

The Oregon Trail Evangelist

a diocesan edition of Episcopal Journal



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON

DECEMBER 2011

Bishop Rivera says
“It’s our
turn to
teach the
church--”

Below, an excerpt from Bishop Nedi Rivera’s address to the 41st annual Diocesan Convention, hosted by St. John’s, Hermiston. The convention theme was “Sing a New Song.”

The bishop’s complete address is posted on the diocesan website..

I was in conversation with a few of my brother bishops last month and we were talking about possibilities for EDEO. They asked me “Do these people love each other?” I was pleased to say, without hesitation, “Why yes, they do.”

We are in a wonderful place. We aren’t in the Promised Land, but we’re on our way.

We aren’t even at Mount Nebo yet. The Hebrews marched around (to page two)



Holy currencies, ordination, covenant, music, occupy delegates to Diocesan Convention

HERMISTON--Delegates to the 41st annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon approved a resolution that directed the bishop, standing committee and diocesan council to continue efforts to remain the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and to have a bishop.

The resolution charged the council with the responsibility to identify and develop financial resources to sustain that vision.

Delegates also passed a resolution recommending that The Episcopal Church “respectfully decline to ratify” the proposed Anglican Communion

Covenant.

They looked at the concept of Holy Currencies, offered by the Rev. Dr. Eric Law, keynote speaker, and considered his six currencies for a sustainable missional ministry: time and place, leadership, relationship, truth, wellness and money.

Those “currencies,” Law said, are a cycle of blessings that can flow into one another and expand abundantly.

And on Sunday, they welcomed a new priest to the diocese, with the ordination of the Rev. Kathryn Macek, presently interim at St. Peter’s, La Grande.



Top photo: Delegates join hands at Diocesan Convention. Above, right: Bishop Nedi Rivera kneels to receive a blessing from newly-ordained priest the Rev. Kathryn Macek.

Photos by Jeanie Senior

Sewing group’s little dresses go to Africa



Members of four John Day-area churches pose in front of St. Thomas, Canyon City, where they met to sew the little dresses they are displaying. The dresses went to girls in Africa. L-R: Zola Pike, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship; Bobbie Gilmore, Redeemer Lutheran; Anne Gochnour, Cornerstone; Bonnie Kocis, Redeemer; Beth Spell, St. Thomas Episcopal.

About 100 little dresses and 16 pairs of boys shorts brightened the parish house at St. Thomas, Canyon City earlier this year, before they were mailed off to Africa.

This summer, the project was layettes: about 100 receiving blankets and onesies went to Kenya.

The items were made by an ecumenical group of seamstresses who meet at the parish house twice a month. According to Beth Spell of St. Thomas, they bring their sewing machines and form an assembly line, sharing the tasks of cutting and pressing and finishing. A lot of the fabric used came from their own fabric stashes, Spell said.

Many St. Thomas members also donated or purchased fabric, thread and trim; others gave money for postage. “We called our storage closet ‘the magic closet’ --every week when we looked in it there would be more fabric,” she said. “The closet is stuffed at the moment.”

Next sewing project: hygiene kits for girls in third world countries. Find info at dayforgirls.org

Bishop Rivera's convention address, continued

(from page one)

the Sinai Peninsula for 40 years, so our few years is really only a drop in the bucket. (I know that for some of you it feels like forever. Feel free to murmur and mumble!)

We have spent a great deal of time talking about the models for the future of the diocese and the models for a future bishop. You have told us what you think and what you hope for . . . but there is not yet a consensus, a straight path forward.

We are called, I believe, to some more months of conversation and discovery. However, there are some conclusions I believe we can draw from our previous conversations and perhaps we can move forward a little by setting aside some of the baggage we have been carrying:

First, there is little enthusiasm for folding EDEO into other dioceses or reuniting with the diocese of Oregon. For a few of you these seem like the realistic options – finances being what they are – but for most of you there is a sense that we have a unique calling, and character to care for the *microi* that seems to mean we must be firmly planted here in Eastern Oregon.

Second, there is even less enthusiasm for building an endowment to support a full time bishop. While some believe the resources are there, and are willing to work on this, not many are willing at this time, to risk staking our future on that possibility.

However, there does seem to be support for some kind of Missional Bishop – but we don't really know what we mean by that. So, while I think we don't yet have a consensus on the way forward, I believe the signposts are out there. These several different understandings will give us clues about the direction we are called to go.

In Eastertide of 2000 I walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. I had a map, but it didn't always help. Some of the terrain was farm country (sometimes when I drive in parts of Eastern Oregon I remember my trek through Spain) some of the paths were just that, paths, and sometimes one just has to walk cross country.

What a pilgrim depends on when walking the Camino, are *flechas amarillas* –yellow arrows painted on fence posts, trees, the path itself, the sides of barns and pubs. In our pilgrimage, I think we have begun to catch sight of the *flechas*. They're not as close together as we would like, but they are there. They are:

■ **Mission.** We want to be a church in mission – proclaiming God's love to the world in word and deed. We want to make a difference in the place we are planted, and usually, in a less direct way, in the world.

■ **Relationships.** We want to love deeply, because we know that as we grow closer to one another and those whom we are called to serve, we will grow closer to God.

■ **Integrity.** We want to live in faith that takes God at God's word – knowing that God is with us, that God calls us. And as we were reminded last night, we want to live knowing that when God calls us, God gives us what we need to accomplish the work we have been given to do. We want to be people who take the gospel seriously.

■ **Creativity.** We know the old ways won't work the way they used to, so we're open to thinking out of the box.

Sing a new song! I realized this week that we probably haven't seen the right model yet. It will be a new thing. That it will emerge out of the old ones as we die to our preconceptions that limited our wild and crazy possibilities.

However, when we started talking partnerships a question about whether or not we could be a truly ecumenical diocese/synod/conference appeared. I was intrigued...I wonder if the ecumenical dimension has the most potential, even if it is the hardest one to pull off? One quarter of our congregations are structurally ecumenical – each in their own way. Others of you are vigorously ecumenical in your life and ministry

In South India, the Christians make up about 1-2% of the population. Forty years ago there were several Protestant denominations serving that 1-2%. They believed that not only was such competition unsustainable, it was moreover, and more importantly, a scandal to

the gospel. So, with a lot of work, years of negotiations, and deep, deep prayer, congregations, dioceses, conferences, presbyteries, synods, etc., came together to become the Church of South India – or CSI.

They are a vibrant church made up of what were once Reformed, Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican congregations.

In their goal to make the gospel more visible to those around them, they each let go of something that had once seemed essential, and created a wonderful, vibrant and fun church. I wonder, what can CSI teach us? What do our ecumenical congregations in all their variety have to teach us?

So, while it is clear we don't know clearly where the path is, we have a few *flechas*. Eric will, I am sure, give us a few more.

Perhaps we will begin to articulate what it is we are called to do together that we cannot do separately.

Perhaps we will begin to see how our currencies are made more valuable by sharing them or pooling them with others or just by keeping them moving!

Perhaps as we have more conversations about what it is we hope to do and be, we will see how we should be shaped for ministry – form follows function.

So that is what I hope we will begin this weekend. I have asked Eric Law to help us with that process. His new work on Holy Currencies will help us expand the conversation. So far we have spoken primarily of the currency of cash or money and to some extent of the currency of relationship, but Eric will remind us that there are at least four other currencies that need to be considered as well: time and place, leadership, truth and wellness. And he will help us see how they flow together in God's Grace.

I believe that this work will help us think even more creatively than we already have. Following the *flechas*, inventorying the currencies, and taking seriously that perhaps our vocation is where our deepest passions meet the world's greatest needs, we will begin to articulate what the Promised Land looks like to us. We will be strengthened to meet giants and to plant vineyards.

The Episcopal Church is waiting for us to be more creative and adventurous. It's our turn to teach the church – we don't need to wait for them to decide what's best for us.

I believe hope and imagination are spiritual practices – disciplines that transform our souls. This will be our work for some time – perhaps it is more about becoming who we are than finding a structure. This unknowing may raise our anxiety, but we're people of the land, we know how to live with uncertainty. We know how to wait for the harvest to ripen-- while we weed, and hoe, and water and prune.

Discerning a call is more like that than it is like decision-making. In decision-making we list the pros and cons, counting them up and deciding which seems more reasonable.

Discernment is listening to the Holy Spirit mediated through the Body of Christ – and very often it doesn't seem reasonable at all. It includes paying attention to the quiet voices as well as the loud ones, it consists of prayer and Bible study, worship and silence, questions and challenges.

It will work incrementally until we – EDEO – have come together in a united vision that values one another and our life together as diocese, as church as the people of God. Until we discern a life together that supports mission and ministry, and that brings us to a deeper knowledge of God and God's call to us.

Now may God, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

And my friends, keep up your prayers for us all. Greet all the followers of Jesus there with a holy embrace. And the amazing grace of Jesus Christ be with you!

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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
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
London, England SE1 7JU

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2012 EDEO Budget 22.5% parish assessment

	2010 Actual	2011 Modified Budget	2012 Budget Proposed
Income			
Assessments Current Year	\$408,087	\$420,000	\$381,303
Assessments Prior Year	\$28,763		\$25,000
Investment Income	\$42,816	\$37,000	\$40,000
Domestic Missionary Partnership	\$19,000		
Duncan Farm Income	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$10,000
Foundation Grant for Retired Clergy/Lay Med. Insurance	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Office Services for HOH	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Miscellaneous Income	\$384	\$180	\$180
		\$474,180	\$473,783
Transfer Funds			
Doak Undesignated Fund			
McGourty Undesignated Fund	\$14,000		
Dioschnieder Undesignated Fund	\$3,000		
Expenses			
Millenium Development Goals (MDG's)	\$3,946	\$3,200	\$3,316
DMP Grants distribution	\$19,000		
Direct Ministry Support			
Collegium	\$2,017	\$3,500	\$4,000
Clergy Support	\$805	\$1,200	\$800
Commission on Ministry	\$2,169	\$3,500	\$2,500
Convention (with Journals)	\$3,024	\$3,000	\$3,000
Congregational Ministry incl. EFM	\$1,945	\$2,500	\$2,500
Continuing Education Scholarships	\$307	\$2,000	\$2,000
Chancellors Conference	\$1,839	\$2,300	\$2,500
Resource Library	\$570	\$500	\$500
Outreach	\$500		
Staff Development	\$4,453	\$4,500	\$2,500
Standing Committee/Diocesan Council	\$9,818	\$8,500	\$10,000
Youth	\$575	\$5,000	\$2,000
Facilitator for New Clergy Group		\$2,600	\$2,600
Safeguarding Trainers		\$5,000	\$5,000
Conferences		\$5,000	\$5,000
Consultants/Convention Speakers		\$6,500	\$5,000
Total Direct Ministry Support	\$28,022	\$55,600	\$49,900
Ascension School Program support	\$66,684	\$60,000	\$70,000
Communications			
Communications Coordinator/website including OTE	\$21,423	\$30,445	\$34,500
Executive Secretary one quarter time (including benefits)	\$5,881	\$11,008	\$11,008
Total Communications	\$27,304	\$41,453	\$45,508
Insurance			
Property/Liability Insurance	\$5,810	\$6,000	\$6,200
Diocesan Vehicle Insurance	\$1,517	\$1,600	\$1,600
Retired Clergy/Lay Supplemental Insurance	\$9,720	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Insurance	\$17,047	\$17,600	\$17,800
Office expenses			
Equipment expense	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Miscellaneous office expense	\$455	\$250	\$300
Office supplies	\$908	\$1,750	\$1,500
Photocopy expense including copier lease	\$1,793	\$1,820	\$2,000
Postage	\$2,406	\$3,000	\$2,500
Publications	\$126	\$400	\$300
Telephone/fax/email	\$3,980	\$4,500	\$3,500
Total Office expenses	\$10,668	\$13,720	\$12,100
Maintenance & Repair			
Cleaning	\$1,340	\$1,500	\$1,500
Diocesan House	\$3,180	\$4,000	\$4,000
Electricity	\$2,357	\$3,500	\$3,000
Property, Tax & Miscellaneous Expense	\$983	\$1,200	\$1,200
Repair & Maintenance	\$2,694	\$3,000	\$3,000
Water/sewer/garbage	\$1,244	\$1,350	\$1,350
Total Maintenance & Repair	\$11,798	\$14,550	\$14,050
Equipment/Property Maintenance Reserves			
Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Property Maintenance reserve	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Equipment/Property Maintenance Reserves	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Institutional Support	\$61,003	\$85,370	\$93,250
Bishop			
Stipend (all housing)	\$29,600	\$43,750	
Medical/Dental Insurance	\$17,149	\$19,728	
Travel/Cell phone reimbursements	\$19,845	\$25,050	
Continuing education	\$1,253		
Payroll Taxes	\$100	\$200	
Total for Bishop's Comp/benefits	\$67,947	\$88,728	\$88,728
Bishop's search/consecration reserve	\$6,500		
Total Episcopacy	\$74,447	\$88,728	\$88,728
General Convention Deputies	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
Province VIII Support	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Lambeth Conference accrual	\$800	n/a	\$1,000
Total Beyond the Diocese	\$89,846	\$94,912	\$89,925
Staff			
Canon	\$85,350	\$8,579	\$0
Compensation Increases (reserve)			\$2,500
Office Staff			
Executive Secretary	\$33,624	\$33,007	\$33,007
Business Manager	\$43,444	\$18,981	\$0
Lay Pension	\$6,846	\$4,679	\$2,971
Medical/Dental Insurance	\$10,392	\$9,264	\$0
Life Insurance	\$768	\$768	\$384
Payroll Taxes	\$8,267	\$6,239	\$3,961
Total Office Staff - less Communications part Line#60	\$97,460	\$61,930	\$29,314
Medical Reserve Fund (2009 & 2010)	\$3,300	\$0	
Total Staff	\$186,110	\$70,509	\$31,814
EDEF Loan repayment	\$9,129	\$0	
Total Expenses:	\$565,491	\$499,772	\$472,442
Income - Expenses	\$4,689	(\$655)	\$1,341



The parish of St. Luke's: L-R front row: Karen Bunch, Isabel & Gabriella Ramos, Amber Warren, Jocelyn Pittman, Joann Murphy, Fabian Baker; back row, L-R: John Bunch, the Rev. Rich Landrith, Marsha Landrith, Deb Watts, Shirley McAdoo, Mike & Pamela Warren. (Baker is a member of St. Barnabas, Bonanza, "but we'll take her," Pam Warren says.)

St. Luke's, Lakeview: learning to use gifts

Friday evening at Diocesan Convention, during a session when delegates considered the last five years in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, St. Luke's member Jean Schadler talked about being Episcopal in one of EDEO's smallest small-town parishes. She agreed to share her thoughts with the Oregon Trail Evangelist --Editor



Jean Schadler

We are learning to trust each other because we must in order to survive.

We struggled to define our mission in our community where we felt insignificant, unknown and powerless. We have come to realize that we are on mission every day.

Each of our 12 active members is Christ's Hands in the World every day as we go about our lives. We work in all aspects of the community.

We work in education, crisis intervention, local government, natural resource management, food production, human trafficking, commerce, fine and performing arts, elder in-home care, community garden, communications, farmers market, Presbyterian women, youth programs, economic development, and Community Action Team.

We actively belong to civic (Lions, Rotary, AAUW, Soroptimists, Friends of the Lake County Library) and fraternal (Eagles, Moose) organizations.

We do not announce that we represent the Episcopal Church in those endeavors. We are Episcopalians doing God's work and striving to live the Word through example.

We gather at St. Luke's to share, support and succor, to celebrate, to hear God's Word and to receive the sacraments. We give praise and gratitude for the abundance of our lives. Our song is *On The Road Again*.

We are explorers in the land of change and adaptation. We maintain a remote outpost of Episcopal and ecumenical ministry.

We passed through the gates of do-more-with-less and bare bones existence. In a town of 2000 people, bereft of the forest industry, one leg of our three-legged economy, we faced population loss, declining funding and vacant pews and loss of clergy.

Our response was to tie a knot and hold on. God sent gifts, but we had to learn to recognize them and learn how to use them. Our deacon was ordained and was offered a position as Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian, allowing him to accept appointment at St. Luke's, non-compensated.

We learned to humble ourselves and not feel shame at being unable to pay our clergy, but to rejoice in his presence in our circle of faith.

Elected, approved at convention

■ Elected to three-year terms on Diocesan Council: Don Dickinson, St. Paul's, The Dalles; Kim McClain, Trinity Bend; the Rev. Rich Landrith, St. Luke's, Lakeview; elected to one-year term: Sue Powers, St. Mark's, Madras.

■ Elected to three-year terms on Standing Committee: the Rev. Jim Mosier, St. Matthew's, Ontario; Julie Sarazin, St. Paul's, Nyssa.

■ Adopted a resolution proposed by the Rev. Kathy Macek and the Rev. Jim Mosier, on behalf of Clergy Collegium, recommending that The Episcopal Church "respectfully decline to ratify The Anglican Communion Covenant as pro-

posed. The Covenant, the resolution said, "does not further the reign of God...and introduces an adversarial element that could wound the Communion."

■ Adopted a resolution proposed by Standing Committee that directed the bishop, standing committee and diocesan council to continue efforts to remain the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and to have a bishop. It charges the Diocesan Council with identifying and developing financial resources to sustain the vision.

■ Approved a \$472,442 budget for 2012 that is funded by a 22.5 percent parish assessment, a reduction from the long-standing 25 percent assessment.

Sing A New Song: Diocesan Convention 2011



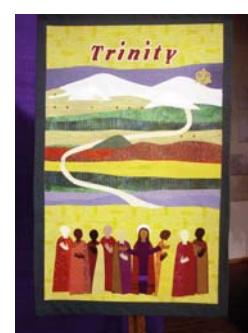
“Sing a New Song” was the theme of the 41st annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, Oct. 14-16, hosted by St. John’s, Hermiston.

In photos, clockwise from top: the Rev. Dr. Eric Law, convention speaker, leads a singing workshop; Tiiu Vahtel, longtime EDEO business manager, fights back tears during tributes from several speakers; Convention Chair Leslie Weimer; priests Aletha Bonebrake, Richard Thew and Martha Hurlburt; just-ordained priest Kathy Macek thanks the applauding congregation; Bruce Anderson and the Rev. Katy Anderson lead convention goers in the Holden Evening Prayer.





At top: EDEO clergy gather for their annual convention photo; above, left: small singers from St. John's, Hermiston--and their accompanist--opened Sunday worship at Convention. L to R: Dan Jeffery, Alexa Rose, Emily Rose, Melanie Pursel, McKenzie Rose; above, right: Alexis Pursel looks to Bishop Nedi Rivera as she leads procession for Sunday Holy Eucharist. Below: the Rev. Anna Carmichael of St. Mark's, Hood River teaches one of two standing-room-only convention workshops on the proposed Anglican Covenant. Left, from bottom, church banners from Trinity, Bend; St. Matthew's, Ontario; St. Andrew's, Prineville; All Saints of the Cascades, Sunriver; St. John's, Hermiston. Photos on both pages, Jeanie Senior



2012 Ascension Camp Schedule

May 25-28 Work Weekend
all ages

June 24-29 Film Camp
grades 6-8

July 1-7 Senior High Camp
grades 10-12

July 9-14 Beginners Camp
grades 3-5

July 19-25 Junior High Camp
grades 7-9

July 26-29 Adult Ed

July 29-Aug 4 Combined
Camp grades 4-6

Aug 5-7 Discovery Camp
preschool- grade 2 (parent or
adult must attend w/ child)

Aug 10-12 Family Camp
all ages

Aug 12-17 Mirrors of Me
Camp girls' writing and arts
camp Grades 9-12

Aug 12-17 Mirrors of Me
Camp Grades 9-12

Still to be set: dates for spring
youth retreat and ministry week-
end. There are no plans to hold
Advent and Lenten retreats.

Ascension director's convention report

By *Patty Olson Lindsey, executive director, Ascension School Camp & Conference Center*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about Ascension School, a place and a ministry I love very much. I want to share with you how all of your contributions and donations have touched so many kid's lives. I would like to tell you why I love Ascension so much.

I started going to Ascension School when I was eight. I'm 37 now.

For me Ascension School was a safe place that I went for one week every summer. For me a safe place was a community of peers where we could explore our identity and we weren't made fun of, a place where labels fell by the wayside.

When you walked through the doors you were no longer a nerd, a fat kid, a jock or a cheerleader. We were just kids that wanted to worship together, sing together, swim together, act together and love one another.

It was a safe place to be whoever we wanted to be. At the time, did I know what that was, maybe or maybe not.

But a seed was planted. The para-

ble of the sower, Matthew 13: 17-24 illustrates how I feel about Ascension School.

Ascension School is the fertile ground that Jesus speaks of. The seeds of faith are sown at Ascension. My story is just one of literally thousands of stories from former campers.

Think of all of the seeds that have been sown since 1924, Ascension School's first year as a summer camp.

For many campers, Ascension School is all of the things I spoke and even more.

It is a safe place from violence and a place where they get three meals a day. A place where some campers can for the first time, focus on something other than survival. It is a place where Jesus sits with them in the Chapel.

I just can't say enough how blessed we are in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon to still have our camping and program at Ascension School. Many dioceses have not had the ability to continue this essential ministry for financial reasons and/or lack of understanding and leadership for this ministry.

Camping ministries are a very important part of Christian faith formation. According to the Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, Incorporated, camps, as much or more than Sunday schools or youth groups, have been the places where young people really make Christian values of loving God and one another part of their core identity- and then become disciples of Jesus Christ.

I'm excited and hopeful for the future. I think we are on the right track. Here are a few things that we are doing right now:

The Community Garden/Camp Garden

Cove Farmers Market

Partnership with the Cove Food Pantry

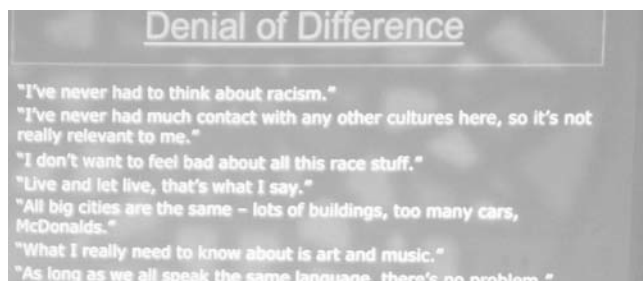
Partnership with EOU's Oregon Writing Project and the Media Arts Program

Partnership with the Central Oregon Partnership for Youth

Partnership with La Grande Soroptimist and Rotary International La Grande Chapter

Thank you for your continued support, and please hang in there with us while we grow our program into the future.

Intercultural Competence training looks at attitudes, respect



"The simple title for this training was Multicultural Diversity," the Rev. Aletha Bonebrake of St. Stephen's, Baker City, wrote in her church newsletter about the three-day anti-racism training led before convention by the Rev. Dr. Eric Law. "But the name itself doesn't reveal the incredibly rich experience about 25 of us had together," exploring how to deal with "the challenges of our changing cultural landscape." Photos by Terry Joakimides



Diocesan Calendar

December

5-7 Bp Rivera at Presiding Bishops Council of Advice, New York City

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

December

4 St Andrews, Prineville: Janet Warner

11 St. Barnabas, Bonanza: Sherry Hartley

18 Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton: Alison Dingley, Jean Cupp

25 St Stephens, Baker City: Aletha Bonebrake, Connie Boone



News from Eastern Oregon parishes

Church of the Transfiguration, Sisters

Despite what Frank Guthrie of Transfiguration's Outreach Committee called "this difficult economic environment," earnings from the parish's 2011 Country Fair and Art Show compared with the best in the event's history. In a story in *The Transcript*, the church newsletter, he listed 16 local social service agencies that shared in the \$15,000 in outreach funds distributed to the community, in amounts varying from \$300 to \$1,500. The parish's outreach effort, Guthrie wrote, is "a special blessing for the agencies we support."

St. Mark's, Hood River



Youth in Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood programs at St. Mark's, Hood River, were honored with a special Sunday liturgy in October, the day after they prepared and served dinner to their parents and the mentors who are leading the group, whose members range in age from Grade 5 to Grade 10. Standing with the Rev. Anna Carmichael, the participants are, L to R, Gabriella Whitehead; Aidan Liddiard; Sadie Hipskind; Clare Samuels and Cody Hipskind.

St. Paul's, The Dalles



"Janeal's House," the Habitat for Humanity house St. Paul's is sponsoring for parishioner Janeal Booren, has gained a second floor, a roof, siding and exterior paint. Volunteers are working on the house three to five days a week. Booren, manager of the community food bank in The Dalles, will move into the house this spring with her two sons, Dain and Sage.

St. Paul's, Nyssa



Assisted by the Rev. Roger Williams, Bishop Nedi Rivera recently confirmed eight people at St. Paul's, Nyssa. In the photograph above, the confirmands are, L to R, Alekzander Garcia, Jerry Holmes, Monika Garcia, Calen Holmes, Bishop Rivera, Sarah Martinez, the Rev. Roger Williams, Doug Pesnell, Shealynn Pesnell.

All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran, Heppner

Rather than providing food for a Thanksgiving meal, members of the shared ministry of All Saints/ Hope decided to provide and distribute 40 boxes of food, on a first-come, first-served basis, although arrangements also were made to deliver to shut-ins. In each box: canned goods plus a bag of fresh fruit, a loaf of bread and a grocery certificate for fresh meat.

The decision to distribute to all comers, the Rev. Katy Anderson said, was inspired by author Sarah Miles, the 2010 speaker at both the Synod Assembly and Eastern Oregon's Diocesan Convention.

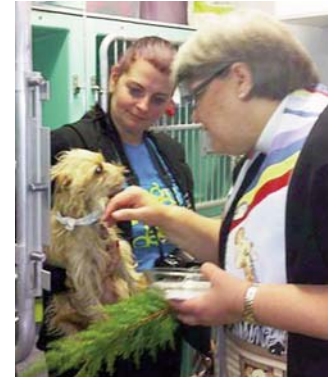
St. Peter's, La Grande

"Every Tuesday morning we serve long lines of hungry people supplies of food from about 9:30 until it is gone," said Neighbor to Neighbor food bank representative Helen Deatherage, writing in *The Fisherman*, St. Peter's monthly newsletter. "People are lining up at a very early hour...the same ones each time."

On September 24, Deatherage said, "we gave out food and hygiene products to 323 people of whom 99 were children; 27 shut-ins were delivered these products also. With all areas requiring more staple products, we are receiving a greater quantity of potato chips and these type of items, rather than foods required by the USDA guidelines. Our local churches, organizations and individuals are more and more important in helping us fulfill real healthy foods for the needy people...we are truly grateful for this generous community of volunteers and for those who step up to donate needed products in these trying times."



Blessing the critters we love



Some animals came to church with their people and waited more or less patiently for the priest to get to the blessing. At other parishes the blessing of the animals took place in a parking lot, on a lawn, or in a park--in The Dalles, 43 people gathered at Sorosis Park, along with 21 dogs, and one cat. The Rev. Janet Fullmer, rector at St. Paul's, The Dalles, also visited the local animal shelter to bless the cats and dogs waiting there for their new homes. St. Paul's photos, top, by P.K. Swartz; St. Luke's, Lakeview photos by Pam Warren; Trinity, Bend photos by Jack Erskine; St. Mark's photo by Jeanie Senior.