



# FORWARD *in* MISSION

*A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth*

*Fall 2011*

## *World Mission*

## Malawi celebration marked with an exchange of gifts

*In June, the nation of Malawi marked the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Anglican missionaries bringing the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ. To mark the occasion, Christians gathered for worship at the Cathedral of St. Peter on Likoma Island, in the Diocese of Northern Malawi. Two members of the World Mission Committee – Kristi Heffron and Kyle Spradley – represented the Diocese of Fort Worth at the celebration. –Ed.*

Our trip was marked by so many blessings – it will be difficult to include them all here. Kyle and I visited with each priest, bringing greetings to them from Fort Worth, and we accepted their greetings for their Centurion partners back home. We worshiped and visited with the people, saw two deacons and three priests ordained at the cathedral, witnessed as 27 children were confirmed, and participated in the installation of the first Daughters of the King chapter in Mzuzu. Kyle used his skill as a videographer to record scenes of life in Northern Malawi for a video that will be available soon to parishes around the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Individually, we encountered the living God in very personal ways. We saw Scripture come to life, and we experienced renewal of our faith and the knowledge of God's directing hand.

Following the service of thanksgiving at the Cathedral, we had the privilege of staying on Likoma for several days to participate in the sixth diocesan Synod. Led by Bishop Magangani, the gathering had the spirit of renewal, growth, and

hope for the future. It was both contagious and exciting. The theme was "Let us Move On and Move Now." We shared a well-received video of life in the Diocese of Fort Worth. In addition, we presented a covenant, signed by Bishop Iker, to Bishop Magangani for his signature. The covenant outlines the areas of focus for our partnership over the next four years and will be the guiding document for our work together.

We humbly accepted a gift of 100,000 Malawi kwacha – \$600 – to the Legal Defense Fund of the Diocese of Fort Worth. This generous offering was a complete surprise. Given by the parishes and people of Northern Malawi out of their poverty, it demonstrates their desire to stand with us as partners in faith.

In addition, we accepted for Bishop Iker the award of Defender of the Faith in acknowledgement of his commitment to the true and historic faith.

God is truly at work in both our dioceses. We have much to be grateful for and much to be hopeful for.

To God be the Glory!



–Kristi Heffron

## *Our Assisting Bishop*

# Bishop Wantland becomes first Chief Justice of Seminole Nation Supreme Court

In August the Rt. Rev. William Wantland, assisting bishop of our diocese, was sworn in as head of a panel of Supreme Court Justices for the Seminole Nation. The court is being reinstated for the first time since Oklahoma attained statehood. The Hons. Joe Taylor and Kelly Stoner were sworn in



as Justices, with Bishop Wantland as Chief Justice. Also at the ceremony the Hon. Greg Bigler took his oath as District Judge.

The Seminole Nation was established as an independent Indian Nation on Aug. 7,

1856, after the government-mandated migration known as the Trail of Tears, and the formal merger that made Seminoles a part of the Creek Nation. At the time, the Seminoles had their own Constitution, written in Seminole.

In preparation for Oklahoma Statehood in 1907, Congress greatly reduced the authority of what were known as the Five Civilized Tribes. Among the changes, the tribal courts were abolished.

A native Oklahoman, Bishop Wantland is a citizen of the Seminole Nation and a member of the Tusekia Harjo Band of the Nation. He graduated from Seminole High School in 1952 and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Hawaii. In 1964 he graduated from the school of law at Oklahoma City University. That same year the Seminoles began working on a new Constitution. He was appointed to the Constitutional Committee the following year; a referendum vote on the Constitution was taken in 1969.

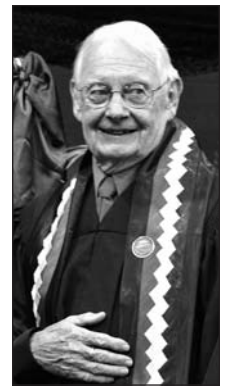
“It was overwhelmingly adopted,” he recalls, “restoring the right to elect our Chief.” While there still was no court system, the government

provided for an Attorney General, and Bishop Wantland filled this position for eight years, until 1977.

At the same time, he was called to the Episcopal priesthood and was ordained in 1970. Fr. Wantland earned a Doctorate in Religion in 1976. He served at churches in Seminole and Holdenville before becoming rector of St. John’s in Oklahoma City. In 1980 he was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire (Wisconsin) and served 19 years. He lectured in canon law at Nashotah House Seminary, and he was Vice President of the Episcopal Chancellors’ Network from 1987 to 1996. Following his retirement from Eau Claire, he served a year as Bishop of the missionary diocese of Navajoland.

In 1993 Congress passed legislation supporting tribal courts. The Seminole Nation utilized the Code of Federal Regulations Court of Indian Offenses, a Federal Court authorized to handle limited kinds of cases, and Bishop Wantland has served as the court’s Magistrate for the past five years.

In 2008 the Seminole Nation amended its Constitution to providing for a tribal court system, with a District Court and a Supreme Court. It received Federal approval in 2010. The court system has funding from the tribal General Council.



“In June, the Principal Chief appointed, and the General Council approved, a District Judge and three Supreme Court Justices. I was named by the other Justices as the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Seminole Nation for a term of two years. The court system will formally take over all judicial operations in October.”

*Capacitando a los santos para el ministerio (Equipping the saints for ministry)*

## Iglesia San Miguel hosts first Spanish-language Faith Alive! weekend

For over 40 years, Faith Alive has conducted renewal weekends at Episcopal and Anglican churches. In recent years, a few of these have included translation services for Spanish speakers. The first all-Spanish weekend took place in June, at Iglesia San Miguel, right here in the Diocese of



Fort Worth.

What's Spanish for "Faith Alive"?  
*Fe Viva!*

With an average Sunday attendance of over 260,

San Miguel is based in a ranch-style home on a corner lot in economically-challenged Southeast Fort Worth. Under the watchful eye of Fr. Sergio Diaz, vicar of the congregation, all the renovation work on the property has been done by church members – including the transformation of a former three-car garage into worship space.

Faith Alive team leader Tom Kay worried that the small capacity of the converted garage and other buildings "might present some logistical problems," but Fr. Diaz arranged for several tents to be erected on the lawn, and 300 participants, including 64 children, were comfortably accommodated.

The vicar began planning for the Fe Viva weekend in late 2010. From the first meeting, says Kay, "the



Spirit of the Lord was abundantly present ... and intensified through the planning process.

"Fr. Diaz' team, led by Veronica Castillo, was one of the best-organized and devoted groups that I have been associated with. They began sharing freely at committee meetings weeks before the scheduled weekend."

For the June 8-10 event, the leadership team came from Wisconsin, Florida, and South Carolina – many at their own expense. Fr.

Diaz asked members of Christ the Redeemer and St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, to assist by serving meals and looking after children. The vicar also raised the considerable funds needed to underwrite the weekend. Kay says it was the best Faith Alive weekend he has ever attended, and he chalks it up to the Holy Spirit and "Fr. Diaz' great love for this church, his holy pride in their accomplishments, and their desire for the Lord."

About a week after the *Fe Viva!* weekend, the leadership team received a note of thanks from Zeneyda Sanchez-Ruiz, a volunteer from Florida.

"I am thankful to God and to you all for having been chosen to work on this Faith Alive weekend," she wrote. "For me, who supposedly was going to work and give a testimony of my faith to others, the most beautiful testimony was the one that I received from all those present.

"There was companionship, joy, love, humility, smiling, and immense desire to serve others. I went to give, but in reality came away with more faith in my heart than I had taken there. I came away convinced that I lived in the church of God, where we share pain and joy in harmony one with another, and practice brotherly love with compassion, love and humility."



# Around the Diocese

## *Diocesan Men's Retreat*

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is sponsoring a retreat for men on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7 & 8, at Camp Crucis. The theme for the 24-hour getaway is "Overcoming Adversity." Plan to arrive around 7 p.m. on Friday, then relax and enjoy the program on Saturday, with great talks, good food, and a closing Eucharist to bless you before you go. The cost is \$75. Download a sign-up form from the diocesan Web site at [fwepiscopal.org](http://fwepiscopal.org), or contact Joseph Francis at [joe-francis@att.net](mailto:joe-francis@att.net).

## *Ordinations scheduled*

Two transitional deacons will be ordained to the priesthood during September. Each service will take place in the congregation where these young men are serving as diocesan curates. Deacon Alan Horton will be ordained at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul in Arlington. Deacon Mark Polley's ordination is set for Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Lockheed Martin Recreation facility on Bryant Irvin Road in Fort Worth, where the congregation of Christ the Redeemer worships each Sunday.



## *Day of Discernment*

For those who would like guidance in discerning a call to the permanent diaconate, a Day of Discernment will be offered Saturday, Sept. 24, at St. Peter & St. Paul Church in Arlington. The

## *Pilgrim in the Internet age*

Fr. Christopher Cantrell, the rector of Church of the Holy Apostles in Fort Worth, is on sabbatical leave this fall in order to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Apostle James at Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. James, who is known as Santiago to the Spanish, was the brother of the Apostle John. Compostela has been one of the three great Christian pilgrimage destinations since the Middle Ages, the other two being Jerusalem and Rome. Fr. Cantrell's route, the Camino Frances, begins on the French side of the Pyrenees. He will travel on foot roughly 500 miles to Compostela in 35 days. You may follow his progress on his blog, at [apostolicity.blogspot.com](http://apostolicity.blogspot.com).

The Way of St. James has been traveled for over 1,000 years, even in time of war. The route ends in the northwest corner of Spain at the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, where a pilgrims' Mass is said daily. Hanging on a pulley from the cathedral's dome is the world's largest thurible (censer), which can carry 80 lb. of incense and charcoal as it swings through the nave.

program runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To sign up, please contact Deacon Lana Farley at [dnlana@prodigy.net](mailto:dnlana@prodigy.net).



## *On mission to the Crescent City*

Two diocesan youth groups undertook mission trips to



New Orleans this summer: a high school team from St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington, (pictured at left) and a team from Church of the Good Shepherd, Granbury (right). Congratulations to all our summer missionaries! We are proud of you.



# Around the Diocese

## Lift high the cross

The congregation of St. Gabriel's Church in Springdale, Ark., added a handsome steeple – topped by a cross – to the church building this summer. The building, which was moved to the site in the 1980s, sits atop an undercroft that serves as its parish hall (and occasional tornado shelter). The property also includes an office, rectory, and a former tool shed that has been converted to a tiny chapel for weekday services.



## Sisters in prayer

A new chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross was installed recently in Wichita Falls. Like the Daughters of the King, the order asks members to commit to daily prayer. Organized under the auspices of the Anglican Church in North America, the Good Shepherd chapter has selected Deacon Melody Crabb as its chaplain. Fr. Scott Wooten conducted the inaugural service.



## Golf tournament sets record

A capacity crowd of 258 enthusiastic golfers turned out for the 11th Annual Bishop Iker Challenge Golf Tournament at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose on Friday, June 3. This year's tournament raised \$35,500, funding capitol improvements at Camp Crucis and providing 50 scholarships for youngsters to attend Summer Camp sessions.

The team of John Hall, Ian Hall, Brandt Brownlee and Doug Stokes was the overall tournament winner, with a score of 54. There was a great turnout for the Senior Flight, which was offered this year for the first time. The winning team members in that flight were Bill Hipp,

Wayne Hill, Ben Everett and Everett Frizzell, who came in with a score of 63.

Again, we offer many thanks to the wonderful volunteers, sponsors, donors, and golfers whose support made this event our best ever. There are many great pictures of the tournament on the diocesan flickr page. Find the link at [fwepiscopal.org](http://fwepiscopal.org) and print any you'd like.



*The 2011 tournament champs*

Don't forget to mark your calendars to play in the next Iker Challenge tournament, on June 1, 2012!

## 2011 ECW CONGRESS

*Saturday, Oct. 8*

*St. Andrew's, Grand Prairie*

All clergy and women of the diocese are invited to attend this annual gathering of the diocesan Altar Guild, Daughters of the King, and parish ECW members. This year's guest speaker is the Rev. Dr. Gordon Schroeder of Church of the Resurrection in Flower Mound, Texas. Coffee hour and registration begin at 9 a.m. and business will conclude by 3 p.m.

**Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.**

The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, *Celebrant*

Installation of ECW Officers

ARDF Ingathering

**Speaker: 11:15 a.m.**

**Lunch: 12:30 p.m.**

**Business Meeting: 1:30 p.m.**

The cost of lunch is \$18. Please make checks payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and send to the attention of Jane Coffee at St. Andrew's Church, 727 Hill Street, Grand Prairie, 75050.

*In our Companion Diocese of Northern Mexico*

## Ministry to children continues at La Gran Familia

*by Barbara Hautanen, Chair, Mexico Subcommittee of the World Mission Committee*

In June a team of three – Dean Hautanen, Jas Kirkwood, and Raymond Cervantes – visited La Gran Familia children’s home and day care center in Cuahatemoc, Mexico. They found all the children well and excited about the end of the school year and beginning of summer.



*A growing familia: Pictured above, four youngsters pose with a brochure featuring a picture of themselves taken several years ago. It’s a joy to see how they have flourished.*

This was Raymond’s first trip to LGF. A member of St. Vincent’s Cathedral in Bedford and a professional videographer, he was there to tape material for a new DVD about La Gran

Familia. Ray was overwhelmed by the loving, nurturing ministry there. Upon his return he said that he had always understood that the orphanage was a part of God’s plan, but “you have to be there to realize what a gift it really is. God is most certainly present there. He is evident in the staff, the church, and in the children themselves.” Watch for the video soon on the

World Mission Web site: [www.fwworldmission.org](http://www.fwworldmission.org).

### *Sponsor a child at LGF*

Also, you might visit [www.fwworldmission.org](http://www.fwworldmission.org) and click on Diocesan Relationships to view some new photos and to read news of the St. Paul’s Ministry Sponsor-a-Child Program. Some of the children have been sponsored already; others are partially sponsored. For this, we thank God for your generosity.

School is not free in Mexico. There are costs for tuition, uniforms, and supplies. If you have children of school age, I know you can relate! At LGF, the total cost for school, medical expenses, food, transportation, and more for one child for one school year is \$1500. Such a deal! If you feel called to donate, please download the brochure from our Web site, fill it out, and mail it to the diocesan office. (Be sure to put St. Paul’s Ministry in the memo line.) There is no deadline.

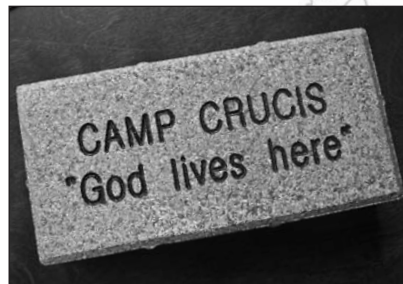
### *Pray for them as they pray for us*

Prayers are always welcome! The children pray for our diocese every just before bed. They also pray for us before meals. I have heard them in say in English, “God bless the americanos!”

May God continue to bless *La Gran Familia!*

### *Brick trails planned for Camp Crucis*

Two brick pathways, leading from the office and dining areas up to St. John’s Chapel and Bishop Iker Hall, are envisioned by the Camp Crucis Board of Managers.



The five-foot-wide walkways will be lined with native landscaping and benches. Commemorative bricks are available in two sizes – for \$50 and \$75 each – and can be customized with up to four lines of engraving. Download an order form from the diocesan Web site at [www.fwepiscopal.org](http://www.fwepiscopal.org). The bricks make wonderful gifts for remembering people, occasions, Scripture verses, and God’s many blessings.

## *Middle schoolers on mission*

# It was hot, but these hearts were warmer

by Fr. Jonathan Ogujiofor, Rector of St. Simon's, Fort Worth

Texas' "armageddon" heat is real and very dangerous, and usually it arrives in August. When we submitted our wish list of projects in June to the Youth Director of St. Peter & St. Paul Church in Arlington, nobody expected 100-degree heat every day in July.

Yet this was the condition that greeted the youth missionaries on Thursday, July 21. They came to St. Simon's, 13 of them between 5th and 8th graders, chaperoned by three adult leaders. Cindy Paxton, their Youth Director, was assisted by Stephanie Barnes and accompanied by Deacon Alan Horton. After prayers, the game was on.

They grouped in teams like a well-organized construction company. One team tackled the east flower bed, another team took the west flower bed, while a third began painting the steel stairs. What they lacked in muscles and stature they made up in enthusiasm. They beat the heat with frequent breaks for cold water and energy drinks. Thursday wrapped up with kids and heat respecting each other.

On Friday, July 22, their strategy changed. At first light, they arrived. Before the heat could touch them they had finished half of the day's assignment. By 2 p.m. all outside work was completed.

On Saturday, July 23, most of the assignments were indoors. They had four teams going with vacuum cleaners and mop-buckets, while the stairs-painting team was still outside to add a yellow strip. It was decided to paint all the other hand-rails around the church. This was a good day. Progress was achieved early, lunch was early, and wrapping up was also early.

This mission trip could not have ended on a better note than on the Annual Praise Worship Sunday service at St. Simon's Church. The congregation of the parish had the opportunity to say "thank you" to their young friends, presenting

them with framed Certificates of Recognition and a gift basket at a luncheon after the worship.

A lot was accomplished: two flower beds were weeded, replanted, and lined with bricks. The steel stairs and all our outside railings are repainted. The toddlers' nursery was cleaned. All the pews and kneelers received special cleaning and vacuuming. The entire sanctuary and parish hall were swept, mopped, and vacuumed.

The best gift in all this is love, so wonderfully displayed by these kids in their enthusiasm, by their leaders in organizing them, and by their parents and parish in sending them. We are blessed. This is a good example of Hebrews 13:1 "Let brotherly love continue," while Galatians instructs us to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." The people of St. Peter & St. Paul have reached out to us with both brotherly love and bearing our burden. Thank you!

One thing is certain: "He who waters will himself be watered." Our God says the giver of love, mercy and grace will himself be blessed with love, mercy and grace. The youngsters who came to us will be blessed. So it is ordained by God!

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*A word of thanks from Cindy Paxton:*

Serving at St. Simon's was a great experience – over-the-top filled with the Holy Spirit. Our youth served with glad hearts, but Fr. Jonathan and the people of St. Simon's went above and beyond; they were so gracious, serving us lunch each day and showing us their love. It was truly an outstanding experience for our youth.



# DIOCESAN CALENDAR - EARLY FALL 2011

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

<i>January</i>	9/11	<b>ST. VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL, Bedford</b>
	9/17	10 a.m. Ordination of Deacon Alan Horton to the priesthood, <i>St. Peter &amp; St. Paul, Arlington</i>
<i>February</i>	9/18	<b>HOLY SPIRIT, Tulsa</b>
<i>March</i>	9/19	9:30 a.m. Committee on Ministry 1:30 p.m. Standing Committee
<i>April</i>	9/21	7 p.m. Ordination of Deacon Mark Polley to the priesthood, <i>Christ the Redeemer, Fort Worth</i>
<i>May</i>	9/24	9 a.m. Day of Discernment, <i>St. Peter &amp; St. Paul, Arlington</i>
<i>June</i>	9/25	<b>ST. FRANCIS, Dallas</b>
	10/2	<b>ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, Arlington</b>
<i>July</i>	10/8	9:30 a.m. Annual ECW Congress for all women, <i>St. Andrew's, Grand Prairie</i>
<i>August</i>	10/9	<b>ST. ANNE'S, Fort Worth</b>
<i>September</i>	10/11-13	Clergy Leadership Training Institute, <i>Camp Crucis</i>
	10/16	<b>Discretion</b>
<i>October</i>	10/17	9:30 a.m. Committee on Ministry 1:30 p.m. Standing Committee
<i>November</i>	10/23	<b>ST. ALBAN'S, Arlington</b>
<i>December</i>	10/30	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD, Brownwood</b>

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