



FORWARD *in* MISSION

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Lent 2008

Equipping the Saints

Property in southern Tarrant County purchased for new mission congregation

A white rail fence and a row of pecan trees greet the visitor who turns off Highway 1187 about half a mile west of Granbury road in an unincorporated part of south Tarrant County. The neighbors don't know it yet, but this property soon will be dedicated to God as the site of the newest church

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matt. 28:19-20

in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Fr. Chris Culpepper is the mission vicar in charge of these 10 acres. Improvements on the land include a well, a modest brick house ("ranch" style, of course) and a spacious mobile home, with a large central living area, kitchen, and rooms suitable for offices. Residential subdivisions are marching steadily westward from Crowley, and in a few years the new SH 121 will come through, about a quarter-mile to the east.

After sitting vacant for some months, the buildings need a bit of sprucing up are not yet ready for occupancy. For now, Fr. Culpepper is conducting Bible Studies each Sunday evening at the Diocesan Center for Ministry, on the west side of Fort Worth.

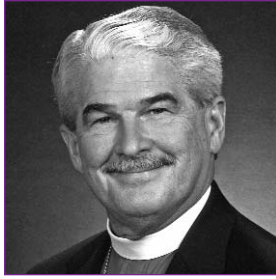
Funds for purchase of the property came from the sale of Holy Cross Church in Burleson, which closed its doors in 2006 when the vestry determined that the congregation could no longer support itself. Bishop Iker promised the members that he would re-invest the funds in the area

south of Loop 820, and a search soon began for suitable property in the booming suburban area. With land values rising rapidly, the search focused on unincorporated areas along existing roadways. This site was one of several identified by Dick Kahle, a member of St. Peter & St. Paul Church in Arlington, who offered his help during the search process.

Now that the right location has been found, Fr. Culpepper says he doesn't intend to rush into a building project. Instead he is developing a master plan that could include an elementary school on a portion of the property. And he is visiting churches in the diocese to share his vision and enthusiasm, and to encourage others to join him in living out Christ's Great Commission.



A preacher, the Good Book, and a parcel of land: Fr. Chris Culpepper is the Mission Vicar of a new congregation that will make its home in south Tarrant County. For now, he is holding weekly Bible studies at the Diocesan Center for Ministry.



From the Bishop

What it truly means to 'remain Episcopal'

by the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, Bishop of Fort Worth

In bold caps the headline of the e-mail message that I received some weeks ago cried out to me: "REMAIN EPISCOPAL." Eagerly I began to read on, hoping it might be from someone who, like our own diocese, wants to remain faithful to the historic faith and order of The Episcopal Church as she originally received it, faithful to the beliefs and practices of The Episcopal Church as we once knew it, deeply rooted in the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer. I hoped that it would follow upon the declaration of our own diocese that we will continue to be what we have always been, believe what we have always believed, and do what we have always done.

But my hopes were dashed when I discovered that this was not at all what the sender of the e-mail had in mind. Instead, the author and those he represents were quite clear that they want The Episcopal Church to change into something it has never been. They support all the changes that the revisionists have been making in our Church over the past 30 years and are eager for more. In reality, they favor updating The Episcopal Church to make it more acceptable to popular norms and contemporary times, rather than having it remain faithful to the historic faith and practice of the ancient catholic church. Instead of wanting to remain Episcopal, what they really want is to "remain under the authority of the General Convention church," no matter what – even when it violates the teachings of the Bible and happily changes the Biblical teaching on sexual morality.

In our liturgy they want to get rid of those masculine images for God – like Father and Lord and King – and replace them with inclusive language images that revise the biblical revelation. Far from wanting to "Remain Episcopal" and to be loyal to the church we have known and loved and served over the ages, what they are striving for is a new, improved, and up-to-date version of The Episcopal Church.

The revisionists, like those represented by the e-mail I received, are clearly in control of this new Episcopal Church, and there seems little hope of reform. Not to be deterred nor turned back from their agenda, they are perfectly willing to sacrifice the church's unity in order to achieve their goals. If we should continue a formal relationship with the New Episcopal Church, our diocese will ultimately be destroyed, and we will be no different than the rest of this new church. We must resist the changes being thrust upon us in order to remain truly Episcopal. We must separate – we must realign, in order to remain orthodox.

We shall continue to stand for the truth and fight the good fight with all the saints of old. As Hymn 287, "For All the Saints," puts it so well:

*And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.*

Let us remain brave and strong in the Lord!

+ Jack L. Iker

“Christ in Majesty”
Shuman Chapel update includes gifts of mural and altar

After being closed for nearly a year, Shuman Chapel at St. Andrew’s, Fort Worth, has undergone a major transformation. The original tan flagstone floor has emerged from under a layer of carpet, and two new memorial gifts have been dedicated, turning a beloved wor-



Above and below: After the linen canvas is stretched on to its frame, it is lifted into place in the niche behind the altar.



ship space into a work of art. The restoration project got its start when sisters Marty Leonard and Madelon Leonard Bradshaw decided to make a significant gift honoring the memory of their mother, Mary Vaughan Leonard. They soon decided to commission an artwork for the chapel niche, depicting the risen Christ reigning in glory, but it took some time to select the right artist – until they realized he was a member of their family: Leonard Porter, who has a studio

in New York and has completed several commissions of ecclesial artwork, is the nephew of the two sisters. Porter researched his subject thoroughly, with the book of Revelation as his main source material. He spent 10 months completing the 16-foot-tall oil-on-linen canvas, titled “Christ in Majesty,” then traveled to Fort Worth for the week-long installation.



At the same time, St. Andrew’s members Jo Ann and Bob Patton commissioned local artist Mario Camilleri to construct a holy table of native pecan, modeling it on a Jacobean original at St. Thomas a Becket Chapel in Salisbury, Eng-



Marty Leonard and Leonard Porter

land. Mr. Camilleri, coincidentally, is a member of Mrs. Patton’s family. The entire restoration was complete and the chapel reopened in October. Visitors are welcome whenever the church office is open; services of

Holy Communion are said in the chapel each Sunday at 8 a.m., Tuesday at 10 a.m., and Thursday at 7 a.m. It also is used for monthly Evensong.

Not everything in the 1949 gothic revival chapel is new: The brass candlesticks have been in use by the congregation since the 1870s.



Jo Ann and Bob Patton with Bishop Iker and Mario Camilleri at the dedication of the new altar.

Around the Diocese

Iker Challenge set for September

For years, our diocesan charity golf tournament has been held in June. However, the greens are being redone at Squaw Valley Golf Club this spring, so the annual Bishop Iker Challenge Golf Tournament, benefiting Camp Crucis, will be held instead on Saturday, Sept. 20. The Saturday date was selected in order to allow Junior Golfers to participate. So save the date, hit a bucket of balls now and then, and watch for more information from your parish coordinator a little later in 2008.



Camp Crucis news

Summer Camp brochures are available now from your church office, or go online for a schedule and forms at campcrucis.org. The camp is available for church picnics, trail rides, birthday parties, family or scout camping, and conferences, too. The latest improvements include wireless Internet service in the conference center. A Back to the Mountain retreat will be held April 25-27 for those who have attended Cursillo, and a Stephen Ministry retreat is scheduled for May 2-3.

The Bishop's Ball

Seventh-through-twelfth graders and their youth leaders from around the diocese turned out on Jan. 12 for the annual Bishop's Ball, at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford. Amid twinkling lights and greenery, the dancers enjoyed a variety of music provided by deejay P Shaw and had fun with line



dances and a challenging limbo. Youth, chaperones, and clergy ended the evening with Compline in the cathedral.

Certification Program for Mission Leaders

A new certification program is being launched this year by the World Mission Committee. This is an outstanding way to raise up mature leadership for mission in your congregation. Clergy and lay leaders interested in obtaining certification need to complete three programs – all to be presented locally – and participate in a short-term mission trip. The entire process can be completed in under a year. Each of the components is available as stand-alone training, too.

The five-part PathLight course began March 2 and is being hosted by a circuit of sponsoring parishes. PathLight is an excellent introduction to global mission, from biblical, historical, and cultural perspectives. Following a break for Easter, PathLight lectures resume on Sunday, March 30. Next, a ServantPrep Training Seminar will be held in late April. This intensive three-day course is excellent for anyone who will be helping to lead a mission trip this year. The third training component, a Mission Mobilizer Seminar, will be held in the early fall. See fwworldmission.org for more information and printable program brochures.

Godly Play Teacher Accreditation

Anyone interested in becoming a Godly Play leader is invited to participate in a three-day training course to be held Thursday through Saturday, March 27-29 at the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest in Abilene. To reserve a spot, contact Melinda McCarty by e-mail at yogamelinda@aol.com.

15th Anniversary Choral Evensong

A service of Choral Evensong will be offered Sunday, April 27, at St. Vincent's Cathedral, in celebration of the 15th anniversary of Bishop Iker's consecration on April 24, 1993. Everyone is welcome. Beginning May 5 the Bishop will take a three-month sabbatical for study, followed by his annual vacation.

Around the Diocese

Mother's Day is May 11

Plan now to honor an important woman in your life with a gift to *La Gran Familia* children's home in Mexico. Again this year the diocesan ECW and World Mission Committee are co-sponsoring this program, and the names of all women honored with gifts will be posted on the diocesan Web site. Watch for announcements in your parish, or see fwepiscopal.org.

"Feasting with the Saints"

Platt Allen and Shannon Shipp (pictured), members of Trinity, Fort Worth, love to cook, and they have found appreciative "guests" in the congregation – the entire congregation. One Sunday a month, Chef Shipp prepares a gourmet meal that is served following the morning services.



Benedictine Retreat in Dallas

Again this year an ecumenical Benedictine Experience Retreat will take place at the Catholic Conference Center in Dallas. The dates are Wednesday through Sunday, June 18 – 22. For these five days, participants will form a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work, and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality.

The Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat is part of a worldwide movement which was founded more than a quarter-century ago at Canterbury Cathedral by Dr. Esther de Waal, a noted Benedictine scholar. The first Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat was held in 1998, and it has continued each year to welcome participants to a contemplative retreat, lived – not just talked about – according to the Rule of St. Benedict.

Please e-mail dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com or call 214-339-8483 for more information.

THE MASS OF COLLEGIALITY ALSO CALLED THE CHRISM MASS

Tuesday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m. • St. Vincent's Cathedral

Each year on Tuesday in Holy Week, the clergy of the diocese gather with Bishop Iker for this traditional service, which has three special purposes that distinguish it from any other occasion during the year.



First, the bishop, priests, and deacons renew their ordination vows, and the clergy join the Bishop at the altar during the consecration of the Eucharistic elements.

Following the administration of Holy Eucharist, vials of holy oils (chrism) are brought to the altar for the Bishop to bless. Following the service, these are distributed to the priests to use throughout the year for baptism and healing.

Also, according to ancient custom, the Bishop blesses a priest host (or fermentum) for each congregation. Each rector or vicar receives one of these, which he will use in his own church during the Maundy Thursday liturgy. In this way, the Bishop's blessing is communicated to the entire diocese. The tradition of this service dates back to the early Church and is part of the annual preparation for Easter.

Lay people are invited and encouraged to attend the Mass of Collegiality if their schedules permit; those serving in the Altar Guild may find the service particularly meaningful.



The Canon's Corner

by the Rev. Canon Charles A. Hough III,

Canon to the Ordinary



I am pleased to announce the ordination to the diaconate of two of our senior seminarians at Nashotah House. *Jonathan Duncan* and *Chad Nusbaum* were ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, Feb. 9, at St. Vincent's Cathedral. Deacon Nusbaum has been assigned to St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington, and Deacon Duncan has been assigned to St. Alban's, Arlington, upon graduation from Nashotah House in May. A third student who will finish at Nashotah House this spring is *Joel Hampton*, an experienced military chaplain from the Presbyterian tradition. Joel will be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Iker on March 6 at Nashotah House. He has not been placed, as of this date. We congratulate these three new clergy faces in our diocese and commend them for their work at Nashotah House Seminary. As a side note, let me say we are blessed to have such a fine relationship between this diocese and a great seminary, which is faithful to the historic and biblical Faith that we share here in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Congratulations to *Fr. Steven Pope* and his wife, *April*, as he prepares for retirement later this spring as rector at St. Andrew's, Breckenridge. I will be working with



Bishop Iker presents Bibles to Deacons Nusbaum and Duncan on at their ordination.

the vestry at that parish as we begin to search for a new rector. We also keep St. Martin's, Keller, and St. Luke's, Fort Worth, in our prayers. Both these parishes are in the process of calling new rectors. *Fr. Bill O'Connell* is serving as interim priest at St. Luke's, and *Fr. Jim Reynolds* is serving as interim priest at St. Martin's. We would also like to congratulate *Fr. Stan Sullivan* and his wife, *Joan*, upon his retirement as vicar of St. Mary's, Hamilton. *Fr. Mark Stockstill*, who serves as vicar at St. Matthew's, Comanche, and Trinity Church, Dublin, has also taken on responsibility as vicar of St. Mary's, Hamilton.

We look forward to the institution of *Fr. Jon Jenkins* as rector of Christ the King, Fort Worth, on Tuesday, April 15, at 7 pm. *Fr. Jenkins* served as curate at St. Peter & St. Paul in Arlington.



Fr. Jenkins

Our sympathy is extended to the Twyman family upon the death of *Fr. John Twyman*, who served in the diocese beginning in 1986. *Fr. Twyman* was the rector of St. Paul's, Gainesville; St. John's, Fort Worth; and served as assistant at St. Vincent's Cathedral until his medical retirement. He also served at St. Joseph's, Grand Prairie. He was buried from St. Vincent's on Feb. 23. We offer our prayers and support to his wife, *Lollie*, who is the Chair of the World Mission Committee, and the entire Twyman family. The diocese would also like to extend its sympathies to the Acker family upon the death of *Mary Acker* in January. *Mary* was the widow of *Fr. George Acker*, who served for many years as rector of St. Timothy's, Fort Worth.

In closing, let me commend the work of the diocesan Risk Management Committee, which is chaired by *Rod Barber*. This committee of volunteers appointed by Bishop Iker specializes in assisting our congregations in matters pertaining to insurance, liability, safety, and ways in which money can be saved in regard to utilities, such as electricity. If you have concerns in these areas, contact Rod Barber at (817) 420-5702, or through the diocesan office at (817) 244-2885.

Discernment process continues



Archbishop Gregory Venables

Archbishop Venables to visit the diocese in May

Delegates to the 25th annual diocesan convention in November 2007 charged the Bishop and Standing Committee with the task of evaluating the invitation of the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone to realign under their primate, the Most Rev. Gregory Venables, if the 2008 diocesan convention should vote to leave the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

The Province of the Southern Cone (PSC) includes the dioceses of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Northern Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. Their invitation was offered as an “emergency, temporary, and pastoral measure.”

Acting on the commission of the convention, the Bishop and Standing Committee have issued two reports and made the Constitution and Canons of the Province of the Southern Cone available on our Web site, fwepiscopal.org. In the first report, issued Jan. 9, they said, “the structure and polity of the Province of the Southern Cone would afford our diocese greater self-determination than we currently have ...”

The second report, issued Feb. 12, was more specific. Among the observations: “Each local diocese ... makes its own determination as to the eligibility

and the qualifications for ordination to Holy Orders.” “Membership in the Southern Cone would not necessitate a change in our liturgical practices or Prayer Book.” “The PSC does not lay claim to any buildings, real estate or investments of its member dioceses. Thus, title to all our churches, property, and funds would remain in the Diocese of Fort Worth.”

As a key part of the year-long discernment process, Bishop Iker has invited Archbishop Venables to visit the diocese during the first weekend in May. His itinerary is summarized below. For further details and the full text of the reports, consult the diocesan Web site, fwepiscopal.org.

Archbishop Venables’ scheduled stops in our diocese

Friday, May 2 – Clergy Day meeting with all priests and deacons, at Church of the Holy Apostles, Fort Worth

Saturday, May 3 – Convocation of all elected convention delegates and clergy, at St. Vincent’s Cathedral, Bedford. Visitors welcome.

Sunday, May 4 – Guest preacher at 9 and 11 a.m. services, St. Vincent’s Cathedral;

Guest preacher at Sunday Choral Evensong, St. Andrew’s, Fort Worth

The Diocesan Episcopal Church Women

have posted important information about meeting dates and board member contacts on their new Web page, at

fwepiscopal.org/ecw/main.html

Be sure to stop by for a visit soon!

DIOCESAN CALENDAR - LENT 2008

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

<i>January</i>		
<i>February</i>	3/9	ST. SIMON'S, Fort Worth
<i>March</i>	3/16	<i>Palm Sunday</i> ST. JOSEPH'S, Grand Prairie
<i>April</i>	3/17	9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry
<i>May</i>	3/18	10:30 a.m. Mass of Collegiality, St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford
<i>June</i>	3/21	<i>Good Friday</i>
<i>July</i>		Diocesan Offices closed on March 21 and 24
<i>August</i>	3/23	<i>Easter Sunday</i> ST. ANTHONY'S, Alvarado
<i>September</i>		
<i>October</i>	3/30	GOOD SHEPHERD, Granbury 6 p.m., PathLight lecture, <i>St. Andrew's, Fort Worth</i>
<i>November</i>		
<i>December</i>	4/2	1 p.m. Executive Council

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