



At 92, Helen Deatherage lives the “love your neighbor” rule

In a recent Neighbor to Neighbor Update for *The Fisherman*, the parish newsletter of St. Peter’s, La Grande, Helen Deatherage observed that “Our economy is still sliding so we see more people needing help in feeding their families.”

In August, she wrote, “we distributed boxes of food to a record-breaking number of 323 people of whom 121 were children.”

But it was a record that didn’t stand for long. Neighbor to Neighbor Ministries, a food bank supported by 12 La Grande churches, gave out 460 food boxes on December 20.

“It seems like there are more businesses that are cutting down or closing,” says Deatherage, 92, who’s been involved with programs to feed the hungry for more than 25 years.

Among the latest wave of hungry people, she says “are men home from the service and trying to find jobs.”

Neighbor to Neighbor started with a grant-funded soup kitchen at St. Peter’s, which quickly outgrew the space available. It now distributes food on the third Saturday of the month from the Valley Fellowship Church, using a mobile home for



extra storage.

The food distribution started “when people ran out of money and food stamps at the end of the month,” Deatherage says. “Now of course we give out enough food to last them a week, because there’s more need.” Also, “Every Tuesday morning we set up tables at the food bank and serve 128 households or so” with items donated by Safeway,

Albertson’s and Wal-Mart.

Neighbor to Neighbor is entirely run by volunteers. “This is a great community,” she says.

The group also serves community-supported dinners on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. On Thanksgiving, 260 people came to dinner. “There was little food left over--the turkey lasted to the last person, but none remained,” Deatherage says.

“I can still get around, and I love doing it,” Deatherage says of volunteering. “I like the people--and who wants to sit at home?”

A member of St. Peter’s since she and her late husband moved to La Grande in 1952, she jokes that her age can be an asset. “If I ask somebody to help, they hate to turn me down. Who can turn down this old white-haired lady?”



Mount Adams, Washington, from Hood River.
photo by Jeanie Senior

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Meredith Wilson, a parishioner at St. Stephen’s, Baker City, shows visitors features of the historic church, one of several in Eastern Oregon built in the 1870s by the Rev. Reuben Denton Nevius. St. Stephen’s was a stop on Baker City’s annual Historic Homes Tour in December. The church also offered visitors cider and hot gingerbread.
photo by Charlene Chase



A vestry meeting at St. James’, Milton-Freewater, one of the parishes in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon where the vestry is composed of the whole congregation. In photo, L-R: Malinda Pankl; Alta Crawford, secretary; Beverly McRae; Lynn Crawford, treasurer; Pat Bier; Wilmalu Tomlinson, Sr. Warden; Jim Phillips; Floyd Triplett; Jackie Pease; Margaret Triplett; Lynette Forthman; Jon St. Hilaire; Norman Wallace; the Rev. Rebecca Hendricks; Diana St. Hilaire.

When the vestry includes everybody in the church

At St. Barnabas, Bonanza, St. James’, Milton-Freewater and St. Thomas, Canyon City, the vestry consists of the entire parish. The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks of St. James explains how it works.

I was reminded again on Sunday that St. James is a parish that enjoys vestry meetings.

It wasn’t always that way. I’m sure several of us recall serving our terms sitting around the table during long evening meetings with even longer agendas.

But a few years ago we went to an

“all church” vestry. Instead electing a few to be responsible for governance of the parish, we are all responsible and everyone has a direct voice.

Part of the enjoyment is we simply like being together. Whether we gather around the altar for the Eucharist or gather around the table filled with our favorite finger food, it’s a satisfying place where no one goes away hungry in any sense of the word.

I especially like the way everyone is invited to fill a plate and join the meeting—regular members, visitors, and

(continued on page four)



Bishop Nedi Rivera (far right) listens to a discussion during the Diocesan Council Retreat, held in November at Ascension School in Cove. Council members (from left) are Ruth Tsu, St. Mark's, Hood River; the Rev. Dcn. Steve Schafroth, St. Paul's, The Dalles; and Robert Fox, Trinity, Bend.

photo by Jeanie Senior

Greetings from Bishop Rivera

Futures conversations are coming

Beloved in Christ,

I am writing this in Scranton, Pennsylvania on the road to Yarmouth, Maine where our oldest grandson will be celebrating his 5th birthday on Saturday.

We left Cincinnati about fifteen hours earlier than planned, rushing out of town because we were warned in a dream (actually we heard it from the angel who is my daughter) that a great storm was coming. She and her family were worried about us driving in the storm. We were worried about the backed up traffic. So at supper Bob and I looked at each other and said, "Can we be on the road by eight?"

We started to make a list of things we had to do before leaving (including calling the cat sitters for an extra shift) but got sidetracked with the urgency of getting on the road.

I packed up my sewing machine and frantically laid out flannel and patterns on the dining room table so I could cut the pieces of my Christmas sewing projects get them ready to take with me to sew on the road. At eight Bob came downstairs and asked, "Can we leave by 9?" I was almost finished cutting so I assured him we could. Finally about quarter of 9 I went upstairs to pack. We left at 9:05.

When we got to the motel in Akron I discovered the various things I had left behind and also that I was wearing one argyle sock and one polka dotted one. I am hoping I brought the extra fabric for Lily's pajamas because I think the markings (which I made with a Sharpie pen) are showing on the pastel flannel.

I tell you all this in reflection on what is up with the Task Force for Diocesan Futures. (Nota bene! This is only my reflection. I am not the spokesperson for the Task Force.)

What we want to avoid is a similar kind of craziness. We want to be careful about artificial deadlines. We

want to make sure our list is carefully and lovingly complete. We hope that in this way we (EDEO) will be flexible and ready for whatever the future holds.

As we have done our work and researched various plans and models, we have discovered that The Plan may not be the way to go, that any box we may put ourselves into too soon may limit our ability to be flexible and agile.

Instead we have noted what elements are important – what the edges and corners of this puzzle need to look like.

What is essential for us to continue and thrive in ministry in Eastern Oregon? And with partners in other parts of the world?

We wrestled, for instance, with the question of whether or not we need a bishop at all. (We decided we do and not just because we are an Episcopal church, but also because we know what it is like to go without.)

Diocesan Council has had a first look at the assumptions and wrestled with them some more. After the January Council meeting members of Council will finalize them and propose some next steps.

Then the members of Council will make visits around the diocese to test the assumptions and to have conversations about the implications and next steps along the way.

Our conversations about being Missional Congregations are a good foundation for this next set of visitations – how will we be a Missional Diocese? What do we need to have in place to make good decisions for the next ten to fifteen years?

We are trying to move carefully so that nothing or no one gets left behind.

Keep your eyes and ears open for the conversation in congregation. And start thinking about your list.

*Bendición,
Nedi*

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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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Diocesan Calendar

January

5-6 Bp Rivera at Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton

14-15 Diocesan Council meeting at Trinity, Bend

16 Bp Rivera at St. Mark's, Madras

February

18-26 St. Paul's, The Dalles Haiti mission trip

21-26 New Orleans rebuild trip

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

January

2 St. Mark's Episcopal and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Madras: Jan Kozak, Larry Mahon

9 St. Alban's, Redmond: Paul Morton, Ruth Brown

16 St. Peter's, La Grande

23 St. Paul's, Klamath Falls: Alison Dingley, Martha Hurlburt

30 St. Paul's, The Dalles: Janet Fullmer, Stephen Schafroth

February

6 St. Brigid in the Pines Community Church, Sumpter

13 St. Paul's, Nyssa: Roger Williams

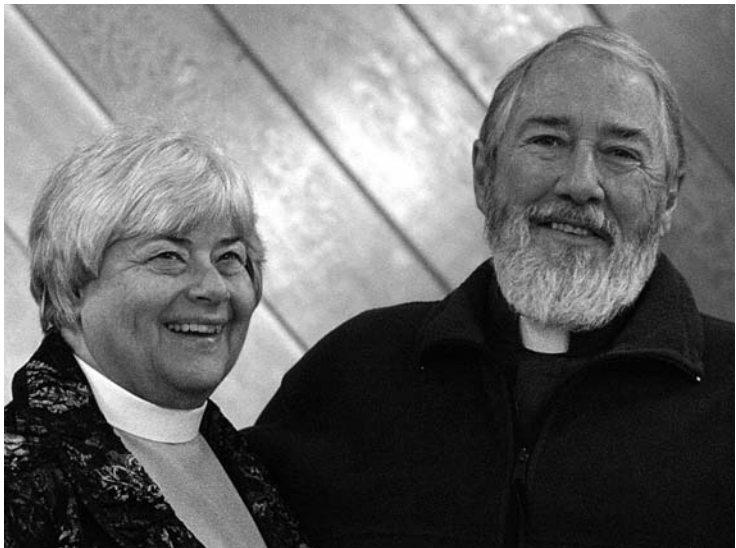
20 For all Wardens and Vestries

27 St. James, Milton-Freewater: Rebecca Hendricks

March

6 Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters: Ted Rodrigues, Jane Dey, Roger Fairfield

News from around the diocese



Now in Hermiston: the Revs. Jody and Dan Lediard. He is the new priest is St. John's; she is doing supply work.
photo courtesy of the Hermiston Herald



The Rev. Kenny King and Ann King, who recently moved to Pendleton from Texas. He started as rector at Church of the Redeemer in Pendleton on Jan. 6.

Four parishes get Bisbee grants

Four EDEO parishes will receive a total of \$7,500 in Bisbee Ministry Partnership grants in 2011.

Diocesan Council members chose recipients from six applicants who requested a total of \$23,300--all of it for programs to feed the hungry, some perhaps inspired by the ministry of Diocesan Convention speaker Sara Miles.

The largest grant, for \$2,500, went to St. Mark's, Hood River, which is upgrading its kitchen to commercial standards so it could be used for a community meals program, something that doesn't now exist in Hood River.

Trinity, Bend, received \$2,200 for the Common Table token program, a non-profit restaurant that offers meals to all, and provides vouchers enabling low-income people to eat there.

St. Paul's, Klamath Falls, got \$2,000 for Provide a Loving Meal, a meals program that offers Tuesday dinners for residents of the high poverty neighborhood where St. Paul's and First United Methodist, its partner in the program, both are located.

The fourth grant, for \$800, went to St. Stephen's, Baker City, for a startup fresh food ministry.

St. John's, Hermiston; Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton, welcome new priests to their parishes

The diocese got not one but two new Episcopal priests when St. John's, Hermiston called the Rev. Dan Lediard.

Lediard, whose first day was Nov. 1, is married to the Rev. Jody Lediard, who is doing supply work while looking for a position in the area.

Dan Lediard's celebration of new ministry will be at St. John's on Jan. 5. He is employed half-time.

The couple came to eastern Oregon from Nevada, where he was priest at St. Paul's, Virginia City and she

worked as a missionary in seven parishes in northeast Nevada. Both are locally raised; she was ordained nine years ago, he four years ago. Before her ordination, she was a registered nurse; he was an insurance agent.

Lediard's predecessor at St. John's was the Rev. Janis Johnson, who retired last year because of ill health.

The Rev. Kenny King, new rector at Church of the Redeemer, arrived at Christmas from El Paso, Tex. with his wife Ann, well in time for Bishop Nedi Rivera's visitation on Epiphany,

Jan. 6.

King, a graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific, has worked at parishes in Panama and Mississippi.

Redeemer was able to hire King full time, Senior Warden Bruce Barnes said, because the Rev. Larry Rew left a \$50,000 bequest to the church "only to be used for a rector's salary." That, together with a supplementary pledge drive, assures the church of sufficient funds for four to six years, he said.

Redeemer has been without a priest for a year, since the departure of interim, the Rev. Frank Moss.

Trinity, Bend

The Newcomer's Ministry at Trinity welcomed the church's 15 new members in its Fall Series of meetings, which included "telling stories, sharing the history of Trinity, touring the facility and answering almost 50 questions group members had about The Episcopal Church, Trinity and the community.

The church newcomers included former residents of the South, Arizona, California--and Bend.

The newcomer meetings are held three times a year; in addition, members of the ministry also follow up with phone calls and deliver welcome bags when a guest at church signs a card.

St. Peter's, La Grande

The annual Epiphany Dinner at St. Peter's includes a 5:30 p.m. Epiphany service, a social hour and a potluck; with lamb provided as the entree. Diners are asked to donate to St. Peter's outreach fund, which is dispersed to K-House at Eastern Oregon University; Neighbor to Neighbor Ministries; Alpha Communities in Mongolia; Habitat for Humanity; Shelter from the Storm and the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

St. Stephen's, Baker City

"For the first time in nearly 20 years our parish has a Vicar," Senior Warden Doug Boone wrote in the December issue of The Voice of St. Stephen's.

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake, a Baker City resident who has served since her ordination as an EDEO circuit rider, has accepted the call to serve the Baker City parish.

"What a wonderful gift!" Boone wrote.

About 75 youngsters got school clothes and coats at Free Clothes for Kids, the second annual clothing give-away at St. Mark's, Hood River. The clothing came from community donations--one man brought in three brand-new children's coats--and from school Lost and Found collections. At left, Carolyn Hagener and Camilla Wishart sort clothes; below parents and kids select items.





Photos by Lisa Boquist, and Beth and Jim Spell.



Thanksgiving at Ascension School

It was a first for Ascension School Camp and Conference Center--a community Thanksgiving dinner, hosted by Bishop Nedi River and her husband, the Rev. Bob Moore.

About 30 people took part, most of them bringing a favorite dish to add to the traditional turkey and

fixings prepared by Ascension cook Dori Frazier. "It was a lovely, loving time," said Lisa Boquist, Ascension's hospitality manager, and the dinner organizer, who hopes to make the dinner an annual tradition. About a third of diners were eastern Oregon Episcopalians; the rest came from surrounding

communities, including a couple of Eastern Oregon University students who were invited to dine for free "as part of our outreach," she said.

Dinner was preceded by Holy Eucharist in the Ascension chapel, led by the bishop. Diners visited, and played board games in the conference room.

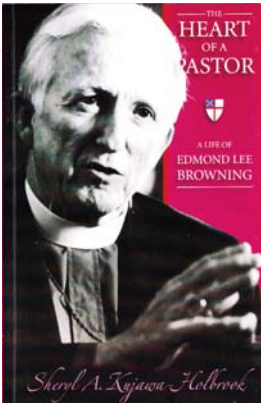
Heart of a Pastor is the story of PB Ed Browning's life and ministries

After Edmond Lee Browning was elected presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church in 1985, his acceptance speech stated his standards for the church he would be leading.

"I want to be very clear--this Church of ours is open to all--there will be no outcasts--the convictions and hopes of all will be honored."

Those much-quoted lines foretold a battle that continues in The Episcopal Church, but it also might be hailed as a starting point for the church's considerable progress in the years since.

Members of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon have a tendency to claim the former presiding bishop as their own; Ed and Patti Browning moved to the Hood River Valley after he retired in 1997.



But Forward Movement's just-published biography of Browning, *The Heart of a Pastor*, written by the Rev. Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, is a fascinating profile of the Brownings' remarkable lives and global influence, from his early years in Corpus Christi, Tex. and seminary at the University of the South to their ministry together: their first parishes, missionary work in Okinawa; his selection as a bishop, first to Okinawa, then to Europe, and his election as Bishop of Hawaii, and then presiding bishop.

During his 12-year stint as presiding bishop, The Episcopal Church dealt with issues of race, gender and sexual equality, the ordination of woman bishops, war and nuclear arms proliferation.

Laced with family photos and engaging anecdotes, the book makes it quite clear that the Brownings are a gift to the Church, for their unflinching stands on behalf of human rights and social justice.

In the preface Desmond Tutu pays tribute to a "gentle and caring" man who, with Patti, remains committed in retirement to peace and justice.

from page one

St. James' all-church vestry-- "letting go of old models"

guests alike—and almost everyone stays! It's an expression of hospitality. Whoever shows up is included and no credentials are needed.

I also appreciate how each person's voice is heard and each person's opinion is valued. While people may view an issue from different sides, we seem to reach consensus. Since everyone has the opportunity to attend and speak, we seldom hear the complaint that one's opinion wasn't solicited!

While being a small parish may be challenging in some areas, it's also a

gift. We don't spend a great deal of time on administrative issues.

Letting go of old models which no longer fit allows us to stop thinking about what don't have or can't do.

Instead we gradually have come to consider new ways we can respond to God's call to be the Church in our small, rural agrarian community.

Much more of our attention and resources are focused on mission, outreach, education, and upcoming events.

All of this, of course, is interspersed with friendly banter!

Budget cutbacks lead to reduced TD office hours

The diocesan office in The Dalles will be closed on Fridays in 2011, and visitors to the office on Mondays and Thursdays likely will have to call the office first to gain admission because the door will be locked.

Diane Adams, the bishop's executive secretary, will be working Monday-Thursday, a practice she began in 2010.

However, because of budget reductions, Business Manager Tiiu Vahtel will be on the job just 10 days a month through October, working on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. With both Adams and Vahtel in the office, the office will be open those days.

When just one staff member is working, Adams said, it will be locked for security reasons.

Adams also will be on sabbatical, and out of the office from the last week of March until Easter.

For that month, the office will be open only on Tuesday and Wednesday and "there will be

unscheduled closures because Tiiu will not be covering for me," Adams said.

People can leave either voice mail or email messages if the office is closed, she said. "We will return calls, and we will check emails when we come into the office. We will get back to them as soon as possible."

Editor's note:

Look for changes with next paper, and a fund-raising effort in 2011

The *Episcopal News Monthly* newspaper accompanying the January *Oregon Trail Evangelist* is the last issue of that newspaper: The Episcopal Church decided late in 2010 to discontinue print publications.

A new publication, *Episcopal Journal*, will publish its inaugural issue in February, and subsequent issues of the *Evangelist* will include the new paper; EDEO is one of 12 diocesan partners for the *Journal*, which is edited by Jerry Hames, long-time editor of *Episcopal Life*.

The *Journal* will carry news of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, as well as features and opinion pieces.

EDEO's money crunch prompts the fund-raising. The 2011 communications budget anticipates the need to raise sufficient money to keep the *Evangelist* coming to diocesan households, through individual subscriptions and sponsorships from parishes and individuals. More information about how to help will be available in January.