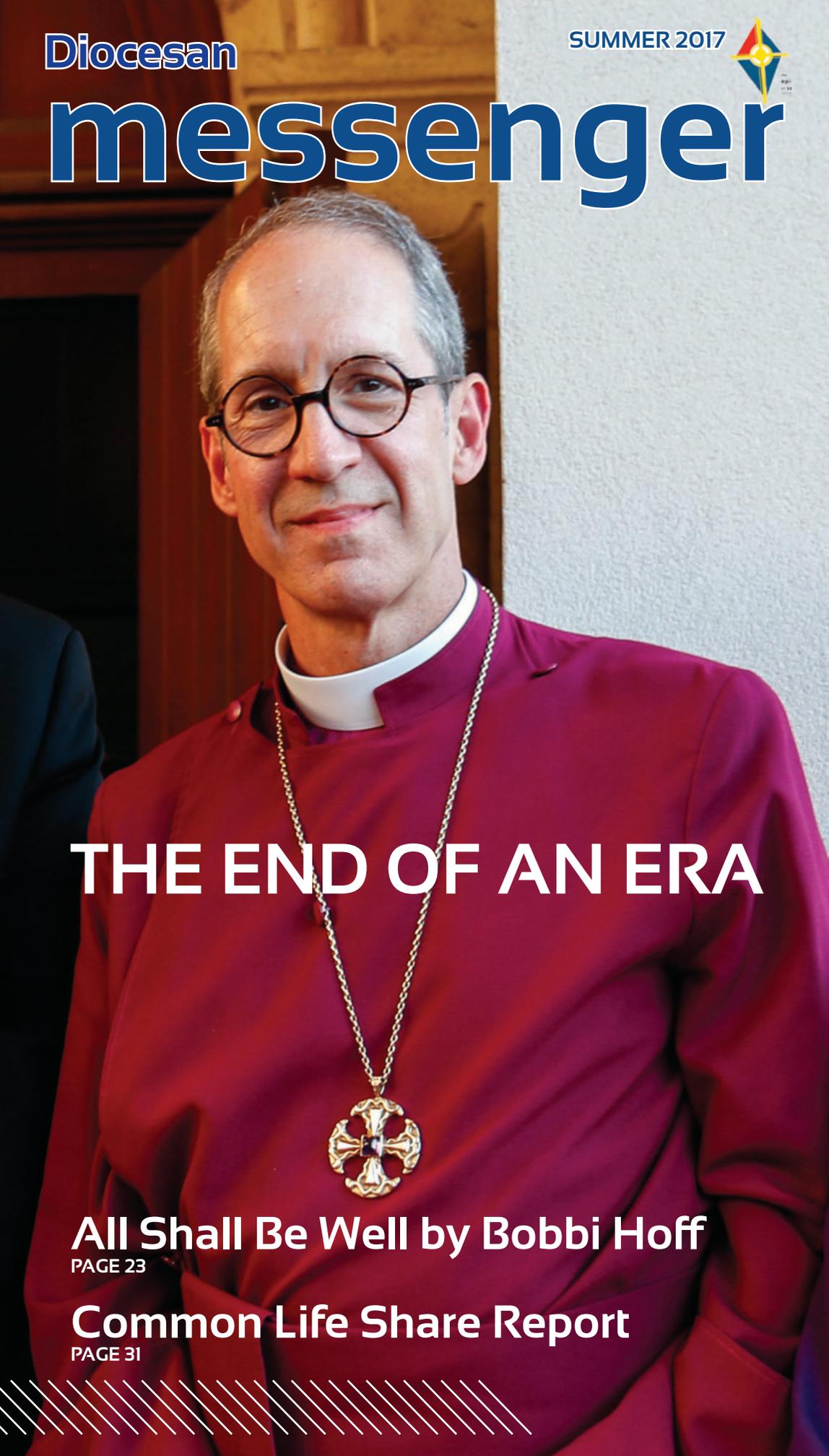


Diocesan

SUMMER 2017



messenger



THE END OF AN ERA

All Shall Be Well by Bobbi Hoff

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Common Life Share Report

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ON THE COVER: Bishop Mathes with Dean Bridges and Bishop McElroy at the LatinX service honoring those who died in the 2016 Orlando shooting. *Photo/Susan Forsburg*

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TRANSITION & CHANGE

EDITOR: Hannah Wilder EMAIL: hwilder@edsd.org

When Bishop Mathes told our staff that he planned to accept a position as associate dean of students at Virginia Theological Seminary, a hush fell over the room. Staff members fixed their eyes on him in a stunned silence. He let the news settle before explaining that as a former teacher, and after a twelve-year episcopate, this transition represents a natural progression. That does not make change easier to swallow, although some comfort comes from knowing the bishop has always had a heart for education, and that he has always fancied a return to academia.

With change comes anxiety. We are tossed out of our comfort zone. Imaginations run wild. We feel anxious about the unknown future. Feeling ungrounded and unmoored, while unsettling, is a natural response to such an announcement.

While we undoubtedly feel unsteady, we can gain perspective from trusted friends, spiritual advisors, and those who have traveled this road not so long ago (see Chuck Howe's article on page 10 and Bobbi Hoff's article on page 23). Our diocese has made transitions

before. We've changed bishops three times. We have moved our bishop's office. We have said goodbye to worshipping communities and welcomed new ones. We know the terrain of change and we have acquired valuable skills and experience along the way. We can do it this time, and perhaps even better.

As we say goodbye to our bishop, we emerge onto a new frontier where we are malleable to change. We can use this opportunity to hope, explore and dream for our next chapter as a diocese.

Thank you for reading the *Diocesan Messenger*! As always, we welcome your feedback, article submissions, photos and story ideas.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31:6 +



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submissions

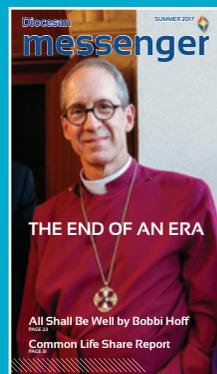
We welcome submissions of original articles, letters, poetry, art and photographs. Submissions should pertain in some way to the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of San Diego. It is advised to check with the editor prior to submitting, to ensure your materials fit thematically and that there is space. All submissions should be sent via email: hwilder@edsd.org. Include your name, congregation, phone and home address. The editor reserves the right to edit all material for length, clarity and accuracy. At this time, the magazine cannot provide compensation for submissions.

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THE RHYTHM OF MINISTRY

AUTHOR: Bishop Jim Mathes

EMAIL: bishopmathes@edsd.org



Dearly Beloved,
Over the last twelve years, the rhythm of my life and ministry has been the Sunday visitation. Each week begins early on Sunday morning—sometimes even the previous night, or before the sun comes up, depending on the distance to be traveled. What a rich and varied experience it has been to worship with you from the ocean to the mountains and the desert.

Most Sundays have included confirmation, reception of people into the Episcopal Church and folks taking the opportunity of a bishop's visitation to reaffirm their faith. And many times, my visitation has appropriately included

“You have been an essential part of my formation as a follower of Jesus.”

baptisms. Indeed, it is the Baptismal Covenant that is the continuous piece of my experience with you. Almost every Sunday I was privileged to renew my baptismal faith with you.

As I prepare to take my leave as your diocesan bishop, I find myself

thinking so much of these visitations, filled as they were with joy and always a focus on our promises to God and to each other to continue in the apostles' teaching, the breaking of bread and in the prayers.

We say also that we

will be a gospel-proclaiming people of forgiveness and repentance who seek Christ in the other. And this leads us to strive for justice and peace, respecting the



1) PRESIDING over the 2015 convention Eucharist at All Souls'. 2) 2016 DIACONAL OR-
 DINATION with the Rev. Jacqueline Pippin. 3) REFUGEE NET GALA with the Rev. Monica
 Mainwaring. 4) DIOCON Blessing at St. Margaret's. 5) CELEBRATING at St. James, La
 Jolla with the Rev. Canon Nancy Holland. 6) MAUNDY THURSDAY Footwashing 2017.

dignity of every human being.

All that we have become and accomplished together in these years has been because we have been true to our baptismal vows. I would assert that when we have erred it is because we have lost sight of the promises we made. We are called by God through water and the Holy Spirit to exercise our Christian vocation.

And now I prepare to leave for Virginia Theological Seminary to continue my baptismal ministry as well as my call as a bishop. Rest assured, I will take you with me. You have been an essential part of my formation as a follower of Jesus. I pray that I have, in some measure, been

able to contribute to your vocation as a fearless follower of Jesus Christ. Words cannot describe the gratitude that Terri and I feel toward you for your love, companionship, and support. Know that the people and clergy of the Diocese of San Diego will be in my daily prayers. And we look forward to continuing our relationship to what will always be our diocese. May God bless you always.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, Bishop +

Thank You Terri



TAKES TWO: Terri Mathes has supported Bishop Mathes' episcopacy through two moves—and remodels—thirteen conventions, hundreds of Sunday visitations, late night meetings, and countless trips around the church. All the while, she has pursued her own career in fundraising for congregations, dioceses and secular organizations. At St. Paul's Cathedral she helped lead Vida Joven, a foster home in Tijuana for the children of prisoners. Vida Joven is one of the initiatives receiving donations in honor of Terri's time with us. (Visit edsd.org/make-a-gift. Select Farewell Campaign.) We are grateful for her ministry among us and the many ways she has blessed our diocese in her own right.



CALLED TO MINISTRY TOGETHER

AUTHOR: Susan Green EMAIL: bluejayfive@gmail.com CHURCH: St. Paul in the Desert, Palm Springs

When I met Andrew, he told me he wanted to pursue a calling to the priesthood. I had only been an Episcopalian for three years when we met so I was not sure what that would mean. By the time we were married I was certain that Andrew and I were called to ministry together.

I talked to clergy wives to get their perspectives on life married to a priest. One of the most important pieces of advice was about starting a family. They all felt it was better to have the family priorities in place before going to seminary. We ended up waiting to begin seminary through the birth of our first two children. Our third child came along during the second summer of Andrew's education (it's typically a three-year process).

My life has been one long succession of serving ministries. I was working as a vocational nurse in Albuquerque when I met Andrew. That vocation went into hiatus during the pregnancy of our first child. That eventually was a permanent change as I became a stay-at-home mom, the second of my satisfying servant ministries. Upon Andrew's graduation from seminary, and ordination, I took up my third servant ministry as a clergy spouse.

I was deeply moved and grateful for this new calling. Being the wife of a priest has been a rich and rewarding vocation for me. Andrew and I could see that we each had our own special and complementary gifts which allowed us to reach out more widely than we could alone.

After Andrew served as a curate in San Diego, we were called to St Paul's in the Desert in Palm Springs where he became the rector. This was a hard move for our family because there were no

children in our neighborhood. Also, I was suffering from depression from being a stay-at-home mom for so long with no challenges of my own. Many years later, when I reflected on that time, I realized that faithfully answering the call to Palm Springs put in motion what would become my fourth servant ministry. I went back to college and after six years had a bachelor's degree in art and a multi-subject teaching credential. My two jobs over the span of 16 years were at two schools with the greatest absences, lowest reading scores, and lowest socio-economic rates in the area.

One Sunday morning, six years ago, Andrew asked me to come to church to help him. All the altar servers were missing and he was going to train me to be an acolyte/chalice bearer. He had ten minutes and would appreciate me getting there immediately. That morning when I held the gospel book aloft in the procession, I felt as if I had been electrocuted! That is what it feels like to be called by the Holy Spirit. I was being called to be a Christ Bearer in an ordained capacity.

Two years ago I retired from teaching to pursue my education at the School for Ministry in Ocean Beach as I continued to discern my call to the diaconate. My academic education is now complete. I have had the privilege of serving at all the churches in the Coachella Valley during my formation process. With my ordination to the diaconate on June 17, I will begin a new phase of ministry with Andrew. The next day we will celebrate 40 years of marriage. What a life God has called us to. I encourage you to listen with the ear of your heart to see if God is calling you to a servant ministry as well. It's never too late. + [Learn more about Susan's theological training program: *sfmedsd.org*](http://Learn more about Susan's theological training program: sfmedsd.org)



Photo: Marcus Eubanks - flickr.com/photos/xparx

From the Standing Committee

VAYA CON DIOS

AUTHORS: Joe Gamboa & Kathleen Kelly

EMAIL: gamboa2@cox.net / kmkelly27@hotmail.com

This month the focus of our diocese is upon saying “Vaya Con Dios” to Bishop and Terri Mathes. Your standing committee is busy multi-tasking, however, to assure a smooth transition. Standing committee teams are working on: 1) coordinating farewell events, 2) preparing to select a consultant who will guide us through the process and an assisting bishop who will share leadership with the standing committee during the transition, 3) assembling a team of chaplains, and 4) assuring good communications.

Monthly updates are planned.

By one month from now, there should be significant news to report, including a draft

timetable for the process and information about how the search and nominations committee will be selected. While we need to bring our consultant on board before moving forward very far, we can assure you now of two key rules of life that will

guide all our work: we will listen for the voice of the Spirit in your voices, assuring clear channels for communication both ways in all we do; and we will ground our work in prayer.

In support of both,

please continue to pray regularly for our community in Christ to be strengthened through the selection of our next bishop. +

“We can assure you now of two key rules of life that will guide all our work: we will listen for the voice of the Spirit in your voices . . . and we will ground our work in prayer.”

Do Mercy & Demonstrate Justice

AUTHOR: Bishop Clay Matthews, Bishop of Pastoral Development for The Episcopal Church

In the third chapter of the Gospel according to the Evangelist Luke, we hear of John the Baptist telling his followers that there is one mightier than he to follow him, and those followers ask him, "What shall we do during this transition period?" John says, "Do justice and demonstrate mercy."

Transitions are part of our daily living, and each of us has developed default responses to change based on our personal experiences. Depending on our past, some of us exhibit, to a greater or lesser degree, anxiety at times of transitional change. Taking a long view, rather than being reactive, to our anxiety can be most productive. This stance allows us to become more aware of our default responses. More self-awareness gives us the potential to change our default reactions, so that we can be present to the current reality and context. This type of awareness will better guarantee an examined, adult and healthy response to what is before us and a response in keeping with the advice given by John the Baptist to his followers at a time of transition.

All that is true in our personal lives is also relevant to organizational transitions such as in an episcopal election process. To some there is never a good time for a bishop to call for an election of her/his successor. Most often, the call for an episcopal election comes after a long tenure of a beloved bishop and, for many, an election creates separation anxiety. In some cases, the bishop accepts a call to serve in another ministry, and the default reactions from some can include sadness, anger, feelings of abandonment and/or betrayal. For these reasons the period between the call for an election and the leave-taking of the bishop has the potential of being very creative! It is a defined period of time, with a clear beginning and ending, as when a pilot announces "We have begun our descent." It is a time for bridges to be built and fences to be mended in broken or fractured relationships.

Once a call for an election has been made, some will become anxious: it may seem that a vacuum of leadership has been created, and there is no one at the helm. This is the reason why it is

important for the standing committee to assume leadership by creating the protocols and a timeline for the election of a successor bishop. The search committee will conduct surveys of everyone in the pew as part of a planned self-study, and these results will inform the writers of the diocesan profile which will guide the process. The profile will also inform the final nominees as well as members of the diocese.

Every congregation has a relational history with the office of the bishop, and this will be a time to go beyond default reactions to this history in order to articulate what is desired for the future. At the time of the election, a diverse slate of nominees will be presented to representative ordained and lay persons for an election. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will guide those casting ballots. One person will be elected and while it may not be one's individual choice, that person will, after examinations and the consent process of the whole Church, be the bishop elect. Following the consecration prayer in the ordination service, the new bishop will begin creating relationships with each congregation that will become part of a new chapter of your history and your DNA as a diocese of the Episcopal Church. Through this transitional season, full of good, important work and exciting times, "Do justice and demonstrate mercy." Amen. +

**"TRANSITIONS
ARE PART OF OUR
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AND EACH OF US
HAS DEVELOPED
DEFAULT
RESPONSES TO
CHANGE... "**

BISHOP CLAY MATTHEWS

WE HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE

AUTHOR: Chuck Howe EMAIL: choweusn49@san.rr.com CHURCH: Christ Church, Coronado

I was on the standing committee in September of 2003 when Bishop Hughes announced his intention to retire at the end of 2004. I became the president of the standing committee the following February. Bishop Hughes introduced the committee to Bishop Clay Matthews, the executive director of pastoral development for the Episcopal Church. Bishop Matthews met with us and went over all of the steps necessary to call the new bishop. And we were off on our own.

The standing committee invited all members of the diocese to apply for a role on the nominating committee or the transition committee. From the parishioners who asked to be considered, the standing committee selected clergy members and lay members in equal numbers. The goal was to have only one member from a parish. However, we did have a clergy member and a lay member from the same parish in two cases, nominated by their rectors who were members of the standing committee. We had two Hispanic members and one African-American member to have an inclusive representation. The standing committee appointed the Rev. Tom Phillips to be the president; the committee did an excellent job.

The nominating committee sent the diocesan profile out to the whole Episcopal Church and requested nominations of people to be our next bishop. We received 37 nominations. The committee made telephone interviews with all nominees, who were from conservative and liberal church backgrounds. Suzanne Foucault, as a diocesan consultant, did an excellent job of helping the committee develop an approach that rated all of the nominees. The committee then visited the ten semi-finalists. It selected five excellent finalists and made their names public. Subsequently three other priests, two of them local, petitioned to have their names also considered, and they were.



CHUCK HOWE attends Christ Church, Coronado and is a retired naval captain.

During October the nominees and petitioners met in several parishes for a walkabout visit with parishioners. The nominating convention met on November 13 and after three ballots the Rev. Canon Jim Mathes was declared the new bishop by a narrow vote. Bishop Hughes called Jim from the convention floor to congratulate him.

The Rev. Sean Cox headed up the transition committee, who did an excellent job of arranging all the details for welcoming the new bishop into San Diego. The process went well, thanks to the advice of our consultants. It was nice to be a part of it and see such a great outcome.

The whole bishop selection cycle has many parts that need to come together in a timely manner. At the beginning of the search a realistic timetable must be established and it must be followed by everyone.

With Bishop Hughes remaining in place throughout the selection process, we didn't have a vacancy in the office, as will happen this time with Bishop Mathes resigning on July 1. This will be the major change in the transition process this

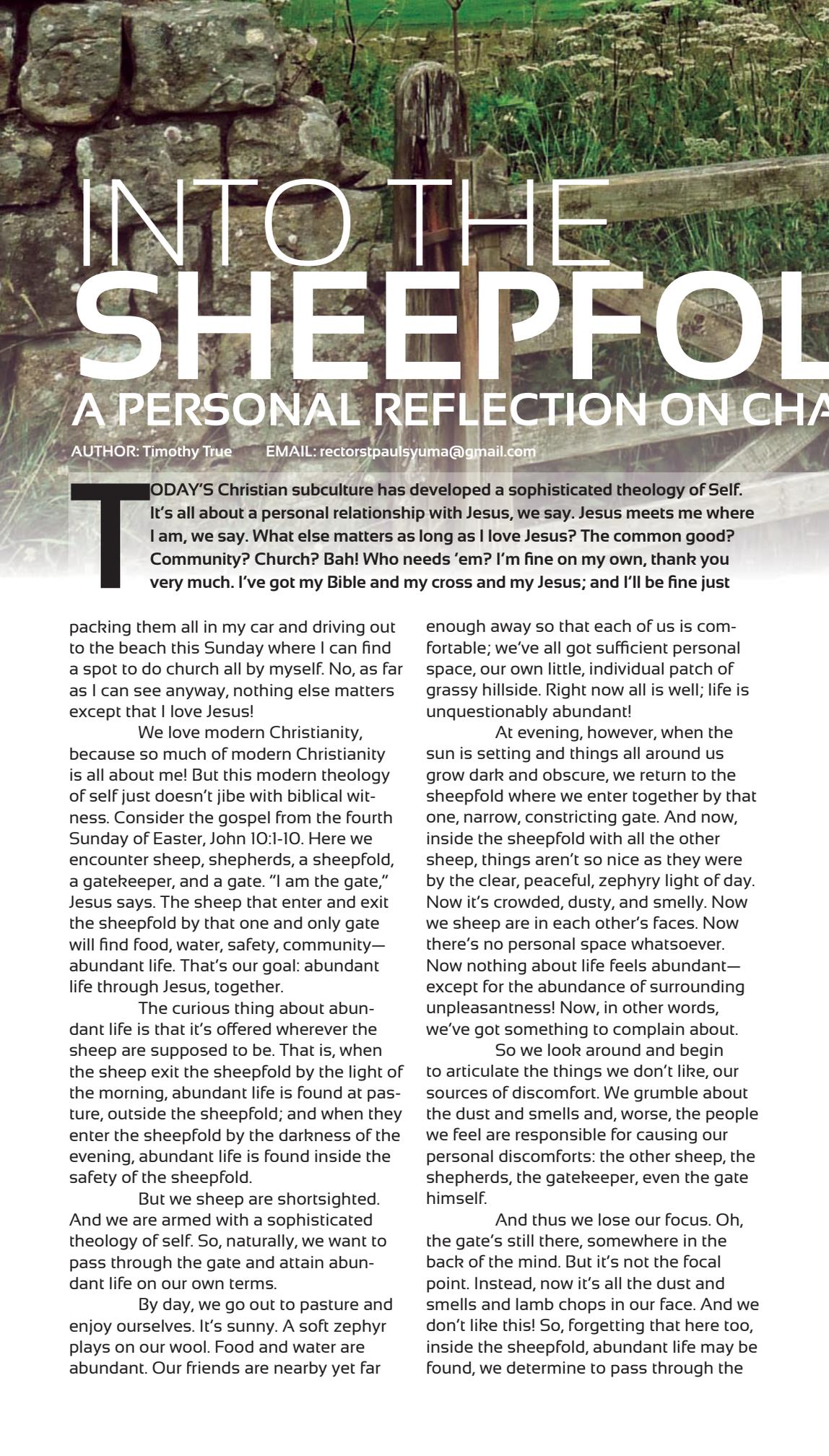


THE BODY OF CHRIST Bishop Mathes administers communion at St. Luke's in North Park. The North Park Project is one of the initiatives receiving donations in honor of Bishop Mathes' episcopacy. Visit edsd.org/make-a-gift. Select Farewell Campaign.

time. However, I don't expect that this will present significant problems. Bishop Mathes has developed a strong team and our diocese is in good shape. A part-time assisting bishop will perform those roles that only a bishop can do such as confirmations. The Rev. Canon Nancy Holland, other members of the bishop's staff, the standing committee and the diocesan executive council will continue to ensure that the diocese continues to function successfully.

This coming period of change is an excellent opportunity for all of us

to take a fresh look at our diocese, how it helps our own parishes in our walk with the Lord, and what would we like to see in our new chief pastor. There will be many opportunities to volunteer to be a part of the process and to help guide our search. After the nominating committee has been announced, communicate with the members about any ideas that you have. Attend a walkabout and get to know the nominees. Let your delegate to the bishop selection convention know of your preferred choice. +



INTO THE SHEEPFOLD

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON CHA

AUTHOR: Timothy True

EMAIL: rectorstpaulsyuma@gmail.com

TODAY'S Christian subculture has developed a sophisticated theology of Self. It's all about a personal relationship with Jesus, we say. Jesus meets me where I am, we say. What else matters as long as I love Jesus? The common good? Community? Church? Bah! Who needs 'em? I'm fine on my own, thank you very much. I've got my Bible and my cross and my Jesus; and I'll be fine just

packing them all in my car and driving out to the beach this Sunday where I can find a spot to do church all by myself. No, as far as I can see anyway, nothing else matters except that I love Jesus!

We love modern Christianity, because so much of modern Christianity is all about me! But this modern theology of self just doesn't jibe with biblical witness. Consider the gospel from the fourth Sunday of Easter, John 10:1-10. Here we encounter sheep, shepherds, a sheepfold, a gatekeeper, and a gate. "I am the gate," Jesus says. The sheep that enter and exit the sheepfold by that one and only gate will find food, water, safety, community—abundant life. That's our goal: abundant life through Jesus, together.

The curious thing about abundant life is that it's offered wherever the sheep are supposed to be. That is, when the sheep exit the sheepfold by the light of the morning, abundant life is found at pasture, outside the sheepfold; and when they enter the sheepfold by the darkness of the evening, abundant life is found inside the safety of the sheepfold.

But we sheep are shortsighted. And we are armed with a sophisticated theology of self. So, naturally, we want to pass through the gate and attain abundant life on our own terms.

By day, we go out to pasture and enjoy ourselves. It's sunny. A soft zephyr plays on our wool. Food and water are abundant. Our friends are nearby yet far

enough away so that each of us is comfortable; we've all got sufficient personal space, our own little, individual patch of grassy hillside. Right now all is well; life is unquestionably abundant!

At evening, however, when the sun is setting and things all around us grow dark and obscure, we return to the sheepfold where we enter together by that one, narrow, constricting gate. And now, inside the sheepfold with all the other sheep, things aren't so nice as they were by the clear, peaceful, zephyry light of day. Now it's crowded, dusty, and smelly. Now we sheep are in each other's faces. Now there's no personal space whatsoever. Now nothing about life feels abundant—except for the abundance of surrounding unpleasantness! Now, in other words, we've got something to complain about.

So we look around and begin to articulate the things we don't like, our sources of discomfort. We grumble about the dust and smells and, worse, the people we feel are responsible for causing our personal discomforts: the other sheep, the shepherds, the gatekeeper, even the gate himself.

And thus we lose our focus. Oh, the gate's still there, somewhere in the back of the mind. But it's not the focal point. Instead, now it's all the dust and smells and lamb chops in our face. And we don't like this! So, forgetting that here too, inside the sheepfold, abundant life may be found, we determine to pass through the



D CHANGE AND TRANSITION

Photo: Joseph (Haz) Hall - flickr.com

gate solo, on our own terms.

Now, it's not obvious from the English: in our tongue the word "sheep" can be either singular or plural. In the Greek, however, it is obvious: everywhere in this passage "sheep" is plural! Always and everywhere the sheep enter and exit through the gate together.

Do you know what happens when we try to enter or exit solo? The gate is shut and locked!

We have not been called to focus on our own, individual patch of grassy hillside. We have not been called to focus on the petty disagreements we have with each other and the management. We have not been called to pass through the gate on our own terms. Rather, we have been called to corporate life together, with one focus: Christ and his mission to bring abundant life to the world.

In contrast to the present-day theology of self we hear all around us, the Christian religion is, and always has been, about the one body of Christ and never about me as an individual. Closer to home, the Episcopal Church is, and always has been, about the common good above my own, personal comfort.

And thank God it's so! Because, do you know what happens when we forget this—when we make it all about my personal relationship with Jesus; when

we ask questions like, what else matters as long as I love Jesus? Everything gets inverted. Instead of being transformed into the perfect image of Christ, we transform Christ into my own, far-less-than-perfect image. Instead of asking, "How can I serve Christ?" we expect him to serve me.

But it's not about me. It's about the gate—and paying attention to it; to when it opens and when it shuts, and passing through when I'm supposed to: along with everyone else. It's about abundant life, being transformed—me together with you and the world—into the perfect body of Christ.

During this time of diocesan transition, let's not be shortsighted. The gate is open. We are passing through, together, with Bishop Mathes. It may feel like we're entering a time of discomfort and obscurity. But—whether going out into the clarity of daylight or coming into the obscurity of darkness—whenever we pass through the gate together we are accomplishing Christ's mission. Remain focused on the gate, Jesus Christ, through whom we may know abundant life together! + [The Rev. Timothy True is the new vicar of St. Thomas, Temecula. He just concluded two years of ministry at St. Paul's, Yuma.](#)

"WE HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED TO PASS THROUGH THE GATE ON OUR OWN TERMS."



DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

AREA, MERGER, YOKED & OTHER TERRIFYING ASPECTS OF EXPANDED PARISH GOVERNANCE

AUTHOR: Janet Wheelock, Congregational Coach EMAIL: jwheelock@edsd.org

In a small church far away, my friend Lynn became a Canon 9 priest. Up on the Canadian border, the church she loved and raised her son in became unable to afford a seminary trained priest. An alternative way of governance for churches was already in place throughout Province 6 called Total Ministry.

Lynn was selected by her church for their Total Ministry team. The diocesan missionary for northern Minnesota supported and trained those folks called to sacramental, pastoral, formational, hospitality, outreach and administrative leadership. (Today we have a School for Ministry for this). Lynn, with her background managing corporate IT in Europe, studied and trained with others

for 18 months and was ultimately ordained to serve Holy Trinity, International Falls, Minnesota. The Total Ministry team members each strive to keep their hours to ten a week. The church is holding its own, providing worship and service to the glory of God. For decades Total Ministry has lifted up leaders from within congregations that can't afford a seminary trained priest. Total Ministry acts on the belief that all the members of a congregation use their gifts for ministry.

In this era of dramatically changing church sizes, congregations do well to explore different models of structure and governance in order to give the Holy Spirit ample room to flourish. Here are some models of church leadership collaborations that parishes are exploring across the country.

Area or Deanery Ministry (San Diego has six mission areas. Find out

about yours: edsd.org/maps.) Area Ministry seeks to unite neighboring congregations in collaboration. It is all volunteer and works best if there is a fertile mixture of proximity, friendship, need and generosity. Congregations meeting in their areas sometimes share youth or music programs, an administrator, or bookkeeper alongside the obvious coming together for joint outreach projects and social events. There is usually no cost involved in these joint efforts and may result in savings, especially in personnel.

“What will it take to begin seeking collaborations beyond our own neighborhood?”

The literature on **merging churches** tells us mergers are successful only under rare and specific conditions: a struggling church might approach a stronger church for a merger.

Or a growing church may seek space to expand its mission in an underused sanctuary. It often involves a name change and a strong sense of mission wider than the local parish and neighborhood.

Yoked churches are created when two or more churches maintain separate identities but share one seminary-trained ordained leader. They are usually not more than 20 miles from each other and driven by financial pressures. Lutheran/Episcopal yoked churches are working in pockets of the country as well.

We Episcopalians are fiercely individual, wedded to our buildings, and very used to both our own priest and our predictable liturgy. What will it take to begin seeking collaborations beyond our own neighborhood?

Is your congregation right for exploring regional or area ministry? What would it be like to share a priest with

DIFFERENTLY CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

CAMPAIGN UPDATE



AUTHOR: Jeff Martinhauk, Development Committee Chair EMAIL: martinhaukj@stpaulcathedral.org

Thanks to over 300 generous supporters, we have received over \$2.5 million in gifts and pledges to the capital campaign. With these funds, we successfully launched the Episcopal Church Center in Ocean Beach which houses the bishop’s office, the diocesan School for Ministry dedicated to both lay and clergy learners, provides hot meals and services to people in need, hosts a medical clinic, and an art and music program for homeless youth. Twenty-three different groups meet at the Center every week. Your generosity has made this place vibrant and successful, and for that you have our heartfelt thanks.

Our two endowed funds—clergy mentorship and the parish loan program—reached their target goals set in the campaign. As intended, we established a solid beginning for these funds, with a future goal of reaching the million dollar mark for each. Once the funds are robust enough to create a steady return, we will launch them in full force. We will continue to update you via email on a monthly basis. To subscribe to diocesan updates, visit edsd.org or email hwilder@edsd.org. +



ACTIVE CHURCH CENTER: Left, The Rev. Pam Rieger and the Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes give communion during the Wednesday night outdoor Eucharist. Right, the renovated kitchen, a gift from Christ Church, Coronado, allows volunteers to make meals for approximately 300 people each week. Email jgreen@edsd.org to volunteer.

DIFFERENTLY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

another congregation? Have you ever considered talking with the leadership of churches larger or smaller than yours to see if there are ways collaboration might lead to wedding bells?

If you have not done so recently, you may consider some very helpful discernment tools for charting a next step in new or creative next steps.

The **Church Assessment Tool** (CAT) shows you the places you are most vitalized and where the congregation

longs to make changes. Email nholland@edsd.org for information.

Spiritual Gifts Inventories, These help individuals within the congregation name those charisms God has given them in the priesthood of all believers. Contact kmondaca@edsd.org if interested.

The diocesan **School for Ministry,** is designed to help people to make a difference with the gospel in their churches and the world. Learn more online: sfmedsd.org or contact athomas@edsd.org +

SUMMER CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 (& AUGUST 26) LEARNING FROM LONDON



Eighteen percent of congregations in the Diocese of London are growing. Come learn how to apply what they have learned in our churches. This event also takes place on August 26.

DATE & TIME: JUNE 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Margaret's, 47535 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260
DATE & TIME: AUGUST 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James, 743 Prospect St., La Jolla, CA 92037
RSVP: Mark Hargreaves, mark@sjbts.org

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 RETIRED CLERGY GATHERING

All retired clergy members and spouses are welcome to this day of fellowship.
TIME: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
PLACE: St. Bartholomew's, 16275 Pomarado Rd., Poway, CA 92064
RSVP: Bobbi Hoff, bobbi303@edsd.org

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - 18 URBAN IMMERSION



Middle schoolers welcome for this cross-cultural weekend of spiritual reflection, service projects and a lot of fun.
LOCATION: St. Mark's, 4227 Fairmount Ave., San



SATURDAY, JULY 1

FAREWELL SERVICE & RECEPTION

All members of the diocese are invited to this event that marks the end of the episcopacy of Bishop James R. Mathes, and will give people the chance to greet the bishop and his wife, Terri, before they head to Virginia.

TIME & PLACE: 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral, 2728 Sixth Ave., San Diego, 92103
RSVP/INFO: Bobbi Hoff, bobbi303@edsd.org

Diego, CA 92115
INFO: Charlette Preslar, cpreslar@edsd.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 ORDINATIONS



Susan Green of St. Paul in the Desert, Palm Desert and Christie Fleming of St. Paul's Cathedral will be ordained to the diaconate. Your presence and prayers are requested.

TIME & PLACE: 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral, 2728 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA
INFO: Bobbi Hoff, bobbi303@edsd.org

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

PADRES NIGHT

Cheer on the Padres as they take on the

Detroit Tigers. Come early to enjoy the Party in the Park, our bishop throwing out the first pitch, and an Episcopal choir singing the National Anthem!

TIME & PLACE: 5 p.m. Party in the Park, 7:10 p.m. The game begins at Petco Park, 100 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101
INFO: Courtney Krafft, ckrafft@edsd.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

ECS' ANNUAL MEETING

Join ECS for an evensong service presided by Bishop Mathes. The meeting will focus on a celebration of the bishop's 12 years of leadership as chairman of the board, and a reception with light refreshments.

TIME & PLACE: 5 p.m. at St. James, 743 Prospect St., La Jolla, CA 92037

RSVP: ecscalifornia.org/annualmeeting

MONDAY - FRIDAY, JULY 10 - 14

EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT (EYE)



Once every three years, the Episcopal Church hosts a youth event with workshops, speakers and volunteer opportunities. This year over 1,300 youth are expected to attend. While registration has closed, prayers and financial support are still welcome. Each student must raise \$1,000 for travel expenses.

INFO: Charlette Preslar, cpreslar@edsd.org
LOCATION: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

FRIDAY, JULY 14

THE CHANE GANG BENEFIT CONCERT



Bishop John Bryson Chane (pictured) and his band, The Chane Gang, will give a benefit concert for Episcopal Community Services (ECS). Enjoy live Chicago blues, classic rock and dancing.

TIME & PLACE: 7 p.m. The Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92104
INFO: ecscalifornia.org/concert



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

COMFEST

How many people visit your website? How long do they stay? If your site is not responsive, attractive and informative, newcomers won't come. Attend this one-day communications intensive led by experts from The Episcopal Church center in New York City, including Neva Rae Fox, public affairs officer and Jeremy Tackett, digital evangelist. Workshops cover websites, social media, crisis communications, creating and streaming video, digital evangelism and strategy. Say yes to the fest!

TIME: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

LOCATION: The Episcopal Church Center, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego, CA 92107

INFO: Hannah Wilder, hwilder@edsd.org

REGISTER: edsd.org/events/comfest

SATURDAY, JULY 15

PRIDE PARADE



Bear witness to God's fearless love for all by marching in San Diego's Gay Pride Parade. We hope to have a joyful diocesan presence. A group of interfaith clergy will lead the parade to show the support

of the religious community. Also new this year: a street Eucharist during the staging time, an identifying Tshirt, a barbeque and a booth at St. Paul's Cathedral to greet those on their way to the festival.

TIME: 12 p.m. parade start time, but our group will gather at 10 a.m.

INFO: Jeff Martinhawk, martinhawkj@stpaulcathedral.org

SATURDAY, JULY 15

DAY OF DISCERNMENT

Come explore the School for Ministry (SFM) and talk about a possible future of ordained ministry.

LOCATION: Episcopal Church Center, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego

INFO: Allisyn Thomas, athomas@edsd.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 SERVICE SUMMIT

Bring your donations for the Back 2 School Bash. Our afternoon session will be an opportunity to help prepare for the Bash.

TIME: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Mark's, 4227 Fairmount Ave., San Diego, CA 92115

RSVP: rayandeb@gmail.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 YOUTH COLLABORATIVE



Youth ministers welcome to this planning meeting/educational opportunity.

TIME & PLACE:

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,

St. Dunstan's,
6556 Park

Ridge, San Diego,

CA 92120

INFO: Charlette Preslar, cpreslar@edsd.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 LUV GALA ABOARD THE LUV BOAT



A lively evening of dinner and dancing on the bay. The Love Uniting Volunteers (LUV) gala supports St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services.

TIME & PLACE: 6

p.m., Loews Coronado

Bay Resort, 4000 Loews Coronado Bay Rd., Coronado, CA 92118

COST: \$225/person

INFO: stpaulseniors.org/luv-gala

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH



The volunteer event of the summer, the bash helps 400 underserved kids get ready for school with backpacks full of supplies, haircuts, family photos, new socks,

shoes and underwear. All churches encouraged to participate. Attend the Luau at St. John's, Fallbrook on Saturday, August 5 to raise funds for supplies.

TIME & PLACE: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Mark's, 4227 Fairmount Ave., San Diego, CA 92115
INFO: stmarkscityheights@gmail.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 LEARNING FROM LONDON

See calendar item for June 10.

LOCATION: St. James, 743 Prospect St., La Jolla, CA 92037

RSVP: Mark Hargreaves, mark@sjbts.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 SFM ORIENTATION



Students and faculty at the School for Ministry orient themselves for the upcoming fall semester of classes. The semester runs from September 9 - December 9.

Classes are for anyone interested in deepening

their understanding of the Christian faith.

TIME: 8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.

LOCATION: Episcopal Church Center, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego

RSVP: Keren, kmondaca@edsd.org

LOOKING AHEAD

OCT 2 - 4: Clergy Conference

OCT 20: Great California Shake Out

NOV 5: UTO Ingathering Sunday

NOV 10 - 11: Diocesan Convention



Registration for Diocesan Convention opened on June 1.

6/1 - 8/31: Earlybird \$95

9/1 - 9/30: Regular \$110

10/1 - 10/27 Late: \$125

Youth: \$45 (middle and high school)

Childcare: \$25/child for programming throughout convention

Interpretación al Español disponible.
RSVP a kmondaca@edsd.org

Find more information about our events online: edsd.org/event

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

JUNE 19 - 23

ST. MICHAEL'S

Maker Fun Factory

AGES: Preschool - 5th Grade
TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Michael's 2775
Carlsbad Blvd., Carlsbad, CA
92008

COST: \$50, includes music CD
and Tshirt, \$20 per sibling
REGISTER: becky@stmbts.org



COST: \$35, multi-child discount available

INFO: gabrielle@sjbts.org, 858-459-3421 x108

JULY 24 - 28

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

Deep Sea Discovery

AGES: 3 - 5th Grade in Fall

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: St.

Bartholomew's, 16275
Pomerado Rd., Poway, CA
92064

COST: \$50 per child, \$5 discount for each
additional sibling

INFO: jprust@stbartschurch.org, 858-487-2159



JUNE 26 - 30

ST. DUNSTAN'S

Maker Fun Factory

AGES: K - 5th grade

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Dunstan's,
6556 Park Ridge Blvd., San
Diego, CA 92120

COST: \$35, includes snacks, materials & Tshirt
REGISTER: stdunstans.org



JULY 24 - 28

ST. PETER'S

Calling all Superheroes! Join the
adventure!

AGES: K-5th grade

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Peter's, 334 14th St.,
Del Mar, CA

COST: \$75 until July 1, then \$90. Scholarships
available

INFO: iscottjones@stpetersdelmar.net



JUNE 26 - 30

ST. ANDREW'S

Hero Central - science, crafts, snacks, games &
Bible fun

AGES: Preschool - 5th Grade

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Andrew's,
890 Balour Dr., Encinitas, CA
92024

CONTACT: children@standrewsepiscopal.org



AUGUST 7 - 11

ALL SOULS'

Paul and the Underground
Church

AGES: K-5th grade

TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: All Souls', 1475
Catalina Blvd., San Diego

COST: \$30 includes music CD, Tshirt, surprises
and prizes

INFO: office@allsoulspointloma.org



JULY 17 - 21

ST. JAMES

Ooh Baby It's a Wild World

AGES: 3 - 11

TIME: 5-8 p.m.

LOCATION: St. James, 743
Prospect St., La Jolla, CA 92037



SUMMER CAMP

JULY 5 - AUG 12

CAMP STEVENS

Dive into the pool, sleep under the stars, take a shot
at archery or aim for the top of the climbing wall. Every
moment at Camp Stevens is shaped to give campers fun
and eye-opening experiences with new friends, kind staff
and delicious food. One onsite session includes a week
with campers from Japan.

LOCATION: 1108 Banner Rd., Julian

INFO: campstevens.org

DONATE: Support refugee
campers through the Campership
Drive: campstevens.org/refugee



TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

AUTHOR: Charlette Preslar, Youth Collaborative Co-Chair EMAIL: cpreslar@edsd.org

With the end of the school year fast approaching, it is impossible to consider transitions without remembering those graduating from high school and approaching the next phase of their lives. Each of the youth below is a member of a different congregation in our diocese. They are off to college this fall and are ready to share how they feel about their upcoming adventure. Enjoy!

"My name is **Dan Schott**, and I'm from St. Peter's, Del Mar. I am graduating from La Jolla Country Day School this June and will be attending Texas Christian University



in the fall. I feel excited about my college years ahead of me. There have been many factors that have helped me develop into who I am today. First, my church has had a significant role in my life through providing me a space that is grounding and centering. Second, my high school has been excellent in preparing me mentally, experientially and academically for college. Finally, my high school lacrosse team has taught me many lessons, just like my church, and these experiences have brought me to where I am today. I wouldn't have it any other way and am ecstatic for what lies ahead of me."

"Hello! My name is **Megan Oakes**, and I'm from St. Bartholomew's, Poway! I am graduating from Classical Academy High School, and I am going to Seattle Uni-



versity, and participating in their honors program, with a major in public affairs for nonprofit management, and a minor in theology. I am incredibly excited to go off to college! Seattle is an ideal location, because I love the rain, and the campus

is super accepting and diverse as well as offering a ton of opportunities for service work. My time on cross country as a senior leader, as well as helping with church events has helped prepare me to be independent in college and feel confident leaving. I am a little nervous about leaving my family and my church, but I think that having their support over the years to help me grow has well prepared me for college."

"My name is **Amber Ray**. I go to Christ Church, Coronado and I currently attend The Bishop's School in La Jolla. I am involved in choir both at school and at church.



I take modern/jazz dance class at school (for which I recently choreographed a piece for the first time), and I play the violin. I am also involved in my school's tutoring program where I tutor younger students in Spanish, and I help our choir director lead choir club. Last year I took a trip to NYC with my high school choir and fell in love with the city, so I am incredibly excited to spend the next four years there at Fordham University (Lincoln Center Campus) starting this fall. My major is currently undecided, but I am thinking of something in economics, psychology or law. I know that whatever my major, I want to continue my involvement with music and the performing arts. My high school is a college preparatory school so I feel that the education I have had plus the incredible support from my family has helped me prepare as much as I can for my transition to the opposite side of the country."

May blessings, joy, and an ever-growing faith follow Dan, Megan, Amber and all of the seniors graduating from high school this year as they head into the next chapter of their lives. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* – Jeremiah 29:11. +

CONFERENCE REPORT: MISSIONAL VOICES

AUTHOR: Pat Carson, Executive Council Member

EMAIL: pcarson@stpetersdelmar.net

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this year’s Missional Voices Conference at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). It was a truly amazing conference—not because of training or receiving answers, but rather it was all about the questions we need to ask ourselves as Episcopalians. It was all about the questions! I heard so many thought-provoking statements and observations! A little about the structure of the conference:

- VTS is gorgeous
- Approximately one-third of attendees were seminarians (free registration for seminarians)
- Two keynote speakers and three missional voices (theological, contextual, and incarnational voice)
- Panel discussions
- Huddles, or breakout groups
- Lots of worship with interesting variations including bluegrass music and Spanish music and liturgy

Keynote: The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Boyle

Bishop Doyle, ninth bishop of Texas, describes his six-word autobiography as: “Met Jesus on pilgrimage, still walking.” Bishop Doyle’s ministry focus is service, evangelism, reconciliation, and challenging Episcopalians to move into their communities with the gospel in word and action.

- Vast amount of time and energy is spent around Sunday morning at the altar. Be sure to also do the audit!
- Feels he spends his time as CEO of an organization that Jesus didn’t even imagine
- All the disciples were turned into apostles and were sent out
- We need to be neighbors to those who look nothing like us, as in the Good Samaritan parable

Keynote: The Rev. Becca Stevens

Becca Stevens is priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms, which produces personal and household products. Its motto is to heal, empower, and employ survivors of abuse. Thistle Farms opens sanctuaries for survivors in a loving community. The global market of Thistle Farms helps em-

ploy more than 1,800 women worldwide, and the national network has more than 40 sister communities. Becca was recently named a 2016 CNN Hero and a White House Champion of Change.

- Missional programs work
- We still sound so Episcopalian with our insider language: “discernment, call, presence”—are we talking to ourselves or to those not versed in Episcopese?

Keynote: The Rev. Stephanie Spellers

- Canon for evangelism and reconciliation
- Participated in panel discussion and conducted an amazing closing Eucharist
- She’s a real evangelist—this cradle Episcopalian was incredibly moved—very powerful; felt like I was starting to get the Jesus movement emotionally as opposed to intellectually

Throughout the conference, we asked and were asked fascinating and unsettling questions. A few takeaways:

- The golden rule is for insiders (Christians who understand it); the platinum rule: do unto others as they would have you do unto them—how do you know what that is if you aren’t out there building relationships?
- What if we had no bishops? Is our institutional structure actually getting in the way of doing God’s work?
- What is your neighborhood—how do you define it? How do you find it?
- Our neighborhood is wherever we find our brothers and sisters in need.
- Have we institutionalized our ministry to buffer ourselves from doing it individually?
- What if we had no parishes, but only missions?

I’m uncomfortable using the term “transformed,” because it carries the connotation of “I was in Place A and now I’m in Place B” as though Place B is some definable new place. I am still very much working on where my new here is—but following this conference, I am definitely no longer in that old here. I am in a state that is blessedly uncomfortable. +

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

AUTHOR: Richard Anderson

EMAIL: churchtrain@aol.com

CHURCH: St. Paul's Cathedral

In 1959 the Rt. Rev. Donald J. Campbell resigned after ten years as suffragan bishop in Los Angeles to accept a position at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For a bishop to resign from normative episcopal responsibilities in a diocese and venture into a different area of ministry was a new experience for most Episcopalians. It was discussed widely throughout the church. Bishop Campbell wanted to continue as a member of the House of Bishops.

"The question is not whether Don Campbell keeps his seat in this house," he argued, "but whether or not the members of this house will be able to learn with me from this new ministry I am about to begin." But Donald Campbell had to give up his seat in the House of Bishops. Many agree Bishop Campbell had an effective ministry at the seminary. But it was not until the General Convention in 1967 that resigned bishops were given seat, voice but no vote in the House of Bishops.

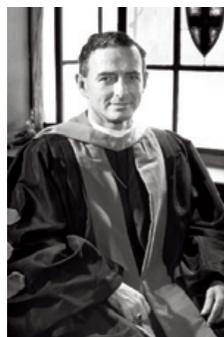
Almost 60 years later it is not so surprising when a bishop moves from episcopal ministry in a diocese to serve at a theological seminary. Such a move

puts some new decisions before the bishop, the seminary and the diocese. It allows all three to look at prior years in a new light, see new possibilities developing and to rethink mission, needs and priorities for the days ahead.

The Episcopal Church has changed in some ways since 1959. It continues to change today. More transition lies ahead.

Someday people will read about us as we now read about Bishop Donald Campbell.

We will have become history. We can hope that among those who replace us will be some as bold in their day as Bishop Campbell was in his. +



Photo/Episcopal News file photo

BISHOP OF YORE:
The Rt. Rev. Donald Campbell, suffragan bishop of Los Angeles from 1949-1959 when he resigned to become development executive for an Episcopal seminary.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

AUTHOR: Hannah Wilder, Communications Director

EMAIL: hwilder@edsd.org

How did seven St. Luke's children start attending St. Patrick's Catholic elementary school? It all began with a conversation. When the Rev. Wayne Sanders, previous vicar of St. Luke's, started his interim work, he visited neighboring churches. He formed a good and prayerful relationship with the Rev. McFadden, priest of St. Patrick's Roman



Photo/Dexter Semple

ECUMENICAL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ALL WILL BE WELL

AUTHOR: Bobbi Hoff, Bishop’s Executive Assistant

EMAIL: bobbi303@edsd.org

Transition: many thoughts circle in my head when I hear the word “transition.” Yikes! There is change afoot. How is it going to affect me? Will it be good? Will it be better? Will it be worse? Oftentimes when we look at change, we look inward and not out beyond ourselves.

Transition, change, endings and new beginnings . . . Our diocese is about to embark on a new adventure—the calling of our fifth bishop. This is my third season of transition in the calling of a new bishop, having been hired by our second bishop, C. Brinkley Morton. In order to begin on this new fork in the road, we must first be attentive the 12 year path we have traveled with Bishop Mathes. We must celebrate the wonderful, sometimes challenging, sometimes unbelievably joyful, journey we have traveled together these past years. We need time to grieve his leaving, celebrate his time with us, and wish him and Terri well on their new path to Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). We need closure before we look ahead to the future.

What lies ahead for us now? Change. This is a time of hope, a time of prayer, a time of thanksgiving for our standing committee and for those who will come forth to serve on the calling and transition committees. The transition time between bishops will likely be 15-17 months. We will not be a ship afloat without a captain. Our diocese will be well-cared for by the able leadership of our standing committee. They will be sure we continue to have Episcopal oversight, Sunday visitations, an uninterrupted ordination process, pastoral care for clergy and diocesan staff, and they will oversee the nomination process before us. Our executive council will continue to oversee the budget and programs of the diocese. Life in the diocese will move forward.

We will see new faces. we will hear new ideas, we will wonder . . . who will we ultimately call to be our new bishop? We wonder about different things. For those of us in the diocesan office it is, “What will she/he be like to work for?” “What will be different, what will remain the same?” To my colleagues I say, “Follow my motto for it has served me well: *Semper Gummy*, always flexible.”

Rest assured, all will be well, the diocese will move forward under new leadership. We are a welcoming diocese—welcome our new bishop. Expect change—embrace change—and never, ever, say, “This is how we do it here!” +



WISE WORDS: Bobbi Hoff, executive assistant and bishop’s office employee for 28 years this December, has served under three of our four bishops. Earlier this year, she received the honor of being recognized as a Browning Fellow for over 20 years attendance at the Bishop’s Executive Secretaries Together (BEST) conference.

ECUMENICAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22
Catholic Church. Father McFadden and Father Sanders, aware of the 20-year-old agreement between our diocese and the Roman Catholic diocese to support one another in ministry, held ecumenical services together including Good Friday, Stations of the Cross and youth activities. One day, Father McFadden said, “By the way, Wayne, you could do us a favor by sending us more students from diverse

backgrounds. We lack diversity.” Father Sanders communicated this news to the congregation, which is home to about 50 refugee families from South Sudan. Seven children of refugees now attend an excellent elementary school in their neighborhood. Father Sanders expresses his gratitude to Father McFadden and St. Patrick’s Church and says, “we are still praying for you.” +



ORDINATION OCCASION: Bishop Mathes ordains the Rev. Christopher Harris at St. Bartholomew's, Poway in December 2016. Many clergy members from throughout the diocese join him for this sacred moment. **BELOW LEFT:** Canon Julie Young and Bishop Mathes participate in the Stations of the Cross event in downtown San Diego. Our servant leader helps carry the props. **BELOW RIGHT:** Our fourth bishop, James R. Mathes.





A TIME TO TILL THE SOIL

AUTHOR: Allisyn Thomas, Canon to the Ordinary

EMAIL: athomas@edsd.org

As we say goodbye to Bishop Mathes, we can rest assured that our governance is in good hands. The standing committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority so decisions that have traditionally been made by the bishop will be made by them. We will have an assisting bishop who will carry out functions reserved for bishops: confirmations, ordinations, etc. He or she will work with the staff to ensure a smooth transition time.

The biggest pitfall in a time like this is anxiety. We have had a good, strong bishop. With him gone, some of us may grow anxious. Yet this is a time for us to be faithful, listen to the Spirit, and perhaps use the pause button before we speak.

If issues arise in your congregation, it is helpful to inform diocesan staff so we can assist you. This is a good time for congregations to engage in some sort of study about our polity, roles of bishops, priests, deacons and lay people and how we all work together as the body of Christ.

During our last transition, I served on the nominating committee and the transition committee. Our day-to-day congregational life did not change much, but the transition work itself required much patience, creativity and discerning hearts. People will have different views of what the next bishop should do or be. Opinions

will not necessarily be shared so we have to listen with the ear of the heart.

When we called Bishop Mathes, our diocese was much more divided on issues of human sexuality, women's ordination, proper liturgical practices and what it means to be the Episcopal Church. We are fortunate that Bishop Mathes has been such a unifying force over his episcopate. My sense is that this time we are coming into this process much more unified and hopeful about mission and that we will be able to concentrate on important things like being the Good News.

The key here is discernment. We have to discern where we are as individuals, as parishes, as a diocese and as part of the larger Episcopal Church. That means consciously engaging in prayer, contemplation, holy discussion and study.

This is also a time to examine what has served us well in the past and what we can let go, or modify. It will not be business as it has been. We have to trust that God will be with us in this process and that we will experience some new things that make us uncomfortable and other things that excite and energize us. We have to be ready for both. And we cannot be locked into what we have been. We will give our new bishop a chance to develop us into a new community. For now, let's continue on our current path, for this is a time to till the soil. +

"People will have different views of what our next bishop should be do or be."



LIFE IN TRANSITION

SURFING & THE ART OF EQUILIBRIUM

AUTHOR: Dan Love

EMAIL: thedaniel.love@gmail.com

CHURCH: St. Paul's Cathedral

I learned to surf when I was eight years old. My dad got me a tiny wetsuit, fixed it up with a small canvas life jacket (because I couldn't really swim) while my grandfather made me a perfect wee surfboard. My dad and I went out early one Saturday summer morning, and I rode the dawn waves for the first time. That is, I rode about three feet before I crashed. Unfazed, I bobbed back up, caught my board, and rode into another wave and crashed again. It would be a few months of this experience before I finally listened to my father and the other older surfers, and let them teach me about how to manage my board and stay balanced, all while moving forward in the midst of the constantly changing movements of the waves. I also learned how to fall off my board and stay safe in the ocean. The most important thing, my dad told me, was to remember that with surfing, every day was completely different. Constant unforeseen change was the rule of the ocean. There was no real way to predict what a wave would do or the best way to ride it—you just had to catch it, and ride 'em out as close to the beach as you could. Over time, he said, you have a intuitive sense of how to catch

and ride in different kinds of surf conditions. But it takes a long time to get there.

Change is everywhere around us, within and without, all the time, day and night. It may be subtle and slow, like the early morning surf, or it might seem at times as though it's hiding just around the corner, waiting for us to arrive and discover it, as if it were a child playing hide-and-seek. Other times, it crashes down on us like a grand piano dropped from the sky. Whatever its roots, however it appears in our lives, welcome or not, ready or not, change is happening all the time to us and around us.

Years ago, I reached a point in early adulthood where I needed to call a time out in my life and evaluate what direction my life was actually taking versus the direction I wanted to go. I traveled across the globe and back, seeking out and stumbling into people who became my teachers and mentors in the fine art of becoming a (mostly) mature (sometimes) critical thinker, able to create an abundant life for myself in the midst of the hard reality that everyday life is a transitional state of being, with occasional pauses to rest and regroup.



So, here is the bad news: the only way out is through. Most of us really don't like it when we are facing the unknown and/or the uncertain; we want to know how much, how long, how fast and where the fire exits are. Some folks aren't bothered facing the unknown, and some prefer being surprised by changes and still others pretend to ignore any changes until their situation becomes untenable.

The most intense and long-lasting transition I have personally experienced is my gender change, which began at the tender age of 49. I want to share with you a few things I learned about facing an unknown, uncertain future.

BREAK THE HABIT OF CARING WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU.

Be who you genuinely are. Don't judge yourself, or project that judgement onto others. There's no telling what others might really be thinking of you. If someone asks you a question about what you are up to these days, tell the truth. Don't try to impress with what you think you should be doing; stay in the moment, look at them and answer their question. Their response to what you tell them is their issue, not yours.

LEARN TO JUST HANG OUT. WHEREVER YOU ARE.

Stop for a moment. Stop over-planning, put away the self-help books for a bit, quit looking for answers. Turn it off, whatever it might be. It will wait for you. Just pause, and breathe, and drop your shoulders, relax your neck. Just be the warm, intelligent animal that you are for a few minutes.

ACCEPT THAT THERE IS NO QUICK FIX.

This is a personal favorite challenge of mine. I get caught up sometimes looking for/chasing down the next great opportunity (whether personal or professional). I have sometimes gotten myself into a mess because I will head into something, anything, just to end the search and the uncertainty. Over time, it always happens that I end up right back where I started, only more discouraged. What I learned from making this mistake (more than once) is that it takes time to find the real thing, the right thing. The real thing is worth the wait.

DO THINGS TO KEEP YOU CENTERED AND GROUNDED.

Don't obsess over what isn't happening (yet, or at all). Call a friend and go out for ice cream, or a walk. Don't waste time on Facebook feeling overwhelmed: go take a shower and sing loudly while you scrub. Bake a cake, dance to the radio, read a favorite book. Do whatever makes you feel centered within yourself, and do something that makes you feel authentic. Do it at least every day.

Friends, I am far from perfect. Surfing remains a hobby for me, and I am still thrown from my board by unexpected Ocean Beach currents. Transition is a daily challenge for all of us, and at certain times in life, it can be difficult and lonely to face the unknown. These few things I mentioned here are intended to be simple supports for you to try while you surf through the constant sea changes life presents to us all. +

GOD CONTINUES TO WORK

AUTHOR: Sharon Obuchon-Staub EMAIL: sharade@earthlink.net CHURCH: Good Shepherd, Hemet

Not all transition woes can be easily dismissed. Take the death of my father in 1977. I was a young woman with two small daughters who were very fond of their grandpa. On his last Christmas, he visited us in Hermosa Beach; I have a photograph of him gently placing ballet slippers on my youngest. But he was like that: sensitive and quiet and always ready to help. Tears still come to my eyes when I perceive yet again that he is no longer with us.

Although she probably missed him, my mother seemed to feel liberated when my father died. She sold the house the family had lived in since 1949, moved to northern California and lived a life of art classes and walks through the sunlit vineyards of Sonoma County. Theirs had not been a peaceful marriage. Mother suffered from bouts of intense depression and the aftereffects of polio which she contracted while training as a registered nurse at LA County Hospital in the 30s.

The death of a loved one usually produces an intense period of transition. But retirement can also be life-changing, as it was for me. I retired in 2002, after one of the most difficult teaching years I'd ever experienced. 9/11 happened at the beginning of the school year. That horrible event set everyone's teeth on edge and, I believe, contributed to an increased instability among the middle school students who themselves were going through many changes, physical and social. Staff was worried that more frightening events were imminent. There was a perceptible rise in problem classrooms and troubled students.

I had already taken many art classes and planned to apply to UC Riverside graduate division for a master's degree in art history. The moment seemed to be perfect; now that I was retired, all the time in the world was at my disposal. But I was also interested in exploring my experiences working for the Anglican Church of

Canada in the 1960s. Canada won out, and I formulated a research plan after reading several books in my subject area.

Attending church had not been a priority for me for several years. Since 1979, my daughters and I had been members of Good Shepherd, Hemet, but our attendance had become erratic. In 2003, when I began my information-gathering on Anglican missions to western Canada, I soon realized that I was missing the spiritual benefits of regular church fellowship. I began going to services again, joined the choir, became active between research trips to Canada, and embraced an all-involving experience of Anglican/Episcopal exposure.

As time passed, events brought me to a deeper sense of God's love and care. First was the 2006 birth of my only grandchild, Justin. I thank God every day for our closeness. Unfortunately, I also began experiencing health problems and increased anxiety. I turned to the Lord for help, and help I received. Third, after several years of on and off participation, I became an active member of the Daughters of the King. Prayer is a large part of our meeting times, and the most intense prayer tradition of all is the time of supplication for our members in the presence of each other.

I feel that, despite my failings and weaknesses and the vicissitudes of existence with its painful but also inspiring transitions, God continues to work in my life. The river flows, but the tree will not be moved. +

"I SOON REALIZED THAT I WAS MISSING THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF REGULAR CHURCH FELLOWSHIP"



LIGHTER LITURGY: Bishop Mathes laughs with the congregation of St. James, La Jolla.

COMMON LIFE SHARE FIRST QUARTER REPORT

AUTHOR: Canon Julie Young, Canon for Finance & Administration EMAIL: jyoung@edsd.org

To strengthen diocesan identity and keep the diocese informed, this quarterly report communicates our current financial picture. The total diocesan budget for 2017 is \$2,365,205. Congregational pledges fund the common life share (formerly called the mission share pledge) budget equaling \$1,620,446, which is 69% of the total budget. In 2017, the formula for giving changed to a minimum of 10.5%. Congregations are asked for incremental common life share funding for specific projects. This year we are excited to report that all congregations pledged at least the minimum. An additional \$19,500 was pledged to support St. Luke's, North Park, Showers of Blessings, Schools Coalition, and the triennial Episcopal Youth Event held this July in Oklahoma. Congregations' common life share makes the following possible:

- **Programs and Ministries:** *The overall expenses for programs and ministries is 30% higher than the 2016 budget.*

Noteworthy is the increase in funding for youth ministry. Also, an expanded congregational development budget provides fearless love grants and resources to our churches including stewardship support, campus ministry, schools resourcing, multicultural awareness, planned giving, Leadership Academy, self-assessment and leadership development tools. RefugeeNet and Episcopal Community Services continue to receive grants from the diocese. In addition, Camp Stevens will receive a grant for camperships.

- **Congregational Operating and Property Support:** In 2017, five churches and one region received operating support. Because of uncertainty around projected need, a mission contingency budget of \$58,000 is included from which executive council or the finance committee authorizes expenditures. In the first quarter, St. Thomas, Temecula received an incremental operating grant to position

them to call a new vicar. The total amount budgeted in congregational operating support is \$126,000, which is an increase over 2016.

- **Congregational Property Improvements:** Congregations that complete a physical needs assessment (PNA) are eligible for property improvement grants. St. John's, Indio received \$10,000 for much needed upgrades to flooring and bathrooms. Work on the restoration of stained glass windows at St. Matthew's, National City was completed early this year. St. Matthew's has an historic designation; the restorer received an award for his work from the Save Our Heritage Organization as a preservation hero. Additional funds are available for grants, primarily for health and safety needs.
- **Clergy Enrichment:** Funding for retired clergy ministry, clergy conference, clergy wellness days, sabbatical and seminarian support. New this year is a small budget to support the work of the diaconate. Two of our deacons attended the churchwide deacon conference and the diocese hosted our first retreat for current deacons.
- **Episcopal Church Center:** We host 23 community service groups at the center on a weekly basis as well as the School for Ministry, the Ocean Beach town council and diocesan committee meetings. This budget includes the cost of compensation for the facilities manager and sexton as well as utilities, maintenance and supplies.
- **Episcopate:** Personnel and non-personnel costs related to the office of the bishop. Together they comprise 48% of the budget. The office of the bishop provides pastoral, administrative, and programmatic oversight and guidance throughout the diocese including episcopal visitations. A robust committee structure engages people from all over the diocese in

First Quarter

Common Life Share

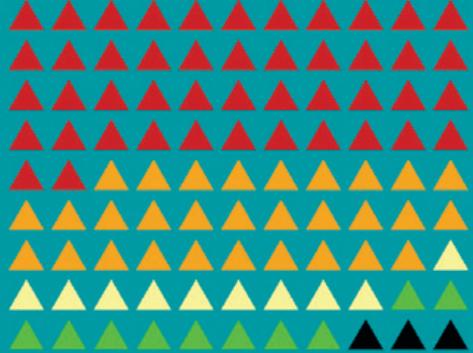
Our Dollars at Work

The first quarter's income supported our participation in the wider Episcopal Church (\$77,369), resourced congregations (\$50,017), connected with people in need (\$16,908), provided programs and ministries (\$16,683), and supported diocesan clergy (\$5,679).

Not shown is \$24,197 of our year-to-date budget applied to property expenses and reserves.

An additional 48% of our budget supports these five areas of focus through the work of our skilled diocesan employees.

Spending Analysis



Five Areas of Focus



#1

Wider Church Participation



#2

Congregational Resourcing



#3

Community Connectedness



#4

Programs & Ministries



#5

Clergy Enrichment

A Closer Look



Wider Church Participation: We give to the broader Episcopal Church as a part of our identity.

Congregational Resourcing: clergy at St. Thomas, Temecula; upgrades at St. John's, Indio; and window restoration at St. Matthew's, National City.

Community Connectedness: Episcopal Community Services, RefugeeNet, Camp Stevens

Programs & Ministries: Youth Collaborative, stewardship support, schools resourcing, planned giving, Leadership Academy

Clergy Enrichment: clergy conference, clergy wellness, sabbatical support, seminarian support

providing oversight. More than 100 volunteers currently serve on one of 15 committees.

- **Operating:** Support for programs that take place less than once a year such as general convention and an episcopate transition. The savings in these reserves would not be possible without common life shares. It is especially critical now as the operating reserves will fund the costs of the

transition.

Your common life share is critical to our collective life as the body of Christ in Southern California and in Yuma, Arizona. We met our budget last year and are on track to do so again this year. We can accomplish this with careful spending and the faithfulness of congregations in fulfilling their common life shares. As such, you are truly our partners in ministry. +

DIOCESAN MESSENGER

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