



# FORWARD *in* MISSION

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Lent 2021

*Fellows north, fellows south*

## Two parishes offer residential formation for young adults

*The parishes of Christ Church in Waco and Good Shepherd in Wichita Falls have each launched “Fellows” programs for young adults, built around a common life of prayer, work, and study – an ancient triad for Christian residential orders. Operating on a September-to-May academic schedule, the programs are similar to programs offered through The Falls Church (Anglican) in Virginia and Gordon-Conwell College in Massachusetts, but they are “new shoots” in the ACNA, offering immersive opportunities for both formation and discernment to young adults seeking a deeper understanding of their faith and God’s purposes for their lives.*

### The North Texas Fellows

Contact: Fr. Brian Chase • [fr.brian@shepherdinthefalls.com](mailto:fr.brian@shepherdinthefalls.com) • or see [shepherdinthefalls.com/ntf](http://shepherdinthefalls.com/ntf)

The North Texas Fellows is a one-year program in the Anglican tradition dedicated to the faith formation of college-aged young men through prayer, study, service, and life in Christian community. The program is a ministry of Church of the Good Shepherd in Wichita Falls, and is filled primarily from the student population at Midwestern State University. The program will also serve as a catalyst for further on-campus student ministry.



*Evening Prayer in Shepherd House*

cular Fellows program is its orientation toward active college students, instead of graduates transitioning into the work force. The college years can be difficult spiritually for many students; it is not uncommon – with intellectual challenges, moral temptations, and busy schedules – to for them to lose the faith altogether. The North Texas Fellows Program provides an opportunity for participating students to make college a time of spiritual as well as professional formation.

Good Shepherd is specially situated to fill this void with the possession of an empty house on its property. The house sat for years in various states of disrepair, but in 2019 the church was able to renovate the building – cleaning it out, adding four new bedrooms, renovating the bathroom and kitchen, adding fresh paint, new floors, and furniture. The church’s Senior Warden,

Among the unique aspects of this parti-

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“Pop” Crase, spearheaded the project, and not without the indispensable assistance of John Skelton, the church’s Junior Warden.

The house has been renamed “The Shepherd House” and has become the program’s true home, enabling the Fellowship to become a community and not just a program – a community that is able to pray, eat, live, study, and serve all under the same roof, bound together by a common rule of daily Morning and Evening Prayer, which will instill habits and virtues that can become a wellspring of spirituality for the rest of the Fellows’ lives.

Shepherd House enables Good Shepherd Church to offer the program entirely free of charge. Resident Fellows supply their own food and provide sexton services for the church, offsetting housing costs.

The Fellows benefit from the support of life in the parish, as well as from instruction, mentorship and spiritual direction with Fr. Brian Chase, the rector at the church. Fr. Chase teaches non-accredited classes in Hermeneutics, Church History, Theology, Apologetics, and Spirituality.

The final component of the program is five to 10 hours of weekly community service, most of which can be fulfilled at the church, by assisting with cleaning, grounds work, service at the altar, and outreach ministries.

Beginning a ministry like this in the

middle of a pandemic obviously presents some challenges, but none of them have proven insurmountable. Both the church and the university follow protocols to reduce the possibility of transmission, and a small group of students living together in a single house is far less exposed to viral transmission than those living in dorms!

While the program is primarily geared toward young, college-age men, (on account of living together in close quarters), various aspects of the program are open to others as well. Female students are more than welcome to participate in the course work and other aspects of the program, though living space is not available for them. Recent college graduates who need a year to discern their future, as well as current graduate students are welcome to apply.

The study and ministry opportunities provided by the fellowship would make good preparation for seminary and provide an excellent opportunity for anyone discerning a vocation in ministry.

The Church of the Good Shepherd is very excited about this new venture in ministry. It is always heartening to see forward movement in ministry, but especially in the midst of the difficulties we all face in this pandemic. A warm welcome to the first cohort of the North Texas Fellows and God’s blessing on this new ministry! ✱

*Brazos Fellows, page 7 »*

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*Vacancies at six parishes were filled as 2020 came to a close. Fr. Mark Polley was called to succeed Bishop Reed as Dean of St. Vincent’s Cathedral in Bedford. Fr. Sam Wilgus succeeded Canon Jay Atwood at St. Francis, Willow Park. Also in Parker County, Fr. Kendall Felton was elected by the vestry of All Saints’, Weatherford, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Fr. Eric Vowles for personal reasons. In Cleburne, Fr. Cooper Morelock became rector of Church of the Holy Comforter. And, two Arlington parishes chose new rectors: Fr. Joseph Francis has begun new ministry at St. Alban’s Church, and Fr. Andrew Thebeau was called from an Anglican parish in New York State to become rector at the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul. Photos clockwise, opposite page.*

2020 brought a bounty of ordinations and institutions

## New ministries begun



Fr. Eddie Fitzhugh was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 6 at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford, where he serves as diocesan curate.



Fr. Matthew Rogers was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 15 at St. Laurence, Southlake, where he now serves as diocesan curate.



# Around the Diocese

## **Official portrait released**



A formal portrait of Bishop Reed is now available to every congregation, along with an updated chart of Apostolic Succession, showing the legacy of leadership in the Church from the time of the apostles to the present day. Churches may contact the diocesan office to obtain these items.

## **40 Days for Life**

40 Days for Life, a campaign to pray for an end to abortion, begins its spring 2021 campaign

on Ash Wednesday and continues through Palm Sunday. Fort Worth prayer vigil gatherings will be held at Whole Women's Health on Lackland Road. All interested participants are encouraged to use the "Sign up for Vigil Hours" link at [40daysforlife.com/fortworth](http://40daysforlife.com/fortworth).

## **College scholarships offered**

Two endowed scholarship funds administered through St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, are accepting applications through March 1. The Edelmann-McFarland and Lafferty-Foust awards are available to residents of Tarrant, Parker, and Erath Counties who are enrolled or plan to enroll in Texas institutions. See [st-andrew.com/college-scholarships](http://st-andrew.com/college-scholarships).

## **Young Adult women's retreat**

All young adult women (ages 19-30) are invited to participate in a Lenten Day retreat beginning Friday evening, March 5, and continuing through the day on Saturday, March 6. (Everyone will return

home overnight.) To learn more about this and other Young Adult gatherings, contact Catherine Marshall at [catherineleemmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:catherineleemmarshall@gmail.com).

## **Clay shoot for Camp Crucis**

The Bishop Reed Sporting Clay Shoot benefiting Camp Crucis was held November 13 in Fort Worth, with about two dozen participants. Save the date now for the 2021 edition, already scheduled for Oct. 30.



## **Donated vehicle arrives in Malawi**

In September 2017 Fr. John Munson visited Malawi with Charles Patton, a member of St. Alban's Church in Arlington. Arriving on Likoma Island, they were picked up in an ancient compact pickup truck that broke down completely the following day. Fr. Munson promised Fr. Peterson Binga, the Dean of the Cathedral, he would try to replace the old vehicle. In October 2020, after clearing many hurdles, a Nissan X-Trail (the steering-on-the-right sibling to the Rogue) with a sturdy luggage rack, roof lights for driving in near-darkness, and other practical features was ferried to the island and put into service for years of mission work anticipated along the mostly unpaved roads.

# Around the Diocese

## Food distribution meets neighbors' needs

The coronavirus pandemic has increased food insecurity everywhere; in Texas, as many as four million individuals have less than enough to eat.

Three Tarrant County congregations have responded to the needs of their neighbors with food distribution programs. San Miguel and San Juan in Fort Worth and St. Peter & St. Paul in Arlington are running drive-through programs on Saturdays to live out Jesus' words from Matthew 25: "I was hungry and you gave me food."

Operation costs are low for each congregation; the primary need is for volunteers. Usually the "overhead" is just the cost of bags and boxes for packing, while food supplies come from nonprofit food banks.

The feeding program began at San Miguel last spring with free hot meals on Fridays. By summer, the size of the need required a greater response, and Fr. Sergio Diaz launched a program that provides boxes of fresh and non-perishable groceries to about 100 families each week. Infant formula is available, too.



*San Miguel, Fort Worth*



*St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington*

At St. Peter & St. Paul, volunteers show up at dawn on the fourth Saturday of each month to fill boxes assembly-line style or get ready to greet their guests in car lines. At 8 a.m. the loaded boxes begin to disappear, and by 10 they are usually gone.

Fr. Salvador Ordonez, vicar of San Juan, says almost none of the people seeking aid are members of the congregation. Some visitors come from as far away as Cleburne, Joshua, and Grand Prairie, made aware of the opportunity on Facebook. Some of the needy are never even seen: An unlocked pantry stocked with non-perishables sits under a carport cover on church property for access at any time. While anyone can face tough times, Fr. Ordonez says he focuses on the Spanish-speaking community because it is so important to offer spiritual food as well as groceries, and at San Juan all worship services are in Spanish.

In every case, the ministry begins with a brief check-in at the driver's window, to determine the size of each household and to make a personal connection, even through a mask. Sometimes a prayer is said; other times, a visitor needs assistance finding COVID testing, or even paying utility bills.

Each of the churches intends to continue the ministry as long as the need continues.

*Bishop Reed gathered clergy, delegates online*

## Video links brought 2020's Diocesan Convention together

The clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese conducted the business of the 38th Annual Diocesan Convention via Zoom links on Saturday, Nov. 14, completing all agenda items in just two hours. Bishop Reed, in his first year as Diocesan, called the Convention to order from his offices in Fort Worth, connecting satellite locations spread across the six Deaneries via streaming video.

Elections were conducted on paper ballots, which were distributed and tallied at the Deanery locations. Fr. John Jordan (St. Laurence, Southlake) and Jeff Wallace (Christ Church, Waco) were elected to serve on the Standing Committee, and Fr. Alan Horton (St. Gregory's, Mansfield) and Annette Norred (St. Andrew's, Fort Worth) were elected to positions on the Ecclesiastical Trial Court.

A balanced budget of \$1.634 million was adopted for 2021; parish assessments were lowered slightly. A package of amendments to the Constitution and Canons was



adopted, with the exception of the proposed repeal of Canon 37; it was tabled after discussion.

Two major addresses were delivered to the Convention: the Bishop's Annual Address and the message of the guest speaker, the Most Rev. Benjamin Kwashi, former Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria, and a cherished friend of the Diocese.

All reports of ministry leaders were submitted as text or videos and published on the home page of the diocesan Web site under the "2020 Diocesan Convention" tab.

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## Challenge for *La Gran Familia* a success

God has answered prayers! In January the people of the Diocese met a 2-for-1 challenge benefitting *La Gran Familia* (LGF) Children's



Home in Mexico. As many of you know, the challenge was to raise \$4,000 in a very short period of time. The response went over and above that amount! In return, the donor will contribute \$2,000. With God all things are possible!

Our Diocese has a \$2,500 monthly pledge to *LGF* – approximately one

quarter of their budget. Donations ran low in 2020, but we still manage to meet our pledge. All gifts contributed by check to the Diocese or via [fwworldmission.net](http://fwworldmission.net) go directly towards that pledge. Let us stand behind our commitment to *LGF*. They are counting on us!

After the pandemic is over, I hope some of you who have never been to *LGF* will visit. It is an amazing place. God is always there.

– Barbara Hautanen  
Chair, Mexico Sub-Committee  
World Mission Committee

## Fellows programs

# Brazos Fellows tap Baylor faculty

Contact: Fr. Lee Nelson • [lee@christchurchwaco.org](mailto:lee@christchurchwaco.org) • or see [brazosfellows.com](http://brazosfellows.com)

Brazos Fellows invites young adults to Waco, Texas, for nine months of rigorous study, spiritual discipline, service, and vocational discernment. Launched in 2018, Brazos Fellows brings together the life of the mind and the life of worship by situating serious theological and historical study in the local church. The Fellows join the life of Christ Church, Waco, which in turn provides qualified leaders to be their instructors, spiritual directors, and tutors. In 2020-21, the program's third year, there are five Brazos Fellows ranging in age from 22 to 32. Even during a global pandemic, this seems to be an ideal time to be part of a small, intentional Christian community.

The heart of the fellowship is the shared Rule of Life. Every Brazos Fellow commits to morning and evening prayer, spiritual direction, and sabbath practices. The Fellows participate together in a rhythm of prayer, work, and study, and enjoy a rich community life centered on weekly meals, monthly seminars, and two major retreats. They serve the Christ Church community by joining choir, the Christian Education team, and other ministries.

Each Fellow works one-on-one with a graduate student at Baylor University who serves as tutor, helping him or her explore personal theological questions. Fellows work with the Assistant Director, Paige Gutacker, a certified life coach who guides them as they seek to understand their design and calling. All of this aims at helping participants grow in what St. Augustine called "double knowledge": knowledge of God and knowledge of self.

The Director, Dr. Paul Gutacker, leads this exploration. Dr. Gutacker received his Ph.D. from Baylor University, where he studied American religious history. He developed the Brazos Fellows program with reference to the fellows internship program at The Falls Church in Virginia, but, he notes, "Our program focuses more on the study component [and] less on internship." The Fellows'

course of study follows the Church's rich history of engagement with Holy Scripture, liturgy, theology, and prayer. Fellows learn to "think with the Church," both past and present. The syllabus draws from the riches of Christian tradition, with authors including Augustine, Basil the Great, Benedict, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, Julian of Norwich, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Flannery O'Connor. Over a dozen Baylor faculty and graduate students including regularly serve as guest instructors.



*The 2020-21 Brazos Fellows assemble on the steps of Christ Church, Waco.*

According to the Rector of Christ Church, Fr. Lee Nelson, "Brazos Fellows is a crucial part of our parish's mission to build up the Church and make disciples. We believe that without intentional and rigorous development of leaders, the Church faces a bleak future. Through the years, we have seen too many young people leave college without being well-catechized, developing strong habits of spiritual discipline, or finding a sense of their calling. These are gifts that need to be cultivated in all Christians – both lay people and those who will eventually seek ordination."

A good candidate for Brazos Fellows will recognize this deep need in his or her own life. We invite applications from young women and men who desire to take part in a community committed to prayer, study, and discernment together.



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## DIOCESAN CALENDAR - LENT 2021

**Boldface** type indicates the Bishop's visitations • Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held at the Diocesan Center

2/20	10:30 a.m. Ordination of Carl Harkins to the Diaconate, Christ the Redeemer, FW	January
2/21	ST. LUKE, Mineral Wells	February
	5 p.m. Young Adult Mass, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford	
2/18	9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry	March
2/28	HOLY COMFORTER, Cleburne	April
3/5-6	Young Adult Women's Lenten Day Retreat	
3/7	ST. PATRICK, Bowie, and ST. THOMAS, Jacksboro	May
3/14	Daylight Saving Time begins, set clocks forward	June
3/15	9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry	July
3/18	10:30 a.m. Finance Committee	August
	4 p.m. Risk Management Committee	
3/21	HOLY CROSS, Abilene	September
3/28	Palm Sunday	October
	ST. TIMOTHY, Fort Worth	
3/30	10 a.m. Mass of Collegiality, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford	November
4/4	Easter Day	December
	ST. FRANCIS, Willow Park	

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