

diakoneo

GREEK: TO BE A SERVANT; TO SERVE

The Arc of Mission BEYOND GOING & DOING

BY ARCHDEACON L. SUE VON RAUTENKRANZ



When I took youth on mission for the first time, I thought I knew what I was doing. And while I do believe we did good things, learned much, and did little harm, I really didn't have a clue. That was a summer in the early 90's when I was a youth minister at an Episcopal parish in the suburbs of the Twin Cities in Minnesota. We had followed in the footsteps of another parish and their leadership to a program on the south side of Chicago, to work for a week in the HUD housing projects. I learned from the people ministering in the community, a Society of Friends (Quakers) community center and from the "grandmothers" living in the row houses we were painting. Sadly, we also learned just how far apart and different we were from each other as five people were killed when two gangs fired random shots across a playground. We never knew the victims, but I will never forget the words of one of the grandmothers. 'Bullets have no names.'

Over the last twenty years I have learned so much about going on mission - from the people and places to which I have journeyed, from the young people and adults that have been willing to go with me, and through seeking and being open to what it is the Spirit wants me to learn and discover along the way.

First and foremost, everyone who is involved in mission will learn, grow, and be transformed, if they are open to God's shaping and molding. Mission is a formative experience. But, it is imperative that we who are leaders in these experiences are aware of the spiritual and formational development of all participants and create experiences where all may be nurtured. The preparation before and work after the in-field period are at least as important or more important than the time spent on mission. Learning about the culture and customs of the place you're going, even if it is just the other side of town or the nursing home down the street, is as important as knowing one's own norms. Knowledge of the realities of memory loss and Alzheimer's before caroling in December is as significant as understanding the importance of greeting each person as they enter a room in Ecuador.

"The preparation before and work after the in-field period are at least as important or more important than the time spent on mission."

THE CONTINUUM OF MISSION

A person, no matter their age, can "do" mission based on where they are in their spiritual formation. I use a tool to help explain a continuum of mission. This begins with *charity*, the simple act of giving to another. Then it moves to *service*, the giving of time or talent to an initiative. Then to *advocacy*, giving voice to those who are voiceless. And finally to *justice*, working to change the systems that create the problems in the first place. If we look at the issue of hunger: Charity would be the writing of a check or the collection of food for a local food shelf. Service might be delivering those checks or canned goods, stocking the shelves, filling bags, or handing out food at that organization. Advocacy could include serving on the organizational structure of that food shelf, teaching about hunger in your area to your church community, sitting down in conversation with someone receiving that food and learning about their situation without judgment, or attending a rally and giving voice to what you have learned. Justice might look like creating job opportunities or working with the local government for just wages and more affordable housing. It might seem that there is a hierarchy to this continuum but there is not. All are necessary and needed until an issue is solved.

Continued on page 4



ASSOCIATION FOR
EPISCOPAL DEACONS

ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

NOVEMBER 2018

AED is a membership-funded association of persons and dioceses within The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Church of Canada. Our mission is to increase participation and involvement of all baptized persons in Christ's diaconal ministry, especially by promoting and supporting the diaconate.

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From AED's President

Invitations: Received and Offered

BY DEACON MAUREEN-ELIZABETH HAGEN



Beloved of God-

As I write this column 3,000 miles from home, I have been reflecting on the importance of invitation. I'm in New England because Archdeacon Aaron Perkins invited me to attend the Province I Deacons Conference: *Deacons Calling the Beloved Community to Action*. Soon I will help lead a retreat of the New York Deacons, thanks to their invitation. Invitations can be life-changing. An invitation to church led me to change my life 21 years ago. Others invited me to discern a calling to the diaconate. The Gospels tell of Jesus' inviting others to come and see, to go and be. May we all strive to invite more people to experience God's love in the world.

Speaking of invitation: I invite each of you to join other deacons at AED's Triennial Gathering next June 6-9 in Providence, RI. The theme is fantastic. Our Presiding Bishop preaches and teaches. Eight deacon-led workshops focus on reconciling ministries. (See page 4 for more information.)

Now a quick recap:

- General Convention was outstanding. More than 100 deacons came as deputies, liturgical participants and volunteers. We effectively advocated for several pieces of legislation. Through deacons' (and others') efforts, 1000 people protested the separation of families at the Federal Detention Center at Hutto.
- Board member Juan Sandoval and I led a well-attended workshop at Nuevo Amanecer. (See page 14.) There was great interest in encouraging more Latinx deacons; AED's Competencies for Deacons are now in Spanish. The Diocese of Rhode Island is striving to develop more Spanish-language resources.
- On the last evening at Nuevo Amanecer, I spoke with the Cuban Bishop. Readmitted to The Episcopal Church at General Convention, Obispa Griselda said Cuba has one deacon (Lis Martinez), but would like more. We hope to have an official AED visit to Cuba next fall.
- In September, AED's Executive Committee met. We set up a Latino Ministries committee.

One final invitation: We have several committees that could use members. If you're interested in Fundraising, Finance, or Latino Ministries, please let Lori Mills-Curran or me know.

Yours in Christ,

Maureen

maureenhagen@gmail.com

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS: Coming soon!

Electronic voting in AED's Board election ended in September. However, the paper ballots (for members without email) are due to come in after this issue of *Diakoneo* goes to print.

Please watch our website and social media for election results.

www.episcopaldeacons.org

How do I submit an article for publication in *Diakoneo*?

AED is always looking for news related to diaconal ministry, formation, events and the many ways we engage the church in service.

Please send articles & questions to communications@episcopaldeacons.org.

Download our **Writing Guide** at
www.episcopaldeacons.org/diakoneo-magazine.

Exercising our Liturgical Prerogatives

BY DEACON LORI MILLS-CURRAN

One of the most interesting parts of my job is meeting deacons all over the country, and their questions intrigue me. Recently, I was asked why it mattered if deacons retain their normal liturgical prerogatives. A deacon was serving in an important service in which the rector said “I will be the deacon today,” during some rushed liturgical instructions. The deacon felt uncomfortable, but was unable to articulate why. She had nothing to say that did not sound like cranky liturgical territoriality.

Deacons instinctively do not lightly relinquish their diaconal liturgical prerogatives. We know that these prerogatives are not *incidental*, not a mere matter of taste. We do not let them go without calling attention to the fact, either then or later, that to do so silences the symbol which the church has ordained us to be.

Deacons always read the Gospel, coming down from the altar to stand among the people of God, so they can hear the stories of how Christ has commissioned them all as servants of the world. Deacons have a special responsibility in intercession, to make sure it reflects the needs of the world, not just the parish sick list. Deacons always set the Eucharistic table, to prepare the food that the people of God need for action in Christ's name. We always bid the congregation farewell, reminding them to go out and serve the Lord. If a deacon is in the

congregation, a priest or bishop must yield these prerogatives. Michael Curry says so.

Diaconal liturgical prerogatives are symbolic speech, which communicate, if we let them, something that the world is yearning to hear: that Episcopalians are a people which so values the missional task of God that we have set aside a whole order just to remind the people of God to go do it! Deacons know that the church has given us these prerogatives because we are ordained to remind the people of God that a call to *diakonia* – Christian service – is indelibly marked on your brow when you are baptized, along with the royal priesthood of all believers.

We need to be at the ready to calmly clarify the symbolic importance of our liturgical role, when in the press of liturgical affairs, this important message is silenced. The responsibility to do this teaching is more uniquely ours than that of any other order. But let's not be cranky about it. We diminish our authority by doing so. It's our job to carefully teach the value of these liturgical actions, long before those hurried sacristy conversations. Because it's not about us and our egos. It's about God's mission.



DEACON NEWS ONLINE

Links to these stories are at www.episcopaldeacons.org/diakoneo-magazine. Sign up for our monthly newsletter *Deacon Update* at www.episcopaldeacons.org.

- Deacon bloggers - Follow the blogs from 18 deacons. Submit yours too.
- That Deacon on YouTube - Contemplation Part 1
- Planning for the end of life - An extensive booklet from The Episcopal Church Foundation with details on Medical Directive, Planning a Funeral, Writing a Will and more.
- Deacon & Pilot for Southwest airlines
- Discernment stories: “I never saw it coming” by Jill Singleton
- MOMS leaving for Sierra Leone to train midwives, provide “knitted knockers”
- Anglican Communion News Service launches French and Spanish service

News to share about deacons in your diocese?

Send it to Deacon Anne at

communications@episcopaldeacons.org

CALENDAR

ARCHDEACON & DEACON DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE - A3D

Feb. 21-24, 2019
Archdeacon & Deacon Directors' annual learning lab.

More info on page 6.

Up-to-date information for A3D at www.episcopaldeacons.org

Save the date:
2020 Conference: Mar. 5-8, 2020

AED 2019 TRIENNIAL

June 6-9, 2019
Renaissance Hotel
Providence, RI

See page 4.

OSL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 25-28, 2019
Lake Buena Vista, FL
www.osl2019.org

Publicize your event by listing it here!

Contact Deacon Anne by email at communications@episcopaldeacons.org



Diakoneo Back Issues

Visit AED's website at www.episcopaldeacons.org.
Go to Publications/Diakoneo

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Association for Episcopal Deacons' 2019 TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Power of HOPE
Transforming through Reconciliation and Relationship



THURS. - SUN, JUNE 6-9, 2019 | Providence, RI

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach at the opening Eucharist on June 6. He'll also give the Keynote Address on Friday, June 7.

Workshops by Deacon Presenters

- Becoming the Beloved Community through Racial Reconciliation - Janet Tidwell
- San Francisco Night Ministry and Open Cathedral - Vicki Gray
- Voices from the Margin: A Jesus Movement Response to Oppression - Robin Hollis
- Benison Farm: Reconciliation through farming and food - Martha Goodwill
- Green Table, Just Table: Congregations Transforming the Food System - Josephine (Phina) Borgeson
- Gathered Together as the Body of Christ - Susan Lindberg Haley, ELCA
- Fostering Reconciliation and Faith in the Public Policy Arena - Katherine Shahinian
- Hope through Hospitality: Immigration - Leann Culbreath

**All are welcome -
clergy & lay!**

Conference details are still in the works! Visit www.episcopaldeacons.org for ongoing information.



Saturday's closing Eucharist will be held in historic Trinity Newport church in downtown colonial Newport, RI. Conference attendees will be bused to Newport and have an opportunity to dine and explore some of the sights before returning to Providence on Saturday evening.

There are also opportunities to add some 'vacation time' to the conference. From Providence, it's a short 60 miles to Boston and 70 miles to Cape Cod, MA. Also, the train station is located close to our hotel and goes directly to downtown Boston.

Lodging: Renaissance Providence

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pvdbp-renaissance-providence-downtown-hotel



Concerned about the cost of attending Triennial?

The bishops of Province I, in an incredible show of support for their deacons, have donated monies to underwrite the costs of this event. Other bishops are pitching in, and our goal is to raise enough money from them to reduce the cost of this event to the greatest extent possible. Ask your bishop if a contribution has been made from your diocese! Housing options are being researched, as well.

The Arc of Mission, from page 1

Working for justice is great work - but if no one gives money or food, people will go hungry while we wait for justice to happen.

MISSION TRANSFORMED

Now, when I take people, and especially young people, on mission, I find opportunities to teach and talk about what they experience and how that might relate to their everyday life. Preparation is done before going on mission to learn about the people and places [to which] we will be going. Last year before taking our group caroling at the local dementia unit at a long-term care facility, we watched a movie about the impact of music on people with severe Alzheimer's. What a difference that made to the young people and their willingness to interact with the people we visited. While on a mission or outreach experience we will hold debrief sessions to talk about the day and how we both learned and deepened our time and how we saw God's presence in our day. Following our time on mission, we gather to pray and discuss how any of what we have experienced or learned might impact our life and the way we choose to live.

Mission and outreach are not just about going and doing, they're about being called to live out our faith and learn about the faith



of those we serve; growing and deepening our life in Christ by encountering the Christ is those we meet.

L. Sue von Rautenkranz serves as the Archdeacon for the Diocese of Washington, overseeing the discernment, formation, and deployment of deacons and a four-parish youth ministry collaboration in northwest DC. She has served on staff for several dioceses and parishes.

Sabbatical to Navajoland leads to new chapter

BY DEACON CATHRINE HALFORD

In 2016, when I had been ordained almost eight years, I decided that I would like to take a sabbatical - as many priests do but very few deacons. I wanted to go to a place where I could learn about a new culture, new language and traditions.

I spent September and October of 2017 in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico - at The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, a mission area of our Church established to help preserve the culture, traditions, and language of the Navajo people - the Dine' - their name for themselves. What an incredible two months!

So, instead of driving about two hours east to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation, I drove 20 hours west. Yes, I wanted to learn about a new group of people, but I also wanted our Church to be involved to a large degree - and that is the case out there.

History tells us that in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, the Spaniards sailed over to our part of the world and established settlements. As time went on, they moved north of Mexico into what is now the Southwestern part of the U.S.

They became very interested in the land for planting, raising cattle, and for the many people living there to be used as labor. The Spaniards saw the Native Americans as pagans who needed to be introduced to the one true church so their souls would be saved. The Roman Catholic Church was the introduction to Christianity for many Navajos and other Native Americans living in that area.

The connection between the Episcopal Church and the Navajo Nation began when a medical mission was built in Ft. Defiance, Arizona, in 1894; then one in Farmington, New Mexico, in 1922; and another in Bluff, Utah, in 1942. Schools were eventually built on the premises of the medical clinics as were churches. Eventually, those schools closed as did the boarding schools where many were sent - a disaster - and public schools were opened to the Navajos.

In 1978, The Episcopal Church founded the Area Mission known as The Episcopal Church in Navajoland in the middle of the 27,000 square miles of the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah - the Four Corners - with Colorado being the other corner but without being a part of the Reservation. This mission was carved out of the dioceses of those three states.

For 40 years, the Episcopal Church in Navajoland has strived to become a diocese. This area - these people - are poor with little money and other resources to put into these missions. The buildings on the grounds of these churches are over a hundred years old and not in very good shape.

However, in the last 15 years, many partnerships between churches from all over the country and these missions have been established and are trying to rehab the buildings for cottage industries and affordable housing, which would allow the churches to bring in more income, thus paving the way toward becoming economically independent, and thus, a diocese. Mission groups arrive throughout the spring and summer to keep the momentum of this work going.

There are few clergy in this mission area. Those who are present are not all Navajo (bilagaana-white people), but several have graduated from seminary this year. The dream is to have all Navajo clergy and a Navajo bishop.

Let me say that I had no idea what my job description would be once I arrived in Navajoland. Most sabbaticals involve research, meditation/quiet time perhaps in a monastery, or maybe a walking pilgrimage. That being said, I made it clear that I wanted "to work".

My thoughts were that I would be involved in a large project. However, by the end of the two months, I had presided and preached at several services, helped with office work, supported clergy in the three mission areas, driven to a high school twenty-five miles away at 6:00 in the morning to purchase used computers, welcomed guests from Boston who were gathering information for a mission group, helped paint a room in a 100-year old building with a Colorado mission group, participated in the soap-making process and filled jars with honey (both cottage industries), practiced reading Navajo phonetically, delivered wood, watered plants in a greenhouse for a priest who was on a two-week vacation, made a pastoral care visit at a hospital in the middle of the night, and begun learning about



Navajo healing. All of these events and activities added up to a picture bigger than I could have ever imagined. In addition, I could not be there for two months without taking in the incredible canyons and parks that are such a huge part of the beauty of God's creation.

There is much spirit and energy in this land, but there is still much to do in order to help heal the wounds of the past. Sustainable farming, expanding retreat opportunities, and working with the local government to build low-income housing along with the rehabilitation of a historic hospital into a women's wellness center are among the

efforts to help achieve this vision of healing and growth.

I believe that some of the spirit and energy about which I just mentioned comes from the Episcopal Church allowing the Navajo people to bring into the church's liturgy some of their own traditions and prayers - which is



A wonderful group of parishioners at Good Shepherd Mission, Ft. Defiance, AZ

not happening with other churches in that area.

After returning home, many people asked me about my time spent in The Episcopal Church in Navajoland. My answer was that I had one foot in Mississippi but one foot still in Navajoland. The connection was so strong that I asked and received the blessings of both Bishop

Continued on page 12

A3D ARCHDEACON & DEACON DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

Thursday, Feb. 21 to Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019

The DoubleTree Hilton, Albuquerque, New Mexico

"Sustaining Deacons in Ministry"

Open to all interested in diaconal formation and supervision!

Leaders in diaconal ministry will assess new best practices in this annual learning lab, designed to address issues they all face locally. Open Space Technology will provide a method of group discussion that leads to productive conversations concerning your own, or your diocese's, challenges in ministry.

Don't miss this opportunity!

The conference kicks off with dinner at 6 pm Thursday followed by its first session. **PLUS -**

- Pre-Event: Archdeacon 101, Noon Thursday
- New Attendee Orientation at 3 pm Thursday
- Programs and Open Space discussions Friday - Sunday

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Albuquerque

Registration and Details - Coming soon!

Watch www.episcopaldeacons.org and Facebook for up-to-date information!

**VISIT
OUR WEBSITE
FOR ONGOING
DETAILS!**



FAITH, JUSTICE, MUSIC & ART

The 2018 Wild Goose Festival

July 12-15, 2018

By Deacon Leeann Culbreath

The Episcopal Tent has become a buzzing hub for worship, hospitality, and conversation at the Wild Goose Festival, held annually in the mountains of North Carolina, at the intersection of faith, justice, music, and art. AED co-sponsored the tent this year along with other organizations and dioceses.

This year, the Episcopal Tent offerings included daily Morning Prayer, Eucharist, and Compline; a meet-and-greet reception; a potluck dinner; workshops; support groups; virtual reality viewers (to experience life in a refugee camp), daily Beer & Hymns; and table displays by Episcopal organizations such as AED and Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Deacons Leeann Culbreath (Diocese of Georgia) and Genevieve Nelson (Diocese of Southern Virginia) participated in a deacon panel discussion with deacons from the Methodist and Lutheran churches, and they assisted with worship and hospitality. Culbreath serves on the Episcopal Tent planning team.

They encourage deacons to attend next year's festival and to submit workshop proposals. The festival attracts young adults discerning calls to ministry, and it's an excellent place to network and be revitalized for ministry.

For information on Wild Goose Festival, camping and reflections visit www.wildgoosefestival.org.

**SAVE THE DATE
July 11-14, 2019
Hot Springs, NC**

Above Left: Deacon Genevieve Nelson proclaims the Gospel at an Episcopal Tent Eucharist.

Above Right: Deacon panel discussion participants included (L-R) Deacon Genevieve Nelson, Deacon Melanie Johnson (ELCA), Deacon Stacey Harwell-Dye (Methodist Church) and Deacon Leeann Culbreath.

Deep Calls to Deep: Deacon Preaching Fellows

BY DEACON DR. ROBIN HOLLIS

A cohort of deacons in the Diocese of Arizona is charting a new course as Preaching Fellows in the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) program “Deep Calls to Deep.”

Deep Calls to Deep is a year-long program for mid-career clergy. It is focused on nourishing passion for preaching through voice and embodiment work and through deepening a connection to the Holy Spirit. The majority of this program is generously funded by a Lilly Endowment grant and supported by VTS.

Our diocesan deacon cohort is the first Deacon Preaching Fellows Cohort in the program. VTS recognizes that all clergy, including deacons, have a preaching calling.

Preaching Guide and Mentor for the Arizona deacons is The Very Rev. Troy Mendez, Dean of Trinity Cathedral. Deacon Robin Hollis also serves as Peer Cohort convener and facilitator, having completed additional required program peer facilitator training. The program began with a residential week in June 2018, will be followed by meeting locally nine times (both in person and through Zoom), and conclude with a residential week in June 2019.

The program's four aspirations for the Preaching Fellows are:

1. Spirituality – Feeding your Soul
2. Imagination – Expanding your Mind
3. Voice/Embodiment – Exploring your Presence
4. Community – Building Relationships

The Very Rev. Troy Mendez shares, “This program is truly focused on the holistic development and spiritual growth of clergy as preachers and not just on tips and tricks. While there is some discussion of preaching resources and techniques, it's more about finding your preaching voice through spirituality and imagination. As the peer cohort's Preaching Guide, I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with these deacons on developing their preaching voice; definitely a learning experience for all of us.”

This program was first introduced to our diocese when Trinity Cathedral and the Deacon Formation Academy hosted The Rev. Mark Jefferson, who led a workshop on “Developing the Preaching Pew” in October 2017. Deacon participants at that workshop were inspired to come together to form an Arizona Diocese Peer Cohort and applied. There was competition for the number of diocesan peer cohorts who could participate in the 2018-2019 program. “It was a team effort and one that demonstrates the enthusiasm for and commitment to continued life-long learning and professional development,” says The Venerable Sarah Getts, Archdeacon and advocate for this peer cohort.

Following the completion of this Fellowship, these deacons will be looking to convene a “Deacon Preaching Support group.” Sharing his enthusiasm for this Preaching Fellowship, Deacon Chris Ledyard says, “There is the side benefit that we got to know each other beyond our formation groups. And [this fellowship] will deepen our group relationships through the meetings and sharing of our sermons and feedback with each other. We encourage others to consider forming a cohort and attending to further develop preaching skills which can [be] utilized beyond the pulpit only on Sundays.” Echoing his sentiment, Deacon Janetta Beaumont says, “Our cohort grew close as a community of support and trust during the first week of training. We look forward to deepening relationships as we move through the next year.”

For the 2018-2019 program, there are five peer cohorts from dioceses throughout The Episcopal Church. The residential weekend hosts both those concluding the program and those beginning the journey. Approximately 50 clergy overall are participating in the program.

*“This program is...
about finding your
preaching voice
through spirituality
and imagination.”*



The cohort includes L-R: Dn. Robin Hollis, Dn. Scott Deasy, Dn. Chris Ledyard, Dn. Chuck Milhoan, Very Rev. Troy Mendez, Dn. Janetta Beaumont, Dn. David Chavez .

For more about the program, contact The Rev. Dr. Robin Hollis at deacons@azdiocese.org.

Detailed program information can be viewed on the VTS website at www.vts.edu/page/deep-calls-to-deep.

Robin Hollis is Director of Deacon Formation in the Diocese of Arizona. She serves as a deacon at St. James the Apostle Episcopal Church in Tempe, AZ and leads her own management consultancy focusing on youth-centered non-profits, workforce, and leadership development.

Stevenson School for Ministry focuses formation on competencies

Equipping Deacons for an exciting, if unknowable future in ministry

BY DEACON W. MICHAEL NAILOR

Before entering into discernment with my parish and my diocese over the question of my future in ordained ministry, I taught high school students. The most frequently asked question in my English classroom was not about themes in literature or strategies in persuasion. By far - the most frequent question I was asked by my students was, "Is this going to be on the test?" When I was in charge of creating the assessments in my classroom, I could answer this question definitively. Towards the end of my career standardized tests became the tests that mattered. I was never quite sure what these unknown test-makers would include. Designing instruction used to be simple. As assessments slipped out of the control of the teachers in the classroom - designing instruction became a game of informed guessing. Will what we think is important to teach our students really be on the test?

"The formation ministry of our diocese ...has become so much more than simply a school to raise up deacons for the diocese."

It is certainly no revelation to any observer of Christianity in America that "being the Church" in the 21st century is a radically different proposition than it was just a generation ago. And with it, the work of the Deacon in the Episcopal Church is changing. Susanne Watson Epting captures this ongoing change in her 2015 book, *Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed*, in the metaphor of waves sweeping over the church and through the diaconate. According to Epting we are now heading into "the seventh wave (from about 2005 to the present), one of integration, ...one in which we see many of these things coming together: engaging the diakonia of all believers, equipping the saints, interpreting the world, and advocating - not only in congregations, but on behalf of the diocese." We are called on as Deacons not only "to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world" but "to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by ...word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship." Integrating this inward flow of information about the world to the Church and this outward flow of love to the world is a job for which there is no uniform description. If the future work of a Deacon must be left open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, then the preparation of Deacons needs to be a bit open-ended as well. How do we as a church engage in the "informed guessing" necessary to equip deacons for an exciting, if unknowable future in ministry?

Partially in response to this question, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania has taken an in-depth look at the trends shaping ministry in our part of the church. This examination was facilitated by our new Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, and her three-year plan to thoroughly understand the needs and desires of our church before making any major changes. The teaching/formation ministry of our diocese has benefited from these new perspectives. It has become so much more than simply a school to raise up deacons for the diocese. But in this process the way that we prepare deacons for servant leadership has gone through what for us is a radical change. Perhaps there are lessons in what we have done that have implications for the preparation of deacons across the church.

Diocesan Formation

In our Diocese, The Bishop Dean T. Stevenson School for Ministry is dedicated to the lifelong learning and discernment processes of everyone. SSFM now includes:

- Vocational Formation for Lay Ministry
- Vocational Formation for the Ministry of Deacons
- Vocational Formation for the Ministry of locally-trained Priests
- Leadership Days - training for leaders in the diocese and our parishes under the title of the Academy for Missional Formation
- Support for clergy who are new to the diocese or who are newly ordained under the title of Vital and Effective Leadership Institute
- Anglican Studies Program offered for and through a nearby interdenominational seminary
- Resources and support for Youth Ministry
- Resources and support for Children's Ministry

Bringing all of these ministry/formation activities under one organizational function has led to certain economies of scale through sharing resources and sharing programs. But more importantly, in a small diocese such as ours it has allowed the pooling of knowledge and wisdom of a core group of people who are interested in education and formation instead of separating our available volunteers into silos with unique (and sometimes competing!) interests and concerns. The vision was articulated best by our Bishop: "A part of the life of the diocese, the Stevenson School for Ministry is a diocesan-run school that can provide quality programming for all ages and stages in faith formation as well as solid vocational training. Such an all-encompassing approach is necessary for walking with God as faithful disciples in the 21st century. It is the vehicle by which we are equipping ourselves to participate in God's mission."

As we work to prepare ourselves, we also seek partners. The Diocese of Bethlehem, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA, and the Lancaster Theological Seminary have all contributed to this vision and are recruiting students for the Stevenson School.

Deacon Formation: Focusing on Competencies

One of the most sweeping changes that the Stevenson School has implemented is a change in the way that we prepare Deacons. As we strive to prepare sixth- or seventh-wave deacons in Epting's formulation, we chose to change our model from one that was based on academic performance to one that is based on competencies. To us, that means that we need to develop in participants the tools necessary to perform adequately the tasks of ministry as we anticipate them to be upon their ordination, but also to create an openness to tasks of ministry that are currently unimagined. We hold competencies then to be not only for current work and learning but that they should create a foundation for future growth and learning in ministry. Our work was founded upon insights gleaned from the *Iona Report: The Diaconate in the Anglican Church of Canada and Competencies for Deacons 2017* by the Association of Episcopal Deacons.

Continued on page 9

The competency areas that we chose to include are:

- Diakonia and the Diaconate
- Human Awareness and Understanding
- Spirituality and Spiritual Practice
- Practical Training and Experience
- Church Polity and Diaconal Ministry in the Public Square
- Sacred Scripture
- Christian History and Tradition

Each of the competency areas were then detailed by adding specific competencies, objectives and related courses offered within the Stevenson School. Within the scope of this article it is not possible to share them all but an example from our first competency area will hopefully be instructive:

Competency: The deacon must show understanding of the biblical concept of *diakonia* and its relationship to the diaconate.

Objective: The candidate should be able to trace the origin of the diaconate from biblical and early church roots and its development in the Middle Ages, Reformation and the modern period.

Related SSFM Courses: The Deacon's Path, The Message of Mission, Church History 1, Church History 2.

Competency: The deacon must identify and articulate a personal role and identity in diaconal ministry.

Objective: The candidate should be able to explain how a personal sense of call and practice of ministry relates to the office of deacon.

Related SSFM Courses: The Deacon's Path, Deacons in Action

As a result of our redesign, our curriculum for the Deacon Track in the SSFM now consists of a minimum of 12 courses. Our Fall and Spring Sessions consist of an in-person orientation weekend for the course, followed by 10 weeks of online work, completed by a weekend reorientation session. Our Summer Sessions are more intensive with a single day in-person session, followed by 5 weeks of online work, completed by a one-day in-person session.

The SSFM courses required for the Deacon's certificate include:

- The Holy Scriptures (2 courses)
- The History of the Christian Church (1 course)
- Christian Theology (1 course)
- Christian Ethics and Moral Theology (1 course)
- Christian Worship (1 course)
- Practice of Ministry (5 courses)
- Spirituality (1 course)

Other canonical areas of study that are required for ordination are also offered through the School such as the prevention of sexual misconduct, the Church's teaching on racism, and Title IV in the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

SSFM has also considered carefully the audiences that may be open to this sort of discernment and formation. In utilizing competencies as opposed to academic requirements we seek to honor the gifts and experiences each student brings to our programs and to seek to particularly serve the student who currently works a full-time job or who has full-time family commitments.

What, in fact, will be "on the test" when the Deacons that we are preparing today take their place in the ordained ministry of our church? We in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania are happy to share more of our "informed guessing" with you and we hope that you will, likewise, share your wisdom with us.

For more information on the Stevenson School for Ministry please contact The Very Rev. Robyn J. Szoke-Coolidge, SSFM Dean at rszoke@diocesecpa.org.

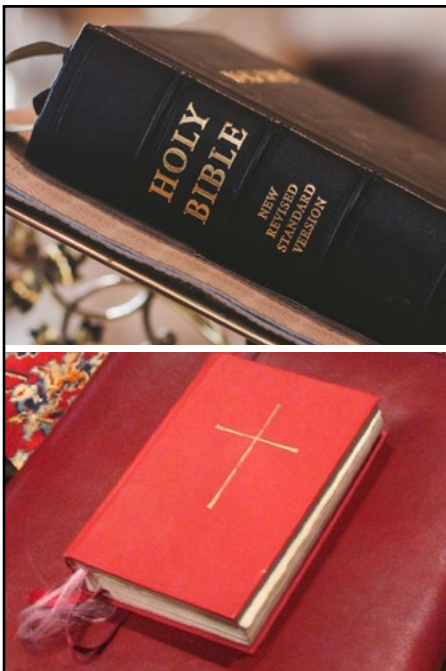
W. Michael Nailor, retired from teaching at the high school and college levels, was ordained in September. He completed studies at the Stevenson School for Ministry and now serves as secretary of its Board of Directors.

Resources

Stevenson School for Ministry: www.diocesecpa.org/ssfm

Competencies for Deacons 2017: <https://www.episcopaldeacons.org/uploads/2/6/7/3/26739998/competencies2017.pdf>

Epting, Susanne W. Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed, 2015. The Iona Report: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/iona-report.pdf>



Bibles, BCP & Hymnals available at no charge

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

Among the many groups in the Exhibit Area during July's General Convention was The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of The Episcopal Church. Over two hundred years old, its mission is to provide bibles, hymnals and the Book of Common Prayer to worshipping communities, free of charge.

In chatting with the hosts at the booth, I found that the BCPBS was willing to provide these key items not just to parishes, but to any group meeting on a regular basis that needs these tools. That would include regular services in jails, mission start-ups, and other off-site gatherings of Episcopalians, confirmed or potential.

The process is simple. The minister responsible for the gatherings needs to send a request to the BCPBS asking for specific books in specific quantities. The request needs to be counter-signed by your bishop. BCPs are available in English and Spanish; plans for Mandarin are in the works.

Of course, if you can pay for your own BCPs and bibles, you should. This is for ministries which are operating on a shoestring and would benefit from having these books. For a deacon involved with a community outside the church walls, this is a valuable resource to enhance that ministry.

They also accept financial donations, which are tax deductible.

For more information, visit www.biblesandprayerbooks.org.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR DEACONS CELEBRATING LANDMARK ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN 2019

Gracious and Loving God, strengthen and uphold your servants, that with patience and understanding they may continue to love and care for all people as deacons in your Church. Nourish them with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, that they may always be living icons of Christ the Servant. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

55 Years

06/18/1964 Priscilla Jeannene
Wright CT

50 Years

02/25/1969 Edward R Horton
06/21/1969 Kenneth W Johnson
12/17/1969 Robert E Williams

45 Years

01/12/1974 Thomas G Smith
03/25/1974 Eric E Dawson
06/22/1974 Josephine (Phina) Borgeson
09/30/1974 William Bruce Arnold
11/07/1974 Irvin D West
12/15/1974 Robert W Horner
12/21/1974 Louise H Muenz

40 Years

01/25/1979 Richard E G (Regs) Scheeler
05/12/1979 Thomas W Claggett III
05/12/1979 Maria M Fedock
05/12/1979 Barbara E. Mahoney-Trump
06/06/1979 Denise Diane Giardina
06/09/1979 Sam Brown Gilkey Jr
06/09/1979 Patricia Ann Jensen
06/25/1979 Connie Hartquist Jacobs
06/30/1979 Arlinda Wing Cosby, D.D.

35 Years

01/07/1984 Patricia M Serfes
01/25/1984 James C Lanning Jr
01/25/1984 Barbara Allen Ramnaraine
01/25/1984 Clifford G Robinson
01/25/1984 Jean E Swesey
03/18/1984 Patricia J Lynes-Tway
04/01/1984 William L (Len) Griffin
05/20/1984 Richard Fletcher
05/20/1984 Elizabeth Fussell
05/20/1984 Christine L Ross
06/01/1984 Betty Lou Anthony
06/01/1984 Melva Gayle Bridges
06/09/1984 Bruce N Gillies
06/09/1984 Gay C Walser
06/18/1984 Ann M Staples
06/24/1984 Robert Anton Franken
06/28/1984 Barbara L LaBarre
06/29/1984 Judith Pattison Ain
06/30/1984 Wade William Lawrence
06/30/1984 Elaine L Morgan
08/01/1984 Mary B Husby
08/25/1984 John F Thompson
09/23/1984 Robert J Seifert
10/21/1984 Carmen L Edwards
11/04/1984 Evelyn V. (Lyn) Lawyer
11/07/1984 Annette J Molnar
11/16/1984 Robert M Taylor
12/27/1984 David L Sams

30 Years

01/05/1989 Janet Elizabeth H Dougherty
01/18/1989 B. Chari Mynatt
02/01/1989 Gardner J Hartling
02/04/1989 Eloise Neilsen
02/04/1989 Gail Wheelock
02/04/1989 Betty Lou Wright
03/04/1989 Joseph (Joe) Withrow
03/05/1989 James Williams
03/09/1989 Roy L Chrisman
03/13/1989 Lucy L Houser
04/08/1989 Thomas L Upton
04/29/1989 Eva R Markham
04/29/1989 Barbara Jean Wagner
05/06/1989 Paula Sue Egbert

05/14/1989 Dudley Lippitt
05/20/1989 Joseph L. (Larry) Holman
05/28/1989 Barbara A Hanstine
05/28/1989 Pamela W Lightsey
06/03/1989 Anne P Vellom
06/06/1989 Mary Hartwell Brown
06/12/1989 Gloria A Taylor
06/15/1989 William O (Bill) Jones
06/16/1989 Mary Martha (Molly) Solbak
06/17/1989 John Cozzoli
06/17/1989 Jean Neylon
06/17/1989 Anne L Reed
06/17/1989 Jon Shematek
06/17/1989 Hughes E Wahl
06/17/1989 Lauren M Welch
06/17/1989 Donald C Whalen
06/24/1989 Elma J Rosenberg
06/24/1989 Karen E Thompson
07/01/1989 Louis F Garcia
07/01/1989 Kay Conner Greenshields
07/01/1989 Norman W Kiker
07/01/1989 Dana G Wilson
07/02/1989 Christian Cross
07/19/1989 Marilyn Halverson Bamford
08/25/1989 Sylvia C Landers
10/01/1989 Charles A Burdeshaw
10/21/1989 William A Henwood
10/21/1989 William S Jamieson, Jr
10/21/1989 Mary B Misner
10/21/1989 Marlyne J Seymour
10/28/1989 (Aleathia) Dolores Nicholson
10/28/1989 George H Smodell
11/04/1989 Daniel Herron
11/04/1989 Susanne Watson Epting
11/25/1989 Jacqueline L Guernsey
12/02/1989 Judith A Davis
12/02/1989 Gwendolyn J Dillon
12/02/1989 David E Grauer
12/02/1989 Carol J Kraft
12/02/1989 Katherine Lwebuga-Mukasa
12/02/1989 William August Maesen
12/02/1989 Leilani L Nelson
12/02/1989 Jane O'Leary
12/09/1989 John E Derbyshire

25 Years

01/15/1994 Steven W Judd
01/22/1994 Margaret W (Mimsy) Jones
01/25/1994 Suzanne S Lynch
01/29/1994 Budd Hetrick
01/29/1994 Judy E Laduke
01/29/1994 Janice Nacki
02/04/1994 Rebecca M Schubert
02/04/1994 Linda Yeager
02/04/1994 Joan D Zoller
02/24/1994 Thelma Sharkey
04/01/1994 Barbara L Mays-Stock
04/10/1994 Otis Bryan England
05/01/1994 Jack E Roddy
05/07/1994 Katherine M Brower
05/14/1994 Nancy Louise Bardsley
05/14/1994 William Whittier (Bill) Clark
05/14/1994 Eleanore L Gowen
05/21/1994 Frances S Ryan
05/25/1994 Thomas D McPherson
05/28/1994 Brian P Nordwick
06/01/1994 Nancy G Eswein
06/01/1994 Janice N Heglund
06/04/1994 Mary Ellen Gallagher
06/04/1994 Gail S. Ganter-Toback
06/04/1994 Jacque Gerard
06/04/1994 Jacques A Girard

06/04/1994 David W Morris
06/04/1994 Carolyn Verbeck-Brindle
06/04/1994 Evelyn Paige (Lynn) Werdal
06/04/1994 Sally M Ziegler
06/11/1994 William L Bones
06/11/1994 Linda J MacDonald
06/11/1994 Dutton Morehouse
06/11/1994 Judith I (Judy) Schneider
06/14/1994 Elizabeth (Betsy) Rosen
06/18/1994 Patricia D Laudisio
06/22/1994 Donna Ellen Carter Elder-Holifield
06/24/1994 Charles E Christian
06/25/1994 Mack M Bauknight
06/25/1994 Laura Yates Theis
07/09/1994 A Jeanne Ensor
07/09/1994 Jacqueline M Sebro
07/09/1994 Mary Fish Walton
07/24/1994 Fern M Penick
08/06/1994 Marilou J. Schlotterbeck
08/10/1994 Danny Grimes
09/08/1994 Mary Jo Feely
09/18/1994 Arthur Bass Jr
09/18/1994 Jill C Fisher
09/18/1994 Barbara Ann Harper
09/19/1994 John D (Jack) Seymour
09/24/1994 Denise F Leo
09/26/1994 Barbara S Carver
09/29/1994 Marla Terese McGarry-Lawrence
10/01/1994 Katharine G Holland
10/01/1994 Barbara J Preas
10/02/1994 James Martin Voorhees
10/08/1994 Joseph B (Joe) Dietz
10/09/1994 Luis Rios
10/10/1994 Alan Ralph Tatlock
10/22/1994 Richard G (Dick) Fox
10/28/1994 Rosalyn Way (Roz) Pantan
10/29/1994 William Frank Mosier
11/19/1994 Jannet M Knox
12/03/1994 Gerald E Shaon
12/21/1994 Donna F Barr

20 Years

01/06/1999 Norma Teigen
01/10/1999 Elsa W (Muffy) Harmon
01/16/1999 Robert E. Green
01/16/1999 Nancy Minshew
01/16/1999 Carolyn S Petersen
01/23/1999 Joanna McDermot
01/30/1999 Charlotte M (Chere) Bates
01/30/1999 Elaine Bellis
02/13/1999 James W Easter
02/13/1999 Gordon W Mesley
02/13/1999 Brenda P Sickler
02/20/1999 Maria Jesus Jimenez-Mesenbring
03/20/1999 Mary-Carol Griffin
04/07/1999 Opal Mary Cool
04/24/1999 Patricia Ann Johnson
05/08/1999 Roxanne P. Klingensmith
05/15/1999 Teresa Crawford Jones
05/15/1999 Keith McKenna
05/15/1999 Ernest J Townsend
05/15/1999 Jan M Volkmann
05/22/1999 Bonnie G. Morrill
05/26/1999 Monte Giddings
05/30/1999 Jacqueline Bouthéon
05/30/1999 Helga Elliott
06/02/1999 Kathryn B Wheeler
06/05/1999 Kathleen Bradford
06/11/1999 David Ster
06/12/1999 Edith Campbell Hazard Birney
06/12/1999 Deborah Blackwood
06/12/1999 David Bustin

06/12/1999 Susan E Henderson
06/12/1999 Colleen Klingensmith
06/12/1999 Melissa Post van der Burg
06/12/1999 Russell Settles
06/12/1999 Lucien A Watkins
06/12/1999 Laura Wicker
06/19/1999 Beth Bell
06/19/1999 Sharon Britcher
06/19/1999 Patricia R (Patti) Davis
06/19/1999 Helen Ann Waddle
06/22/1999 Gayle A Blundell
06/23/1999 Hailey McKeefry Delmas
06/24/1999 Laimage Gwaltney Bandy
06/25/1999 Lois Howard
06/26/1999 Anthony T (Tony) Irving
06/26/1999 Melodie Kimball
06/27/1999 Lilian Elliot
06/27/1999 Stuart Isto
06/27/1999 Trudi Shaw
07/24/1999 Stephen Shortes
08/01/1999 Rodney Bales
08/07/1999 Caroline Hass
08/10/1999 Frank Smith
08/11/1999 Clare Edwards
08/15/1999 Robert H Hirst
09/04/1999 Gregory Louis Smith
09/19/1999 Percy Henry
09/21/1999 Susan McCabe
09/26/1999 Jean S Cupp
09/29/1999 Stephen L Schafroth
10/04/1999 Thomas R English
10/06/1999 Patsy Ann Abshier
10/09/1999 Walter H (Terry) Miescher
10/23/1999 Elizabeth (Lee) Kostic
10/23/1999 Walter McKenney
10/23/1999 John J Moran
10/23/1999 Christina K Wible
10/29/1999 Gary Eugene Bilby
10/29/1999 Tami Logsdon
10/29/1999 Melissa Lee Wafer-Cross
10/30/1999 Sherman Everett
10/30/1999 Mooydeen Frees
11/01/1999 Miguel Angel Padilla H.
11/06/1999 Diane Bielski
11/06/1999 Janet Marie Dewlen
11/06/1999 Lawrence E Doyle
11/06/1999 Joseph L Forinash
11/06/1999 Barbara (Bobbie) Girardin
11/06/1999 Sue Ann Raymond
11/13/1999 Mary Alice Hawkins
11/20/1999 Anne Powell
11/20/1999 Lewis Powell
11/20/1999 Susan M Reeve
11/22/1999 Martha Lang
11/28/1999 Marion Schafer
11/30/1999 Diane M Moore
12/05/1999 Myrna Faye Chaney
12/10/1999 John Todd Adam
12/10/1999 Cheryl Harris
12/11/1999 Tim Evolina
12/11/1999 Suzanne Devine Mulkin
12/11/1999 Michael Szymanski
12/18/1999 Melanie Christopher
12/18/1999 Alan Hetzel
12/18/1999 Michael Jenkins
12/18/1999 Pat Jones
12/18/1999 Shirley Long
12/18/1999 Geri Lee Nelson
12/30/1999 Brenda Caldwell



L-R: Lawrence Elliott, Logan Augustine, Linda Rogers, Karla Hunt, Katherine Ferguson, William Sinclair, Jr., with Bishops Shannon Johnston, Herman Hollerith IV. 9/29/18. Virginia and Southern Virginia.



Jim Strickland, 5/19/18. Georgia.



Andrea Mackenzie, Lisa Bennett, Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves and Bertram Nagarajah. 6/2/18. El Camino Real.



John Boyd and Joey Clavijo with Bishop Thompson. 6/30/18. Louisiana.



Bishop Smith with Gary Sawyer, Patrice Cole, Tara Bartholomew. 6/9/18. Arizona.



Matthew Simpson, Bishop Gutiérrez, Louis Steffenhagen. 6/9/18. Pennsylvania.



Linda Murdoch with transitional deacons and Bishop Skirving. 5/19/18. East Carolina.



Gerri Endicott with Bishop Don Johnson. 6/30/18. West Tennessee.

SUMMER ORDINATIONS Congratulations!



◀ Lisa Siciliano, Bishop Knudsen, Paula Waite, 6/9/18. Maryland



Janet Gockerman, Patricia Vinge, Br. Francis Berghuis, Bishop Houglund. 6/30/18. Western Michigan.



Michael Nailor (L) 9/22/18 and Eric Henry 9/30/18, with transitional deacon. Central PA.



Sydney Johnson, Bishop Smylie, 7/25/18. Wyoming.



Sandra Bramble, Martha Eldredge, Elizabeth Dixon, Kathryn McMahon, Anne Derse, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Steven Seely, Janice Hicks, Susan Fritz, Joan Crittenden, Lesley Krauland, Enid Cole, Eugene Wright. 9/22/18. Washington DC.

THANK YOU TO THESE DIOCESES WHICH SUPPORTED AED IN 2018 AS MEMBER DIOCESES.

The Episcopal Church

Alabama
Albany
Arizona
Arkansas
Atlanta
Bethlehem
Central Florida
Central New York
Central Pennsylvania
Chicago
Connecticut

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
Dallas
Delaware
East Carolina
East Tennessee
Eastern Michigan
Eastern Oregon
El Camino Real
Fond du Lac
Fort Worth
Georgia
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Indianapolis
Kansas
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Massachusetts
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the Rio Grande
Vermont
Washington
West Missouri
West Virginia
Western Kansas
Western Massachusetts
Western Michigan
Western North Carolina
Wyoming

The Anglican Church of Canada

British Columbia
Fredericton
Huron
New Westminster
Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
Niagara
Ottawa
Toronto
Qu'Appelle
Rupert's Land
Yukon

David Bailey of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland and my Bishop Brian Seage of Mississippi, to go back at the end of May 2018 and live for a year on loan as a deacon in that mission area. Well, that's exactly what I'm doing, having arrived this past June with my little Dachshund, Pax. Just remember: when the Holy Spirit taps you on your back, you need to listen!

Having just celebrated my tenth year of ordination, I have begun a new chapter in my life. My cup overfloweth, and I have much to give back - to these wonderful people out here, to my diocese of Mississippi and, hopefully, to the Band of Choctaws In Mississippi. While I miss my family and friends, I can't think of a better place to be.

When not away, Cathrine serves at St. Columb's Church in Ridgeland, Mississippi. She is also the Diocesan Co-Representative for Episcopal Relief & Development. For more information visit ecofnavajoland.org.

*Inside Good Shepherd Mission,
Ft. Defiance, AZ*



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Asset-Based Community Development

Facilitator Formation Workshops / in Spanish, also

- October 8 – 11 Memphis, TN
- October 22 -25 Sierra Madre, CA This training will have two tracks, one in English and one in Spanish

calledtotransformation.org/more-information/events-and-trainings/

CDSP | CALL online classes AED Members receive a discount

Jan. 21 - March 11, 2019 *Church History* with Dr. Bradley Peterson

Mar. 25 - May 20, 2019 *The Diaconal Hermeneutic* with Dr. Rod Dugliss

<https://cdsp.edu/center-for-anglican-learning-and-leadership/call-2018-19-online-courses/>

Spanish Language Resources

Episcopal Church Foundation

www.episcopalchurchfoundation.org/programs/vital-practices/spanish

Backstory Preaching - Includes 5-day sermon prep, Live Lunch-Hour Lectio, Preaching Current Events. <https://www.backstorypreaching.com/start-here>

Episcopal Migration Ministries

Podcast "HomeTown," featuring voices from across the Church and American communities

www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-migration-ministries-launches-podcast

Webinars: Deacons Talking on the Road to Emmaus

Deacons share stories in hope of animating, supporting and renewing diaconal ministries. Monthly on the third Thursday, 7:00 -8:30 pm EDT

<https://www.province1.org/road-to-emmaus>

Save the Date - Festival of Homiletics

"Preaching as Moral Imagination"

May 13-17, 2019

www.festivalofhomiletics.com

Welcome New Archdeacons



Roger Saterstrom has been appointed Archdeacon of the Diocese of Tennessee. He will coordinate the diocesan two-year, Sewanee-centered diaconal formation program, in addition to providing pastoral care for deacons and assisting with diocesan events. Roger will continue to serve Christ Church Cathedral liturgically as deacon and as coordinator of the Cathedral's Outreach ministries.



Chris Harpster has been appointed Archdeacon of the Episcopal Church in East Tennessee. He will focus on providing administrative oversight and support for deacons in the Diocese.

ANOTHER UGLY SWEATER?



HOW ABOUT A GIFT YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT?

The Association for Episcopal Deacons depends on your support to promote and create resources for deacons and those in formation.

Put a donation to AED on your wish list this year. Or donate for yourself or someone in formation!

www.episcopaldeacons.org

RESPONSE to Chapter XXXVII, from August 2018

What He Said

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

There’s the old story of the frog in the pot on the stove. If you put the frog in the pot when the water is hot, it will jump out. But if you put the amphibian into water that is room temperature and then turn up the heat, it will stay and get boiled, never noticing the gradual increase in warmth until it is too late.

There’s a new frog in the pot at Holy Spirit, Melrose, and he recognizes the temperature is way too hot. The rector, the deacon, the secretary and the sexton have worked as a team for years. They have become comfortable with each other, there’s a type of “shorthand” they use in discussing parish and people. Perhaps they’ve become a bit too familiar and cynical – especially the rector, who is snarky, at the least.

Into this walks the new organist-choirmaster. While officially part of the staff, he’s not part of the “hive mind”, not privy to the back stories, and at first just an observer of the inner workings of this group. He sees things with new eyes – and ears. And he is appalled at the way others are referred to. He has also thought

through to the next step: if this is how they refer to people who aren’t here, how do they refer to any of us when we step out of the room?

It does not serve God’s people to refer to them in negative terms. We call such bad behavior out when we hear it in the public sector from our leaders, and we should call it out when we hear in private among friends and colleagues. Referring to people in slang terminology by their conditions or lifestyles says that they are lesser beings in your mind, and tells your listeners to feel the same way.

But, how to combat this? One correspondent recommended going to the archdeacon for help, perhaps even asking the Venerable to intercede. Having an outside person come in might work (it may need to be someone higher up, though). Maybe a proposal to have sensitivity training for the parish staff, or at clergy conference, would get the offender into a position where he might recognize his behavior and repent.

Another correspondent suggested meeting the offender one on one, to explain how, as faith

leaders, we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard. He should be careful not to cause harm to others through inconsiderate words and actions; that includes himself, should any of his colorful comments get loose in the parish and bounce back at him.

It’s a short step from laughing at ourselves to laughing just at others near to us. The line between affection and disappointment is also a thin one. What was sardonic once upon a time could devolve into a constant and waspish belittlement of others, or a sense that “it’s us against the rabble”. It becomes about dividing community rather than fostering it.

Jesus reminds us that what gets whispered in private will be shouted from the rooftops. In his case it was his words to his disciples, but we all know how hard it is to keep anything secret, once repeated. We always need to be careful of what we say, because we never know how far those words will travel once we let them loose.

NEW: Chapter XXXVIII

‘Til We Can Say Goodbye

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

To the outside observer, St. John’s Episcopal Church in West Riverside seemed to function like a well-oiled machine. Even to many in the pews, it was always doing God’s work and a place of peace. It was only to the inner circle that the intermittent skirmishes between the priest and the deacon were a source of discussion and discomfort.

Ed Toowhit was a son of the parish, having done everything from acolyte to warden, and, in his later years, ordained to the diaconate with a ministry to the parish elderly and the shut-ins, to which he was completely committed.

In the other corner, Helen Huffer has been called as rector eleven years ago, and had led St. John’s into a wider ministry and visibility in the community, not to mention bringing in new parishioners at a time when other congregations were apt to be struggling with attendance.

One would think that Ed and Helen’s ministries were complementary, and could co-exist easily. But, no, that was not the case. Ed was frequently the voice of those of his generation and others who felt that the parish leadership, and in particular the rector, was always going too far, too soon, and that Jesus was calling St. John’s to faithfulness. Helen and her supporters felt that the deacon and his coterie lived in the past, and that Jesus was calling St. John’s

to interact with God’s creation.

Various flashpoints over the years had been over vestments, adding another deacon, planting a memorial garden, the Christmas pageant, the kitchen stove, and a variety of other, relatively minor issues. Matters would flare and subside, only to pop up in a different way weeks or months later.

On this particular Sunday, another set of services had just gone into the books. Church school was over. The coffee hour attendees had mainly dispersed, the Altar Guild had cleaned up, and the rector was headed towards her office. Then she heard the voice of her senior deacon from behind her.

“Hey, Helen, you got a minute?” asked Ed. Huffer’s spidey sense kicked in immediately, as Ed rarely initiated a conversation with her at the end of the Sunday gathering.

“Yes, Ed, what’s on your mind? Let’s step inside and sit down,” suggested the rector.

“Nah, this won’t take long. I’ve talked it over with my wife, and we’ve decided it’s time for me to retire from St. John’s. I thought you’d like to know.”

Continued on page 14

The rector fought down the impulse to shout “Hallelujah”, and simply responded, “Oh, I think we need to sit and talk about this, Ed. This is a major decision you’re talking about.”

The deacon frowned. “You know Missy and I always go to brunch after church. She’s out in the car waiting for me.”

The rector persisted. “Well, there’s a lot of details that will need to be worked out. For example, when are you thinking of retiring? Will you be staying on in the pews? The parish will want to have a celebration of your ministry. Things like that.”

Ed finished shrugging on his overcoat. “I’m leaving at the end of the month. Missy and I are going to sell the house to our grandson Eric and move to Quaker Gardens.”

“That’s in two weeks,” responded Helen, with as much equanimity as she could muster. “I don’t think we can pull together a dinner that quickly,

and get your friends and fellow deacons here, too. Besides, are you really moving at the end of the month?”

But the deacon was already edging towards the exit. “The missus and I are going over to the assisted living place tomorrow to sign a contract. Then we have to start packing, because Eric wants to move in and fix the place up before he gets married next May.” Ed paused. “He’s getting married here. Can I still be the deacon for his wedding if I’m retired?”

Flummoxed by the second bombshell announcement in as many minutes, Huffer came back at him. “Ed, we really do need to discuss this. Have you told the bishop yet?”

“What do I need to tell him for? The diocese doesn’t pay me anything.”

“You’re in holy orders,” pointed out the rector. “You follow the direction of the canons, through your bishop and your rector. You swore to that when you were ordained.” The deacon pouted, but kept heading towards the parking lot.

“Let’s meet on Tuesday, when you get back from the hospital visits,” suggested Huffer.

“I’ll try,” replied Toowhit, “But I can’t skip the Kiwanis luncheon. I don’t want to break my attendance record.” And at that he was out the door.

The rector of St. John’s took a deep breath, and went into her office. She needed to compose herself before composing an email to the bishop and one to the wardens. “This will be like passing a kidney stone,” she thought. “Painful, but a relief in the end.”

What would you do? Please send responses with your take on this to kmccoy1@optonline.net. Comments received within a month will be taken into consideration when writing the response.

Deacon Keith McCoy has twenty plus years as a deacon and manager of public agencies. He serves in the Diocese of New Jersey.

from the **NUEVO AMANECER CONFERENCE** AUGUST 27-30, 2018

Supporting ministry within the Latino/Hispanic Community

La conferencia Nuevo Amanecer apoya el ministerio en las comunidades latinas/hispanas

The Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries and Kanuga partnered to offer this biannual Nuevo Amanecer Conference. Designed for those who are involved in Latino Ministry as well as those interested in becoming involved, the conference brought together many successful and dynamic leaders involved in Latino Ministries. It offered workshops that provided training that can be implemented in any parish, inspiring keynote addresses and was conducted bilingually through simultaneous interpretation so that no one is left out and nothing is repeated.

This year’s theme was: We Build, Equip, Inspire. This follows the vision of the Jesus Movement by building capacity, networking and sharing of best practices.

Keynote speakers were The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Diocese of Pennsylvania; The Rt. Rev. Rafael L. Morales Maldonado, Diocese of Puerto Rico and The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Stewardship of Creation.

Visit www.kanuga.org for more information.



Deacon Ema Rosero-Nordalm led a workshop to a packed room at this year's Nuevo Amanecer Conference.

Deacons Juan Sandoval (below) and Maureen Hagen co-led a workshop entitled Lifting Up Servants of God. They focused on the vital need for more Latinx deacons and welcomed a very engaged audience of twenty.



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IN MEMORIAM

Deacon deaths are listed alphabetically by name, date of death, diocese, age and ordination year.

Lynne Lazier Bacon, 8/30/2018, Nebraska, 72, 1993
Lucinda (Pete) Dempsey-Sims, 11/9/2017, Western New York, 65, 2011
Davis M. Ferrell, 8/15/2018, El Camino Real, 81, 1998
Louise O'Kelley Hardman, 6/22/2018, Florida, 77, 2010
Irvin Walter Maranville, 7/25/2018, Vermont, 89, 1986
Susan Richards Mueller, 8/12/2018, Milwaukee, 71, 1984
Judith R. Petersen, 1/25/2018, South Dakota, 82, 2003
William E. Rathman Sr., 6/3/2018, Southern Ohio, 91, 1975

Deaths are listed as we receive them. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information and we regret any errors. Please send notifications, including diocese, date of ordination, age and date of death to membership@episcopaldeacons.org.

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Recent Ordinations

We celebrate the following Vocational Deacon ordinations that have been reported to AED. Ordination notices (date, diocese and deacon) are published as we receive them. Please send ordination notices to membership@episcopaldeacons.org.

3/17/18	Eau Claire	Susan Ripplinger
6/2/18	Massachusetts	Bernie Jones, Helen McKinney, Marilyn McMillan, Ruthann Savage-King, Sonia Hodge
6/9/18	Mississippi	Mary Howard King
6/22/18	Wyoming	Steve Davis
6/23/18	Texas	Rebecca Sparks
6/23/18	New Westminster	Juanita Clerk, Peggy Trendell-Jensen
6/30/18	Nevada	James Loren Hobart
6/30/18	West Tennessee	Gerri LaVerne Endicott
7/21/18	Los Angeles	Lauren Danielle Helen Grubaugh
7/25/18	Wyoming	Sydney Johnson
9/4/18	East Tennessee	Jason Clark, Joshua Weaver
9/20/18	Ontario	Lorenzo Cromwell
9/22/18	Central PA	W. Michael Nailor
9/22/18	Washington	Anne Elizabeth Derse, Elizabeth Lovett Dixon, Enid Omodele Cole, Eugene Nat Wright, Janice Marie Hicks, Joan Marie Crittenden, Kathryn Evans McMahon, Lesley Werner Krauland, Martha Josephine Eldredge, Sandra Russline Bramble, Steven Eugene Seely, Susan Cheryl Fritz
9/29/18	Southern Virginia	Linda Rogers, William C. (Carter) Sinclair Jr.
9/29/18	Virginia	Karla Westfall Hunt, Katherine Ferguson, Lawrence Elliott, Logan Taylor
9/30/18	Central PA	Eric Henry



Ruthann Savage-King, Helen McKinney, Bernie Jones, Sonia Hodge, Marilyn McMillan with Bishop Alan Gates. 6/2/18. Massachusetts.



Steve Davis, 6/22/18, Wyoming.



Ann Williams Murray, Stephen Miller (transitional), Bishop Ed Konieczny, Mary Ann Coffman, Michael Clements. 6/29/18. Oklahoma.



James Loren Hobart, Bishop Edwards. 6/30/18. Nevada.

As space allows, we include ordination photos.

Please send high resolution photos of 300 dpi, at least 3" wide to communications@episcopaldeacons.org.

More ordination photos on [page 11](#)