

Diocesan

FALL 2016



# messenger



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December 4  
St. Paul's, Palm Springs

December 11  
Good Shepherd, Bonita

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Good Shepherd, Hemet

December 24 & 25  
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**ON THE COVER:** Students at Christ Church Day School in Coronado have their pets blessed every October.



**4** Bishop Mathes blesses a dog at The Bishop's School. On page 4, he reflects on the current presidential race.



**15** Generous Episcopalians donated over \$16,000 donated to send refugee kids to camp

# GUNS & POLITICS

EDITOR: Hannah Wilder

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**A**s a 17-year old, Nancy Toti's world was forever changed when she came home from school to the news that her father was dead. He had been shot during a robbery. Now a St. Mark's parishioner, Nancy bravely shares her experience as a survivor, and bearer, of the destruction caused by gun violence.

Tom Simonds, parishioner at St. Mary's, Ramona writes from the perspective of a gun rights advocate. His father taught him how to use guns for sport and how to use them safely. The facts he cites force readers to carefully consider their positions on gun control.

Regardless of whether or not you believe gun manufacturing and sales should be restricted, studies show that 92% of Americans, including gun owners, are in favor of background checks prior to gun purchases. It is safe to say that we all yearn for a more whole world full of life and possibility, not one ripped apart by violence and death.

As Episcopalians we carry the tradition of the *via media*, the middle way. How can we come together to create safe spaces for gun safety advocates and gun rights advocates to discuss reasonable solutions? Talk to your clergy and lay lead-

ership. Visit [BishopsAgainstGunViolence.org](http://BishopsAgainstGunViolence.org). Learn how we can work together to be agents of reconciliation and wholeness.

In his reflection, Bishop Mathes writes this month about the spectacle that is our current presidential race. He urges us to remember our citizenship in the heavenly kingdom and to always ask, "Who is my neighbor?" Perhaps the answer will help inform your decisions at the polls on Tuesday, November 8.

Thank you for reading this issue of the *Diocesan Messenger*. Your feedback is always welcome; please email me. +

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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](mailto: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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# CITIZENS OF A DIFFERENT KINGDOM

AUTHOR: Bishop Jim Mathes

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The primaries and political conventions are over. The pollsters are doing their thing and the presidential candidates are swatting at each other. There will be debates in the fall and an election on November 8. There are many ways in which this election is like no other. Both major party candidates are viewed negatively by a majority of voters. Both are viewed as untrustworthy.

What is also clear is that there is an incredible amount of misinformation out there. Both candidates and their campaigns tell partial truths and outright fabrications. This is nothing new. However, what seems new is that we are able to track more easily in an Internet age that increasingly, the voting public does not seem to care. Indeed, the candidates are not alone in this behavior. Through Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms a host of falsehoods are promulgated. I am reminded of a quotation from twentieth-century theologian Reinhold Niehbur: "Our age knows nothing but reaction, and leaps from one extreme to another." Indeed.

The reality is that this election feels consequential. The Middle East is a mess and our nation must take a large measure of responsibility for that. Our planet is getting dangerously warmer. We worry about poverty, homelessness, guns and violence, and our children's future. What is abundantly clear is that the political processes are really not talking about any of this.

During the Democratic convention, I found myself disquieted by the overarching theme of American hegemony and exceptionalism, which I view as responsible for so many of our arrogant and egregious excesses on the stage of world affairs. Equally distressing, during the Republican convention, we heard a similar message under the guise of making America great again.

Since the beginning of this century, we have experienced 9/11, two wars,



**BISHOP MATHES: Our bishop encourages readers to really listen for the heart of each presidential candidate.**

a massive recession, and a resurgence in global terrorism. In his book, *Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street*, Jim Wallis tells of his experience attending the 2008 world economic forum in Switzerland where the media's relentless question at daily press conferences was "When will this end?" When will the economic turmoil and the instability end?" Wallis responded that we were asking the wrong question. He suggested that we should ask, "How will we be changed by this?"

It is my sense that we are a nation in denial. The world is changing; our role is different. We need to consume less and lead less. We need to be humbler and more gracious. Regrettably, neither candidate seems able to lead us into this new posture of global citizenship.

On November 8, we will go to the polls. While it is not appropriate for me to tell folks who to vote for, as your bishop it is my role, promised in my ordination vows, to "boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the consciences of [the] people." And with that much in mind, I ask you to listen carefully to what each candidate says. Listen for their heart. Who and what do they love? What do you sense is their passion? What do they really believe? What are their values? How do they show those values? How do they align



1



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**BISHOP ON THE MOVE:** 1) Bishop McElroy, Roman Catholic bishop, and our bishop, Bishop Mathes, exiting St. Paul's Cathedral after the service to commemorate all LatinX who died in the Orlando shooting in June. 2) Lesslie Keller, executive director of Episcopal Community Services (ECS), and Bishop Mathes at the Rock 'n' Roll marathon. Both executives, along with about 50 others, participated in the 5K and raised funds to support the programs of ECS. 3) Episcopal selfie with the congregation of St. Hugh of Lincoln, Idyllwild this summer. 4) L to R: Jacqueline Bray, Nancy Holland, Bishop Mathes, Chris Harris and Richard Lee at their ordination to the diaconate.

with the values of Jesus and the kingdom? As you vote for the highest office, and for all those offering themselves for service at the federal, state and local levels, these are the questions to ponder. In the end,

we vote as citizens of a different kingdom. Our national citizenship is always provisional. We carry forth Jesus' preference for the poor and always ask, "Who is my neighbor?" +

# LEADERS IN GENEROSITY

“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”  
(Matthew 6:20-21)

We are pleased to recognize the outstanding leadership of the following individuals who have financially supported the Bishop’s Appeal and the Build the Serving Church capital campaign. These

gifts and pledges were made between January 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016. We are deeply grateful to members of this group for their generosity. To donate to the 2016 Bishop’s Appeal, visit [edsd.org/bishopsappeal](http://edsd.org/bishopsappeal).

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# Why I Give

AUTHOR: Jeff Bates

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Many of us contribute regularly to our parishes through pledges and offerings. But did you realize that there is a need beyond our congregations? I was blessed to get to know Bishop Mathes and his wife, Terri, several years ago. I learned about the bishop's vision for our diocese, which included a diocesan center, and a local theological training program to equip people called into ministry. This has since become a reality called the **School for Ministry** and several people I'm pleased to call friends have graduated and become clergy members.

We are connected to, and impacted by, the standing of the Episcopal Church in

San Diego, Riverside, Imperial, and Yuma Counties.

The stronger we are, and the more we reach out to others, the more we fulfill the work of Christ, who asked us to take his message into all the world. Just open a copy of the *Messenger*, and you will be amazed at all the work accomplished by the diocese. This is why I give to the diocese in addition to my parish; please consider doing so as well. +



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We make every effort to be accurate with this listing. If there are errors or omissions, please accept our apologies and contact Hannah Wilder, [hwilder@edsd.org](mailto:hwilder@edsd.org), 619-481-5456 in order to correct our records. + [Photo/Refugee kids enjoying San Diego beaches. Just one of the many things made possible through your support. Fostering the faith of young people would not be possible without your gifts to the Bishop's Appeal. Thank you!](#)



# I LOST MY FATHER TO GUN VIOLENCE

AUTHOR: Nancy Toti    CHURCH: St. Mark's, City Heights    EMAIL: [ntoti286@gmail.com](mailto:ntoti286@gmail.com)

I am writing this from the vantage of over 40 years and it still hurts and hurts. I was living in New Jersey with my family. I had just turned 17 and was in my senior year in high school. The year started promisingly enough for a shy, awkward young woman who avoided school at all costs. I had friends. I had great teachers—I was hopeful.

I remember it like it was yesterday. I had a really good talk after school with my English teacher, Mrs. Van Dyke, and my sister picked me up and let me drive home. She complimented me on my driving. When I got home, I went to my room. A few minutes later I heard my sister scream. It was like nothing I had ever heard before. I tried to shut her out, but I went downstairs instead. A friend of my father's was there. I asked what happened and he said

"There was a hold-up and your father was shot." I was so sure he would say, "He's going to be okay," but instead he said: "he's dead."

My soul fell into a deep, dark endless chasm. My mom began to scream.

I felt terror; I did not know how to be. It felt like God had turned his back on my family, that he hated us. In an instant I was thrown into an abyss, abandoned by God, punished for some unnameable sin. I truly believed that this was somehow my fault—how else could such a random, senseless act make sense? Someone was responsible and in my 17-year-old mind that someone was me.

Kids that have to make sense of horror, but they are not mature enough to understand the randomness of evil. Most kids do this by placing themselves at the center of the tragedy in an effort to come to grips with it.

My friend, Linda, rounded up friends from school and we went for a ride. No one spoke a word. That night people started showing up at my house. I remember my cousin

contacting her mother who was in Vietnam working for the State Department. I remember the phone connection was not good, as my cousin was shouting into the phone. My aunt must have asked where my dad was shot, because my cousin

**"My soul fell into a deep, dark endless chasm. . . It felt like God had turned his back on my family."**

shouted, "In the face." Both Gina and I gasped. At that moment my father ceased to exist. He became a damaged, bleeding body. I told myself that I did not deserve to eat, or even exist, because my dad was shot in the face and I was responsible.

That night I went to bed and dreamed of my dad, and I made plans for the rest of my life. I was going to teach English and live in a small house and never get married and never leave my home except to go to work and family events. The next morning I woke up, breathed the wonderful autumn air in, and then remembered. The abyss deepened. Meanwhile news of my father's murder swept across northern New Jersey. I was terrified and living in a fish bowl. The local newspapers had gotten hold of the story; one newspaper in particular intimated that since my father was Italian and owned his own business he was probably a member of the mafia. I was ashamed of my heritage, afraid of everything and silent and humiliated.

As most Catholics in those days, we had a four day wake. At the funeral the priest dressed in white vestments and told everyone that we should not be sad, that being sad was being selfish and that my dad was in heaven and we should celebrate. I remember being angry and confused. I wanted to stand up and shout "I AM sad! How dare you?" My 17-year-old self was torn with outrage by his insensitivity. I wondered if I was indeed being selfish. I hope this man has grown and has come to understand the depths of sorrow and trauma that losing a loved one to gun violence causes. It occurs to me now, that he was probably at a loss to bring comfort—that he was reaching to connect us to God's love. I for one was so disconnected from God's love that for years I told people I was an atheist.

After the service, everyone went back to my house and ate and then they were gone. My mother and I were bewildered. What do we do now? My mom was willing to let me take a couple of weeks off school. For a kid who hated school, I could not return soon enough. My mom was shattered. I remember my sister spent hours one afternoon talking my mom out of committing suicide.

I just watched this unfold, numb, scared and unable to talk. I did not talk

about my feelings. I could not name my feelings or get near my feelings without being afraid I would start screaming and never stop.

Years went by. I could not cope with college—I dropped in and out. I was only capable of working part-time and that is what I did. My mother was working long hours at a low-paying job. She understood,

I think, the deep hurt, and did not put pressure on me to finish school or work part-time. I look back now, and so appreciate what she did for me—she took care of me and put food on the table and was gentle in her way, even though she was broken. She

never recovered from my father's death and later succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease.

I left home at 25 and became a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer working in anti-hunger programs in Vancouver, Washington. I started therapy and finished college. VISTA saved my life—I learned I could survive on very little, create meaningful change, have fun and, thanks to a skilled therapist, I started to heal. I learned about complicated grief and how survivors of a family member lost to violence take longer to heal. I didn't feel like such a freak anymore. I was born and raised in New Jersey, but I really grew up in Vancouver, Washington.

For many years I could not put into words what I was really frightened of—and then I met a Cambodian refugee and read a book called *The Lovely Bones*. The Cambodian refugee, who was Buddhist, talked about how a murdered soul wanders the earth for seven days because it is in shock. *The Lovely Bones* is told from the point of view of a 12-year-old girl who is violently murdered. I could not stop crying when I read this book because it gave voice to something I could not put into words—is the soul of a murder victim damaged? Did my dad's soul suffer? I have answered this question for myself. I am sure that family members of a victim of gun violence ask the very same question silently. It is a question only they can answer. My answer is yes; my dad's soul suffered and I believe he did wander for seven days, confused and in shock. His soul was damaged because no one in my family can remember my dad without remembering the awful way he died. The trauma of his death caused me to forget

"I felt so disconnected from God's love that for years I told people I was an atheist."



**LOVE THE LUV GALA: Episcopalians enjoying a photo shoot at St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services' LUV Gala. *Back L-R:* Norm Crispen, George Kuhrts, Don Pellioni, Richard Lee. *Middle:* Andrew Rank, Richard Lief, Carolyn Lief, Penny Bridges, Martha Curatolo, Allisyn Thomas, Vicki Hoppenrath. *Front:* Barnabas Hunt, Pat Kreder, and Toño Peña.**

GUN VIOLENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

who he was for years. My mom told me that after he died, whenever his name was mentioned I would leave the room. Family members relive a little of the pain, shock, sadness and trauma whenever there is a publicized shooting. The pain lives on.

Several years ago, my uncle was taking my aunt and I out to dinner and a Sinatra song came on the radio. My dad loved Sinatra and this was one of his favorite songs. I felt his presence in the car, gentle and reassuring. I knew he had healed and was okay.

I would like to say this about losing a family member to gun violence: it is a lifelong journey. At different times, there are different issues, and they are revisited over and over. My dad died over 40 years ago and forgotten memories still come through—sometimes softly while at other times they come roaring at me. I just recently remembered how my sister's friends and my friends would come over to visit us and wind up talking with my dad for hours and hours about the issues of the day. I cried when I remembered; it felt like so long ago, but so much in the present. I lost that memory for over 40 years.

As a young woman, I felt deserted and detested by God. Now I feel blessed. I have so much to be thankful for. I have a kind, gentle and loving partner. I have skills and talents to share. I have a place to live, a great sister and great friends, a church community that nourishes and sustains me, food on the table—so many blessings. And yet I feel angry when people suggest that guns will make us safer. It feels like a slap in the face and it desecrates my dad's memory because it legitimizes gun violence and supports violent death.

Recently our nation has experienced so many shootings: Orlando, the shootings of unarmed African-American men, the police killings. Each death damages the souls of the living and the dead. Each death diminishes us all. I often stop and wonder if all the people lost to gun violence had not been killed, what gifts would they have given us? How much richer would we be? What about their families? What roads would they have taken if they were not sidelined by the need to tend to their wounds? +

## Gun Violence: Delving Deeper

If you wish to explore the issue of gun control, we encourage you to sign up for an online course from ChurchNext called "A Christian Response to Gun Violence." Four lessons comprise the curriculum, each with a brief written introduction, a five or six minute video, and activities. The class helps us understand what to do next. It asks, "What are our responsibilities as Christians in response

to the high rate of gun violence

**CHURCHNext**

and its causes?" If we create space for productive, respectful conversation, most of us can find ways to come together and keep 30,000 more people from being shot in the next year. + **Sign up online:** [churchnext.tv](http://churchnext.tv)

# NEW EMPLOYEES IN THE DIOCESAN OFFICE

The bishop's office is pleased to welcome three new employees: Jeff Green, facilities manager, Courtney Krafft, administrative assistant, and Charlette Preslar, youth missionary. Jeff has extensive work history in the areas of operations, facilities management, information technology, systems management, and international business consulting. He is also a member of St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego. In his role at the bishop's office, he oversees volunteer activities, including Showers of Blessings, and supports the office in the areas of IT, disaster planning and systems upgrades. Contact him via email: [jgreen@edsd.org](mailto:jgreen@edsd.org) or by phone: 619-481-5463.



Courtney graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2015 with a degree in geography. She plans to pursue this subject in graduate school and is taking courses to help her prepare. In the meantime, she says she "enjoys working with the bishop's staff. It's meaningful work in a welcoming place." Courtney is responsible for reception, hospitality, administrative support, website updates, data entry and myriad other duties as assigned. Contact her by email: [ckrafft@edsd.org](mailto:ckrafft@edsd.org) or phone: 619-481-5468.

Charlette joined the staff in July as the youth missionary. She also serves as the day school chaplain and

director of youth and family ministries at Christ Church, Coronado. As youth missionary, she connects youth, youth ministers, clergy and parishes to one another. She plans to build on the work of the Youth Collaborative with events, service trips and an online presence. In addition to her passion for youth ministry, she has a background in nutrition and a passion for service. Contact her via email: [cpreslar@edsd.org](mailto:cpreslar@edsd.org) or by phone: 619-481-5465.

Welcome, Jeff, Courtney and Charlette. **+ Learn more about diocesan staff and find email addresses and phone numbers online:** [edsd.org/staff-directory](http://edsd.org/staff-directory)



# PERSPECTIVES: firearms as tools

AUTHOR: Tom Simonds    CHURCH: St. Mary's, Ramona    EMAIL: tom951@att.net



**GUNNING FOR BEST GRANDPA:** The author with his grandson.

**G**un control, as it has been described by some, has taken on a life of its own. Perhaps it is due to this being an election year like none other I can remember in my nearly seven decades. I have been involved in law

enforcement in one way or another for over 50 years.

I was born a few years after World War II and raised in San Diego County. As a child, my father introduced me to shooting. I attended an NRA safe hunter's course and learned gun safety at the age of eight or nine. I learned to respect weapons and the negative potential they had if used carelessly and without regard for safety. As a youngster I went hunting for deer, rabbits and various birds. I never shot a deer, but quail and doves didn't stand a chance. My father, a land surveyor, worked a lot in the back country. I'd accompany him on weekends to help hold a 500' chain (metal tape measure), or cut brush along township and range lines. I was always armed with a 45 long Colt in case of snakes or wild animals. I was 12 years old. When I reached the age of 18, I enlisted in the US Air Force and served as an air policeman for four years. I was armed and carried a 38 revolver and an M-16 assault rifle. Upon my discharge from the military I was hired as a police officer in San Diego where I served for 33 years. During that time I carried a 38 revolver and later a 9mm semiautomatic pistol. During all the time I was armed, I never shot anyone or engaged in illegal activity using a firearm.

God gave us humans the free will to choose what we do—for good or evil. Unfortunately the world has, and always will have, evil lurking about. People decide if they are going to do good deeds or prey on others. We have all heard the quote "God made man, but Samuel Colt made

them equal." There are people in this world that will carry a weapon for the express purpose of doing bad deeds: robbery, assaults, rape, assassinations and just plain old intimidation. There are many news clips or Internet accounts of people with a gun bullying someone. According to the Congressional Research Service, there are over three million guns in this country. The population of the US is roughly 324,118,787 people. Although it would be nice to think that gun control would alleviate the amount of guns, it's not reality. Law abiding citizens are exactly that. They obey the law. Criminals do not obey the laws; they prey on others. Now, here is where people get upset.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." Yes, times were different in America in the 1700s. But, consider this:

- In 1911, Turkey established gun control. Subsequently, from 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, deprived of the means to defend themselves, were rounded up and killed.
- In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, approximately 20 million dissidents were rounded up and killed.
- In 1938 Germany established gun control. Union leaders, Catholics and others, unable to fire a shot in protest, were rounded up and killed.
- In 1935, China established gun control. Between 1948 and 1952, over 20 million dissidents were rounded up and killed.
- In 1956, Cambodia enshrined gun control. In just two years (1975-1977) over one million educated people were rounded up and killed.
- In 1964, Guatemala locked in gun control. From 1964 to 1981, over 100,000 Mayan Indians were rounded up and killed as a result of their inability to defend themselves.
- In 1970, Uganda embraced gun control. Over the next nine years over 300,000 Christians were rounded up and killed.



**REFUGEE CAMPERSHIPS:** Generous donations sent underserved youth to summer camp at **Camp Stevens**, our diocesan camp in Julian. Episcopalians from nine congregations donated over \$16,000 which provided a priceless summer experience for 18 **RefugeeNet** children plus supplies. They would not otherwise have been able to enjoy the beauty of camp, make new friends, and strengthen their independence. Thank you!

#### PERSPECTIVES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

An FBI report states that: "...the 2014 estimated violent crime total was 6.9 percent below the 2010 level and 16.2 percent below the 2005 level." Guns are used exponentially more often to stop crime than to kill; each year firearms prevent an estimated 2.5 million crimes in the US, usually without a shot being fired, meaning that guns are used over 300 times more often to save innocent lives, given the 8,124 murders committed with firearms in 2014.

**"Guns are used exponentially more often to stop crime than to kill."**

Nearly five times as many murders are committed with knives than so-called assault rifles, according to the FBI. The new crime statistics released by the agency reveal that out of 11,961 murders performed within the US in 2014, 660 were committed unarmed, 1,567 were committed with knives and only 248 murders were known to have been committed using rifles of any type, including single-shot long arms and assault rifles. Granted, the FBI did list 2,052 murders under "unknown firearm type," but given the percentages of the known firearm categories, it is unlikely that more than four percent of the "unknown firearms" were in fact rifles, and

less than that were semi-automatics. In other words, despite the calls to ban "military-style assault rifles" by anti-gun groups, conservatively less—and likely much less—than four percent of murders were committed using AR-15s, AK-47s and other semi-automatic long arms. This figure is a decrease from 2013. In comparison, AR-15s are used far less often in murders than shotguns. Overall the number of murders involving guns has dropped from 8,855 in 2012 to 8,454 in 2013 and now 8,124 in 2014, following a significant decline in gun-related violent crimes since the mid-1990s.

While death by firearms is an important topic that captures the news and many people's attention, the statistics seem to indicate that rate of gun related deaths are dropping. Would it be great if no one was killed with a firearm? Yes I believe it would. Is it a real possibility? No, I don't believe that will happen. A firearm is a tool. If used safely, properly and legally, it will not cause harm. +

# FALL CALENDAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

## Hispanic Heritage Day



Attend this annual celebration of our Latino/Hispanic heritage. Food, raffle, games, La Loteria, inflatable playgrounds, Aztec dancers, Mariachi and desserts.

TIME & PLACE: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., St. Philip's, 2660 Hardy Dr., Lemon Grove  
RSVP: Church Office: 619-466-8055 or [stphilip1950@yahoo.com](mailto:stphilip1950@yahoo.com)

FRI - SUN, SEPTEMBER 23 -25

## Province VIII Altar Guild Conference

Come learn about the altar guild in all its glory. Connect with other altar guild members from all over the western part of our church. Be renewed in your ministry. COMMUTER COST: \$130

LOCATION: Old Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center, Oceanside  
INFO: [azaltarguild@cox.net](mailto:azaltarguild@cox.net)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

## Ordination to the Priesthood



The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson will be ordained a priest by the Rt. Rev. Martin Field, bishop of West Missouri. All are welcome to attend this beautiful, sacred service and welcome Mary Lynn.

TIME & PLACE: 10 a.m., St. Bartholomew's, 16275 Pomerado Rd., Poway  
INFO: Bobbi, [bobbi303@edsd.org](mailto:bobbi303@edsd.org)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

## Daughters of the King Fall Assembly

Author, motivational speaker and leader Pat Van Gorder to speak on "The Best of Friends." Bring a salad or dessert to share

in the potluck lunch. All women welcome.  
TIME & PLACE: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. Peter's, 334 14th St., Del Mar  
INFO: Lynn, [lynn\\_ballinger@att.net](mailto:lynn_ballinger@att.net)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

## Youth Group Olympics

All kids in grades 6-12 are welcomed and encouraged to attend an afternoon of fun and games. Get to know other kids around the diocese, and plan for convention.

TIME & PLACE: 2 - 6 p.m., St. Thomas, 44651 Avenida de Misiones, Temecula  
INFO: Charlette, [cpreslar@edsd.org](mailto:cpreslar@edsd.org)

MON - WED, OCTOBER 3 - 5

## Clergy Conference



Clergy members will be joined by keynote speaker Mike Cooney as they explore the topic of building a learning community.

PLACE: Vina de Lestonnac Retreat Center, Temecula

INFO: Keren, [kmondaca@edsd.org](mailto:kmondaca@edsd.org)  
REGISTER: [edsd.org/event/clergy-conference](http://edsd.org/event/clergy-conference)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

## Celebration of New Ministry



We officially welcome the Rev. Kent Branstetter as the new rector of St. Dunstan's. A warm welcome to his wife, Rebecca, as well.

TIME & PLACE:

4:30 p.m., St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park

Ridge Blvd., San Diego

INFO: Bobbi, [bobbi303@edsd.org](mailto:bobbi303@edsd.org)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

## Service Summit

Join a dynamic group of service/outreach ministers as they swap ideas and work together as one to make a greater impact

# DAR

for good in the world. This quarter's topic is serving the elderly.

TIME & PLACE: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Andrew's, 890 Balour Dr., Encinitas  
INFO: Sarah, [sarah.a.shealy@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.a.shealy@gmail.com)

## SAT - SUN, OCT 29 - 30 Youth Collaborative Leadership Retreat

A retreat for youth ministers that includes visioning for your congregation and the diocese, policies and guidelines, hiking, singing, campfires and worship.

COST & PLACE: \$110, Camp Stevens, 1108 Banner Rd., Julian  
INFO: Charlette, [cpreslar@edsd.org](mailto:cpreslar@edsd.org)

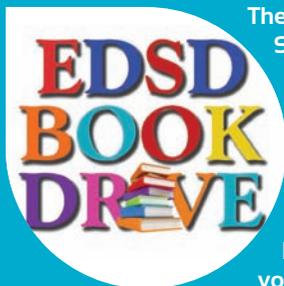
## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 Celebration of New Ministry



The Rev. Laurel and the Rev. Colin Mathewson will officially begin new ministry in North Park where they will focus on building missional community

TIME & PLACE: 4 p.m., St. Luke's, 3725 Thirtieth St., San Diego  
INFO: Bobbi, [bobbi303@edsd.org](mailto:bobbi303@edsd.org)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 Book Drive



The Diocesan Service Coalition asks churches to collect new and gently used books for children ages 0-14. Please hold your book drive

before November 10 and bring books to convention to be distributed to underserved youth in the desert.  
PLACE: St. Margaret's, Palm Desert  
INFO: Sarah, [sarah.a.shealy@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.a.shealy@gmail.com)

## FRI - SAT, NOVEMBER 11 - 12 Diocesan Convention

Carry out the business of the diocese while enjoying time with fellow Episcopalians.

See article, page 22.  
PLACE: St. Margaret's, Palm Desert  
INFO: [edsd.org](http://edsd.org)

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Armed Forces Evensong

A beautiful Anglican service honoring our armed forces and veterans.  
TIME & PLACE: 5 p.m., St. Paul's Cathedral, 2728 6th Ave., San Diego  
INFO: Bobbi, [bobbi303@edsd.org](mailto:bobbi303@edsd.org)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 Daughters of the King Advent Quiet Day

Join us for the quiet day and potluck lunch  
TIME & PLACE: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Trinity, 845 Chestnut, Escondido  
INFO: [rachaelatamian@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelatamian@gmail.com)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 Ordination to the Priesthood

Pending Standing Committee approval, the Rev. Chris Harris will be ordained a priest. All welcome to attend the service.  
TIME & PLACE: 10 a.m., St. Bartholomew's, 16275 Pomerado Rd., Poway  
INFO: Bobbi, [bobbi303@edsd.org](mailto:bobbi303@edsd.org)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 Alternative Gifts Expo

Find holiday gifts from around the world and join the fight to end poverty. Enjoy a light lunch of soup and bread.  
TIME & PLACE: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., St. Paul's Cathedral, 2728 6th Ave., San Diego  
INFO: Carolyn, [cglief@aol.com](mailto:cglief@aol.com)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 Ordination to the Priesthood



Pending Standing Committee approval, the Rev. Dr. Richard Lee will be ordained a priest. Come enjoy this special service and reception.

TIME & PLACE: 4 p.m., Good Samaritan, 4321 Eastgate Mall, San Diego  
INFO: Bobbi, [bobbi303@edsd.org](mailto:bobbi303@edsd.org)

# SEMINARIAN SUMMER

AUTHOR: Kelly Mahon

ROLE: Seminarian

EMAIL: [phellymahon@gmail.com](mailto:phellymahon@gmail.com)

**A**s a part of my continuing education and formation, I participated in a 12-week Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). CPE is required for graduation at most Episcopal seminaries. The program incorporated weekly assignments, and reflection in a group setting.

We made rounds every afternoon, and sometimes into the evening to visit with patients, and assess and address their spiritual needs. I visited an adult surgical oncology ward, and a general medicine ward five days per week. Surgical oncology was pretty straightforward. Patients come for surgery or ongoing post-op treatment. The general medicine ward served people with endocrine disorders, and genetic diseases. These wards were challenging and rewarding. Most of the patients I served were 18 and older.

The National Institutes of Health is a collection of 27 institutes and centers sitting on a 300+ acre campus in Bethesda, Maryland. It was founded in 1953 with the specific purpose of conducting life-saving medical research. The clinical center, where I served, is effectively an enormous research hospital with laboratories, classrooms, and of course, 234 overnight hospital beds and 83 day beds. According to their own statistics, the NIH has more than 7,000 inpatient visits and and 100,000 outpatient visits per year.

All patients served at the NIH are a part of research protocol. They have been screened by investigating physicians to be part of trials or natural history studies. Natural history studies track the progression of (currently) incurable diseases, so that when curative treatments are available, there will be a wealth of information around how a certain disease or syndrome behaves.

Because of the experimental scope of the work at NIH, they accept no private insurance. Once you are accepted for a study, and on protocol, the NIH funds 100% of your treatment and the research surrounding it. While all this may sound extravagant, keep in mind that this community has developed vaccines, stem cell



transplants and pioneering AIDS research. Unique to the NIH is the idea of interdisciplinary and comprehensive treatment. Every patient is assigned a social worker, and has access to physical therapy, recreation therapy, pain and palliative medicine, and spiritual care.

Throughout the summer, I was invited to interdisciplinary meetings, and did a four-week rotation with the pain and palliative care team. They attend to the quality-of-life needs of the chronically ill—whether that be pharmacological pain management, acupuncture, etc.

I was one of four students accepted to the summer session. My classmates included: a fellow Episcopalian from Virginia Theological Seminary, a student from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and a student from Wesleyan Seminary. We were a cohesive cohort, and I am thankful for this ecumenical and interfaith group.

This fall, I will be back in Austin for my second of three years. It's hard to believe that I am nearing the halfway point of my seminary education! In addition to being a full-time student, I will be placed at the historic parish of St. David's in downtown Austin. I will serve there every Sunday during the school year, helping at the altar, and preaching twice per semester. More information about St. David's is online: [stdave.org](http://stdave.org)

I miss my diocesan community in San Diego, and thank you for your continued prayers and support! +

# SEMINARIAN STORIES...

## Crossing Borders with Christie Fleming



**MINISTRY OF PRESENCE:** Seminarian Christie Fleming (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) spent two weeks this summer in Northern

Mexico with Anglican communities. "I just was present with them. Nobody visits them because Northern Mexico is so dangerous. Because they feel so isolated, they would come up to me with tears in their eyes and say, 'You see me, you came here.' That's a context I have never lived. It was really something. I spent five days in Rio Bravo where 19 people were gunned down at the taco shop I visited the night before. Do we in the US ever hear about that, an incident five miles from our border?" At left, Fleming is pictured with Oscar Pulido at an Anglican church in Guadalupe, Mexico. +

## Soaking Prayer with Susan Green

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN:** Seminarian Susan Green volunteered as a hospital chaplain at Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage. As a former nurse she found it hard at first to refrain from patient care activities, but she soon got the hang of simply being present to people in the midst of their suffering, joy, questioning. "It is amazing to spend that much of the day soaked in prayer. As a hospital chaplain I have a unique opportunity to bring God to those in the hospital. Before I enter a room, I say a prayer of thanksgiving for bringing me to that doorway and to guide my words and actions. I never know what I will find, but God does." Read more about her experiences on her blog: [playfulchaplain.wordpress.com](http://playfulchaplain.wordpress.com) +



## Leading & Learning with Lilia Mendoza



**THE LONG ROAD:** Lilia Mendoza is a candidate for holy orders who has studied at Bloy House in Los Angeles and the School for Ministry (SFM) in Ocean Beach. She plans to finish her theological training at the SFM and eventually be ordained as a vocational deacon. She has served her home parish of St. Paul's, Yuma for the past seven years as an acolyte, translator, and lay leader.

"It is a great pleasure and honor to assist the church and the community in whatever way possible," she said. This summer, she preached at St. John's, Indio which helped her to "grow in faith."

She manages all of this on top of her job as a caregiver for disabled citizens. She also chaperones the Special Olympics. +

# INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES



Photo/Susan Forsburg

**FEARLESS FUN:** The Fearless Love grants funded an initiative to transport 16 kids from St. Luke's, North Park to St. Paul's Cathedral for Vacation Bible School this August.

The Fearless Love grants awarded in July dispensed \$13,265 to innovative ministry ideas throughout the diocese. "Our hope with these grants is to connect parishes to one another and to help them interface with faith leaders in their communities," said the Rev. Canon Nancy R. Holland, the diocesan chief of staff and the grant overseer. The grant committee gave preference to those proposals that partnered with other faith communities. One grant explicitly met this criterion.

St. Luke's, San Diego partnered with the Cathedral to write a grant for transportation that would shuttle underprivileged children in North Park to summer camp at the Cathedral. This came to fruition in August when 17 North Park kids attended Camp Spirit for VBS. Two other grants (one for \$450 and another for \$1,500) provide resources for youth leadership training. The fearless love grant program also encouraged initiatives that fostered diversity, formed disciples of all ages, enhanced spiritual vitality, engaged the church in its neighborhood, created new church communities in underserved

areas and boldly reimagined church. St. Michael's, Carlsbad received a grant for \$3,150 to install new pickleball courts, which engages its community. The Spiritual Journey Center, a young adult community in Ocean Beach, received \$1,440 to launch its presence in the heart of that beach community. St. Stephen's, Menifee received \$2,475 to connect with and nurture relationships with young families in the nearby community. Congratulations to all of this year's Fearless Love grant recipients. +



Photo/Chris Craig-Jones

**PICKLEBALL PRIEST:** The Rev. Doran Stambaugh blessing the new pickleball courts at St. Michael's by-the-Sea, Carlsbad

# BOOK REVIEW

# WAGING PEACE

AUTHOR: Richard Lief

CHURCH: St. Paul's Cathedral

EMAIL: richardclief@gmail.com

**N**on-violence works, if we give it a chance and are willing to promote and live it. *Waging Peace* is a primer for all who seek peace in our war-worn and tragic world. Author David Hartsough, whose parents were devout Quakers, is a man with a mission—a mission to be involved where there is injustice anywhere in the world, where there is an opportunity, to influence change.

In *Waging Peace* David shares his life's adventure. Over the last 50 years he has led and been engaged in nonviolent peacemaking in the US, Kosovo, the former Soviet Union, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Iran, Palestine, Israel, and many other countries.

He is the executive director of Peaceworkers in San Francisco, and has a BA from Howard University and an MA in international relations from Columbia University. He is a Quaker and a member of the San Francisco Friends Meeting.

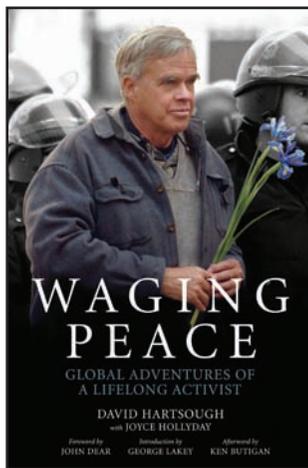
Born in 1940, David has dedicated his whole life to being where he can make a difference. In his forward to *Waging Peace*, John Dear describes David: "He's so humble, simple, and gentle that no one would know the powerful force that moves within him."

Given Gandhi's book, *All Men are Brothers*, by his parents, on his 14th or 15th birthday, Hartsough was inspired by Gandhi's experience—that nonviolence is the most powerful force in the world and that it could be a means of struggle to liberate a country. David was 15 when he met Martin Luther King, Jr.

David's adventures in nonviolence are engaging and inspiring in their call to nonviolent action for the betterment of everyone on the planet. He co-founded the Nonviolent Peaceforce, which is recognized by the United Nations. He has met with people in all walks of life who have shared their yearning for peace and justice. And he has met with people in power—memorably with President Kennedy who responded and acted favorably on David's thoughtful and encouraging viewpoints.

I was captivated by David when he spoke several years ago at a conference I attended, sponsored by the San Diego Peace Resource Center. Among the

personal stories he shared, one particularly inspired me. When he was 20, he was trained to participate in a lunch counter sit-in in Arlington, Virginia. It was in the early days of the civil rights movement.



Available for purchase on Amazon for approx. \$15.

He had just been reading Jesus' sermon on the mount: "Love your enemies... Do good to those who hate you" when he heard a voice behind him say, "Get out of this store in two seconds, or I am going to stab you through the heart." The man had a terrible look of hatred on his face, and a knife a half inch from David's heart. Did Jesus mean to include this man?

Grateful for his training of the past two days, David turned around, tried his best to smile and said, "Friend, do what you believe is right, and I will try to love you." The man's jaw and hand dropped, and miraculously, he turned away and walked out of the store.

Chapter 14 gives practical application and encouragement. Topics include: transforming our society from one addicted to violence and war to one based on justice and peace with the world; a proposal for ending all war; resources for further study and action; and ten lessons learned from my life of activism.

As Episcopalians we are engaged in seeking the Christ in all persons, and respecting the dignity of every human being. I am grateful that David Hartsough continues to live and promote his life of nonviolence as he seeks peace and justice world-wide. *Waging Peace* is a primer which deserves to be read, marked, learned and inwardly digested—and most of all, with the help of God, lived. +

# CONVENTION UNDER THE STARS



**BISHOP'S CROSS:** Bishop Mathes awarding Tim Agnew (St. Andrew's, Encinitas) with the Bishop's Cross in November 2015. Who will receive the award this year? Come to Palm Desert to find out. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

**C**ome one, come all to the 43rd Annual Diocesan Convention at St. Margaret's, Palm Desert on November 11 and 12. The convention is the one time per year when representatives from every church gather to worship, attend workshops, connect with other church leaders and vote on legislation. New this year is a picnic under the stars at St. Margaret's for the Friday night dinner. Everyone is welcome. Register online: [edsd.org](http://edsd.org)

"As a non-delegate, the highlights of convention for me are the Eucharist and the workshops," said Elaine Turnbull of St. David's. "I enjoy the opportunity to see and visit with friends throughout the diocese. Getting together at convention is a gift."

Registration opens on Friday morning at 7:30 a.m. Work-

shops begin at 10 a.m. Workshop topics include community organizing, the North Park Project, Youth Collaborative, mission trips, refugee ministry, budget hearing, health insurance, endowments and planned giving.

Business begins at 2:30 p.m. on Friday followed by the dinner featuring Living Desert animals. Saturday opens with a 9 a.m. Eucharist open to all, followed by business. The convention concludes at 3:30 p.m.

"I hope that all people of the diocese feel welcome to attend convention," said the Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, bishop. "This is our convention, our diocese, our church. Convention is a great way to learn more about our church and make some new friends along the way." +

**"Getting together at convention is a gift"**

~ Elaine Turnbull, a non-delegate attendee from St. David's, San Diego

# NOMINEES

## Diocesan Leadership Positions



**Secretary of Convention**  
**Darryl Peralta**

Experienced secretary currently serving in this position.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Shepherd, Bonita



**Historiographer**  
**John Will**

Incumbent who hopes to organize records for posterity

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Paul's Cathedral



**Standing Committee**  
**George Calvert**

Rector of Good Shepherd for 18 years, area missionary

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Shepherd, Bonita



**Standing Committee**  
**Dave Marshall**

PIC, believes the canons exist to serve the church.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. John's, Chula Vista



**Standing Committee**  
**Mark McKone-Sweet**

Rector with foolish passion for spreading the Good News.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Bartholomew's, Poway



**Standing Committee**  
**Janine Schenone**

Rector, looking to increase church activity and diversity.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Samaritan, University City

# 43rd Annual Diocesan Convention To Love and Serve Christ



The  
Episcopal  
Diocese  
of San Diego

FEARLESS LOVE



**Standing Committee**  
**Laura Sheridan-Campbell**

Vicar, past COM chair, hopes to collaborate in leadership.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Holy Cross, Carlsbad



**Standing Committee**  
**Jose "Joe" Gamboa**

Experienced vestryman, board member for ECS.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Philip's, Lemon Grove



**Standing Committee**  
**Gail Jones**

Lay leader focused on achieving unity in our love of Christ.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. John's, Fallbrook



**Standing Committee**  
**Denny Walters**

Experienced lay leader, hopes to explore faith with others.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Bartholomew's, Poway



**Executive Council**  
**Pam Rieger**

Deacon who hopes to bring a deacon's voice to governance.

**CONGREGATION:**  
All Souls', San Diego



**Executive Council**  
**Judy Brown**

Vestry member who relies on God for guidance.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Alban's, El Cajon



**Executive Council**  
**Pat Carson**

Project manager with a JD and communications prowess.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Peter's, Del Mar



**Executive Council**  
**Verdery Kassebaum**

Experienced lay leader hopes to learn and pass on learnings.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Samaritan, University City



**Disciplinary Board**  
**Monica Mainwaring**

Assistant rector, youth collaborative co-convenor/co-founder.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Christ Church, Coronado



**Disciplinary Board**  
**Jason Samuel**

Priest-in-Charge with a passion for fair and just policies

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. David's, San Diego



**Disciplinary Board**  
**JD Cowart**

Attorney who resolves business challenges regularly

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Bartholomew's, Poway



**Disciplinary Board**  
**Marian Gaston**

Superior court judge and former criminal defense attorney

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego



**Disciplinary Board**  
**Karen Ketts**

Daughters of the King (DOK) vice president.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Christ Church, Coronado



**Disciplinary Board**  
**Patrick Lamke**

Readily versed in canon law and statute law.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Holy Cross, Carlsbad



**Disciplinary Board**  
**Kenneth Rice**

Lifelong Episcopalian, active in Cursillo and in his parish.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Shepherd, Bonita



**Cathedral Chapter**  
**Dexter Semple**

Guyanan, hopes to cement relations with the Cathedral.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Luke's, San Diego



**General Convention Deputy**  
**Martha Odean Anderson**

Associate rector, former litigation attorney.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Peter's, Del Mar



**General Convention Deputy**  
**Penny Bridges**

Dean, committed to raising up next generation for ministry.

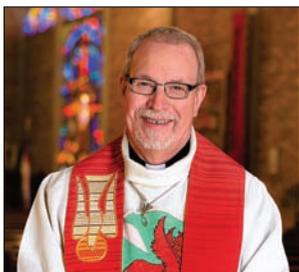
**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego



## General Convention Deputy **George Calvert**

Rector, Cursillo spiritual advisor, area missioner.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Shepherd, Bonita



## General Convention Deputy **Paul Gambling**

Supply priest, active in Cursillo, past interim and associate.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Paul's, Yuma



## General Convention Deputy **Andrew Green**

Past legislative chair at GC, experienced deputy.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Paul, Palm Springs



## General Convention Deputy **Gwynn Lynch**

Experienced GC deputy, solutions-oriented, values listening

**CONGREGATION:**  
Nonparochial, San Diego



## General Convention Deputy **Colin Mathewson**

Experienced GC deputy, passion for Latino ministry.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego



## General Convention Deputy **Mark McKone Sweet**

Rector who offers foolish passion for sharing Good News.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Bartholomew's, Poway



## General Convention Deputy **Brenda Sol**

Rector committed to the common good and service to God.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Andrew's, Encinitas



## General Convention Deputy **Doran Stambaugh**

Rector with orthodox anglo-catholic perspective.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Michael's, Carlsbad



## General Convention Deputy **Jerry Blanton**

Vestryman passionate about collaborating on moral issues.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Bartholomew's, Poway



**General Convention Deputy  
Judy Brown**

Vestry member who relies on God for guidance.

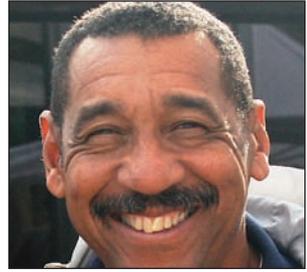
**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Alban's, El Cajon



**General Convention Deputy  
Polly Getz**

Seven-time deputy to GC, vice chancellor to the bishop.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Bartholomew's, Poway



**General Convention Deputy  
Butch Glosson**

Member of the national executive council of the church.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Shepherd, Hemet



**General Convention Deputy  
Craig Noble**

IT expert with vestry and Cursillo experience.

**CONGREGATION:**  
Good Shepherd, Bonita



**General Convention Deputy  
Hanh Tran**

Lay leader with ability to work effectively for social justice.

**CONGREGATION:**  
St. Peter's, Del Mar



**General Convention Deputy  
Alternate  
You?**

Two more alternates would round out our slate. GC takes place July 5-13, 2018 in Austin, Texas. To learn more, visit [edsd.org/nomination-form](http://edsd.org/nomination-form).

**Youth at Convention**

*Youth Genius Bar* - Do you need help navigating Facebook, Instagram or Twitter? Youth from all over the diocese will come together to answer tech questions on Friday afternoon and evening during Convention. Other youth-related highlights:



- Lip sync battle
- Workshop track for youth that allows them to plan and dream of mission opportunities in their backyard and across borders.
- Service Project - youth will organize, label and present books for children who frequent the desert food pantries
- The opportunity to laugh, teach, explore and connect with youth all over the diocese

*Youth Registration* - \$45 which includes two nights in a Palm Desert hotel, six meals, including a pizza party on Thursday, and the Picnic Under the Stars on Friday featuring animals from the Living Desert. Visit [edsd.org/diocesan-convention](http://edsd.org/diocesan-convention) to register. Do not register for the dinner. *Deadline to register: October 19.* Grades 6-12 welcome. +

# CROSSING BORDERS

AUTHOR: Charlette Preslar

ROLE: Youth Missioner

EMAIL: [cpreslar@edsd.org](mailto:cpreslar@edsd.org)

**O**n July 25, 2016, 16 youth and 4 chaperones packed up two vans and headed to Mexico to build a house. This was the second year that youth from around the diocese had gathered together to partner with Amor Ministries to build a house. The challenge is this: one two room house, from foundation to roofing in 4 days, with no power tools.

We sleep in tents, and take bucket showers at the end of hot, dirty, sticky days, and eat more beans and rice than you can possibly imagine. We also laugh and connect; to each other, our faith, and most importantly, to the people we are blessed to serve. It seems impossible to say that you build a house in four days, but truly, we build so much more than that.

What follows is a brief account of our incredible adventure.

**Day 1: Arrival** at Christ Church Coronado where we checked in, were blessed and asperged, and headed off to the Amor headquarters in Chula Vista. From there we caravanned to the camp site in Tijuana, set up tents, had dinner, small groups and compline. It was a fantastic start.

**Day 2: Foundation Day!** Found us heading off to our job site at about 8:30 in the

morning. It was there that we discovered the first two challenges we were to face this week. The house we were building was up a set of rickety stairs, which meant we had use a fireman line to bucket up our sand and gravel so we could mix the concrete for our foundation. We took that challenge after we broke up and removed an old foundation that was still in place. The work was very, very hot that day, but spirits were high and everyone worked together to get the foundation poured. We were pretty excited for our showers that evening!

**Day 3: Framing Day!** As hard foundation day is, framing day is full of hard work, fun and a huge sense of accomplishment. The youth learn new skills and quickly determine which ones they are best suited for. Everyone gets a chance to measure, cut, assemble, and hammer. We support each other and cheer each other on. We laugh at our own mistakes, and ask for help when we are stuck in one of the many, many knots in our lumber. At the end of the day, we head back to camp for showers, dinner and a game of 16-person Frisbee. You have to see it to believe it.

**Day 4: The house goes up!** This is my favorite day of the trip. It takes every

## YOUTH

Sixteen young people spent a week building a home in Mexico this summer. To find out about all the great upcoming youth events, visit [edsd.org/youth](http://edsd.org/youth). Youth ministers' retreat, youth olympics, DioCon plans...



single one of us working together to put the house up, make sure it is plumb, and secure it to the slab. This is a great day for short people like me because we are the ones who get to climb up and put the roof in place, while the taller people guide from below. Then we climb all around the frame toe-nailing the roof in place and putting in our bird blocks. Once it is secured both to itself and the slab, we put on the plywood that forms the base of our roofing. The best part of the plywood is that we have SHADE! This is also the day for bailing wire, felt paper and chicken wire. By the end, it truly looks like a house. We are happy and excited for our final day of building.

**“We had to use a fireman line to bucket up our sand and gravel”**

**Day 5: STUCCO!** While Day 4 is my favorite day of the trip, Day 5 is the favorite of most of the youth. They love stuccoing the house! It is a dirty, dirty job, but they love it. Probably because they often apply it with their gloves instead of the tools designated for the job! We were also exceptionally blessed this day because our homeowner insisted on cooking lunch for us. At about 11:30, we cleaned up the in-

side of the house and prepared for lunch. The homeowner carried in her dining room table, her best dishes, and served us what the youth have declared to be, “the best chicken” of their lives. We sat in community and enjoyed the first meal in their new home. We were all deeply moved by her generosity and the opportunity to share that meal with them. This is also the day

that the children opened up to us. Most of the week they had played quietly on their own, leaving us to our work, but after lunch they engaged with us. This day was proof that we all share a common language: play. The laugh-

ter and joy that we shared that afternoon filled all of our hearts.

**Day 6: Going Home.** This day marked our return to the US. Even having experienced this two years in a row, we were all still overwhelmed as we crossed the border. The realization of how blessed we are and how different our lives are, can be startling.

Forty minutes and a border. That is truly all that separates us. +





**DESERT DWELLERS:** *Back Row:* Eric Rice, Adam Schlissman (senior warden), Dotty Blevins, Ellie Holloway, and the organist, Gustavo Nava. *Front:* MaryAnne Hildebrandt, Bruno Hildebrandt, and Diana Verzi. A group of committed Episcopalians who love their church.

for parish life in general.

Many of those at worship have strong personal ties to their church. “The church is not only my home; it is part of who I am,” said Maryanne Hildebrandt. Ellie Holloway has been a teacher in Calexico and has worshiped at Sts. Peter and Paul for 22 years. “I can be myself here,” she said. “No one is trying to mold me politically or in any other way.” Diana Verzi knows that the church is a way of serving others but admits that “I also come for myself. My needs are met here.”

There is at Sts. Peter and Paul an interest in and concern for places beyond El Centro. The Sunday leaflet reminds worshipers of the presiding bishop’s call for a season of prayer for regions of the Anglian Communion experiencing violence and civil strife. Eric Rice tells of assistance given to San Pedro Apostol parish in Mexicali. “When they were heavily damaged by an earthquake, we helped them install a new roof.”

Parishioners are also aware of the need to relate well to the community around them. Even as St. Paul’s Cathedral in San Diego has decided it is worth spending some money to make its building more welcoming by illuminating it at night, the El Centro parishioners are spending some money for the same reason. Fresh green grass and well-tended shrubs create a welcoming atmosphere in the patio between the church building and rectory. The grounds are neatly kept and the parish buildings look cared for and well maintained. “Of course,” says Eric Rice, “our water bill for July was about \$500.”

Maryanne Hildebrandt points out that the church is located in a poor residential area where residents are almost entirely Spanish-speaking. Adam

Schlissmann noted that even if people do not speak English, “they walk in here and seem to feel right at home.”

Even in the heat of summer, Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners are busy preparing for the Annual Fall Festival, a gala time of art, crafts, refreshments, meeting and greeting for the El Centro community and beyond. It will be held on Thursday, October 27 from 7 until 10 p.m., and the people streaming through the patio gate that evening will mark the 56th event for the parish.

Clergy who live 60 miles or more distant from El Centro have been presiding at worship for the past three years. Though this has been appreciated, the need for resident clergy leadership is felt strongly in the small congregation. Diana Verzi summed it up: “When each priest in the past would leave, we would lose a sense of continuity in the parish. And if we had a bi-lingual priest here we would be able to reach far more people.”

So the latest development in the life of Sts. Peter and Paul is to join with All Saints’, described as a “small but energetic parish” in nearby Brawley, in an effort to secure a part-time priest to serve both congregations. The position is being advertised in nationally-circulated Episcopal publications as well as online. The hope at Sts. Peter and Paul is that the hot climate, solitude and fantastic beauty of the desert might be as attractive now as it was in the time of Antony and Pachomius. Perhaps such venturing forth might attract a priest of today even as journeys into the desert attracted others so long ago. The people of Sts. Peter and Paul are hopeful about this as they continue being grateful for the many facets of their life together as a Christian community in the desert. +

# DIOCESAN MESSENGER

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