Work in Progress" will premier at an Oct. 9 celebration of the history and ministry of All Saints of the Cascades/ Sunriver Christian Fellowship.

Started when Episcopalians and Lutherans joined forces, it has evolved into a church that describes itself as "an ecumenical and interdenominational fellowship sponsored by the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches."

SCF worships in the local Catholic church, an arrangement that allows a major thrust to outreach, helping to fund programs that assist the needy in south Deschutes County with food, housing, scholarships, and provide help for elderly and disabled persons who want to stay in their homes.

St. Andrew's, Prineville

Discretionary funds at St. Andrew's, Prineville in June and July let the parish help two families with their rent, for a total of \$382.50, and help three families with their electricity bill, for a total of \$306.79.

The first Sunday each month, the plate offering is deposited into St. Andrew's discretionary fund. The money can be accessed by the parish ministry team for community or individual needs in emergency situations.

St. Mark's Episcopal/ Good Shepherd Lutheran, Madras

"We all minister as Christ's hands at work in the world!" says a note next to the ministry scorecard regularly published in the newsletter of St. Mark's/ Good Shepherd. Total, January through August: 1,910 hours.

That includes time spent at community services ranging from Al-Anon to the Habitat Re-Store, from the library to the Senior Center and veterans ministry, as well as hours spent with children and youth, as caregivers, with Mbeals on Wheels and Relay for Life.

Also in the first eight months of 2011, church members donated more than six tons of food to the local food bank.

The Rev. Jan Kozak is starting a two year confirmation class: this year students will study the Luther Small Catechism; next year, the bible.

Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters

Transfiguration's 2011 Country Fair and Art Show was attended in "high numbers and with great enthusiasm by our congregation and our friends from the community," according to an article in the church's monthly newsletter.

"The church and the grounds were filled with families and friends playing, laughing, petting animals, enjoying wonderful food, buying produce, bidding on Silent Auction items and enjoying works of art."

Although County Fair and Art Show Treasurer Frank Guthrie still was working on the tabulation of how much money earned at the event will be distributed to local aid agencies, he said he expected it would be the event's second highest total, with distributings totaling about \$14,000.

"We pray that God will continue to bless us in future years with the support and dedication necessary to present these wonderful events that assist the needy in our community," the newsletter report said.

Barbara Rimmer of Transfiguration offered a useful reminder for people faced with fire danger and possible evacuation, a Central Oregon reality, but applicable to any disaster.

Keep the Six P's in mind, Rimmer advised: People. Pets. Plastic (credit cards). Paper (ideally cash). Pills. Pictures (of valuables for insurance purposes.) A seventh P to consider for the list: comPuter.

“An abundantly full summer” at Ascension

By Patty Olson
Lindsey, Ascension
School Executive
Director

Summer camp started with our second annual Film Camp, a camp facilitated by Ascension School’s partnership with Eastern Oregon University’s Media Arts program and the Oregon Writing Project.

Film Camp was another brilliant week of enthusiasm for education and creativity. Cori Brewster, Summer Camp Program Director, and I couldn’t be more enthusiastic about the success of our partnership with EOU.

It has been a great networking tool to reach out to community partners and to families that really need educational opportunities outside of the traditional school environment.

Because we had such great success with Film Camp in 2010 the Ascension School Board, and others who participated in the visioning retreat in July 2010 decided that we should add another education-based camp to our schedule.

Cori connected with the Oregon Writing Project and ESTEEM, a local non-profit whose mission is to empower teens through education, to create *Mirrors of Me*, a girls writing and arts camp.

After we made those initial community connections we heard from Clover Haven, an equine therapy program, the local Soroptimist Chapter and the local Rotary, who all wanted to partner with us to make *Mirrors of Me* Camp a success.

We provided an opportunity for girls to be creative and connect with other girls in a safe and empowering environment. It also strengthened our identity, showing Ascension as a Christian camp that is working with the community to bring these kinds of opportunities to families in our valley.

We kept on having successes all season with our traditional summer camping program. The campers truly were “Christ’s Hands in the World” this summer.

Senior and Junor High campers decided that one of their goals should be reducing hunger. “We set our goal to raise \$500 for the Cove Food Pantry,” said camper Hannah Wicklander.

All summer long the campers tended the camp garden and sold produce and handmade crafts at the Cove Farmer’s Market, held on the Ascension School Grounds every Thursday in the summer.

They raised over \$600 and donated almost 75 bags of produce to the food pantry.

“I’m so proud of them for exceeding their expectations,” said Summer Camp Director Cori Brewster. “They set a high goal and they met it and well exceeded.



The most exciting thing for me to see was the campers’ belief in their own ability to make a difference, both as individuals and as a camp.

It was an especially important time to strengthen our relationship with the Cove Food Pantry as it is struggling, like most food pantries in Oregon. The theme and the activities gave campers a chance to look inward and then to find a hands-on ways to love and serve your neighbors and not just the neighbors that you are living in community with, but neighbors that you don’t know.

In August 2010, I sat down with Bishop Rivera and the Commission on Ministry to brainstorm programming for the coming year. We reviewed Program Surveys that I sent out in the spring, and saw that many people in the diocese were asking for retreats and programming focused on spiritual



renewal--themes that our 2011 adult programs focused on.

At *Up to the Mountain to Pray*, the theme for Adult Ed 2011, people participated in a variety of spiritual practice workshops that were offered. Bishop Nedi brought the retreat together with spiritual and biblical reflection.

People were so excited and thrilled about what happened at Adult Ed that they planned next year’s Adult Ed: *Many Paths One Mountain*—the spiritual practices of world religion.

Bishop Rivera, Ascension Hospitality Manager Lisa Boquist and I led Harry Potter

Family Camp. The Rev. Dcn. Kathy Macek of St. Peter’s La Grande and her husband, Thorman Hulse also played a big role. The schedule included worship, music, great meals, cool classes for wizards young and old, free time for families and individuals and reflection time for older teens and adults.

“Our hope was that we would help families deepen their connection to God and help campers discover the many powers God has given us to make Love more evident and active in our world,” Bishop Rivera said.

The 2011 camping season came to a close with a beautiful service on the lawn of the Ascension School Chapel. Bishop Rivera baptized three children at Harry Potter Family Camp while their family and fellow campers watched.

It has been an abundantly full summer, with lots of love and laughter in the halls of Ascension School.

We are already planning the next season. Ascension School is our gift to share with eastern Oregon and beyond. I ask you to commit to coming to Ascension next year and to bring someone with you to share this wonderfully Episcopal vision of Christ.”

Clockwise from top left: Beginners Camp; Junior High Camp, canoeing at Jubilee Lake; Film Camp; Senior High campers learn Contra Dancing; Camp Resident Staff (L-R: Hannah Whitelock-Wolff, Alex Smith, La Grande; Charlie Hammerich, Bonanza; Cori Brewster; Claire Dawson, Ontario; Cody Matthai, Prineville; Isabel Feibert, Ontario not pictured Jessie Swain) Junior High campers; Combined Campers at Cove Farmers’ market. All photos except for staff photo by Cori Brewster.