

FORWARD *in Mission*

True Disciples: Bishop Reed's address to the 40th annual diocesan Convention

"True Disciples, Remaining Faithful." Our theme this year comes from John 8:31: "Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, if you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples."

We are celebrating 40 years as a Diocese, celebrating that for the last 40 years, those who came before us have fought to abide in the Word of God and to demonstrate a commitment to true discipleship. For 40 years, we, and those before us, have striven to remain faithful. And for that, we give thanks to God.

Today, we stand on the shoulders of giants of the faith. Bishop Davies, Bishop Pope, Bishop Iker, hundreds of clergy, and thousands of lay leaders. Over the next 40 years, we must step up and fill those shoes.

As much as I celebrate the past and the commitment this Diocese has had to remaining faithful and being true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, I am just as excited about the future – about the next 40 years and what God can do through us and with us to extend his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

And that is what it is really all about: Sharing in the coming of God's king-

dom. The making of disciples. The making of saints.

I could spend time talking about the challenges we face, which include the fracturing of the Anglican Communion, divisions in our own province, the decline of Christianity in our nation, and the hatred in this culture towards the Christian worldview, but the answer to all of these challenges is the same: We must proclaim the saving message of the Gospel to the lost and to the least.



Our focus as a Diocese must be on remaining faithful and showing ourselves to be true disciples by seeking to make disciples and worshipping the one true God. While we celebrate our past, I want us to look forward to the future with great hope and miraculous expectation that God can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

We have crafted a strategic plan to pull us out of the fortress mentality that both the property lawsuit and COVID thrust upon us. It's a plan to help us re-engage our neighborhoods and communities around us.

Archbishop William Temple said,

"The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." Our strategic plan focuses our attention on making a home for those who are not already part of the household of God. The entire Bible reveals a God who has a heart for the lost and for the least. If we love Jesus, we should love the things that Jesus loves.

Church planting, church revitalization, reaching the next generation, and reaching our multi-cultural neighbors are what will drive us the next 40 years.

We will do this with tools like Contagious Disciple Making and Discovery Bible Study, Alpha, TELET, Union Gospel Mission, our Hispanic Ministry team, our amazing diocesan staff, and the incredible resource we have in Camp Crucis. Imagine if our 10,000 members could reach 50,000 in the next five years! What if we could reach 100,000 in the next 10? What if we partnered with other Christians in North Texas and reached the 5 million that have no church home? I really don't care about the numbers, but what I would like to see are lines at our baptismal fonts. Let's strive to see that everyone is able to reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son

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of God.

Let me congratulate the Church of the Incarnation in College Station on



reaching parish status. God is doing great things in their midst. I also want to welcome

Light of Christ Anglican Church in Georgetown, and Fr. Kurt Hein, who are a great fit with the Diocese.

You will notice that we are continuing to reduce assessments, moving towards 10% across the board. As each parish and mission works on the 2023 budget, I want to ask all of you to begin giving a percentage of that savings to the seminary of your choice on an annual basis. A solid theological education and formation of our future clergy is essential to carrying on the mission of the Church.

In 2023, I will also be dividing up two of our deaneries to even out both the population of the deaneries and to mitigate as much as possible the distances between parishes and missions. [See page 5 for a list of all deanery assignments.] My hope is that the deaneries become a source of connection for clergy and lay people, that they will offer ministry resources and a way for our clergy to have more intentional collegiality and care for one another.

Let me highlight now a few exciting things that are happening. We have initiated assessments for both current and future clergy who sense a possible

call to church planting, and we have identified a number of geographic areas that seem like low-hanging fruit for a church plant. There are still some strategic decisions to make about how to move forward in these locations, so I ask your prayers for God's wisdom and guidance.

This year we have had nearly 10 congregations go through a structured revitalization program. I believe that has helped reframe conversations at the local level to focus on where God is leading us in the future. My hope is that many of us across the Diocese would explore the tools of Contagious Disciple Making and the Discovery Bible Study as a way not only to bring new life in our local churches but to bring those who are lost into the Kingdom of God.

When it comes to reaching the multicultural population, I am proud to say that both Santa Maria Virgen in Richland Hills and the Spanish-speaking congregation of San Andres in Grand Prairie have celebrated more than a year of existence and are growing and flourishing.

We have continued work among African immigrants with St. Philip's and St. Mark's in Arlington. With St. Simon's in Fort Worth there is the possibility of renewed work among the African American population with discussion about starting a leadership institute.

Let me say, if your church is near a college campus, the world has come to you, and simply engaging students on the campus may well bring the world to your doorstep.

Finally, you have heard it said the youth are the future of the church, to which some have said, the youth are

the church of the present. I believe this sentiment except, young people and young families are fleeing the Church in the United States in never-before-seen numbers.

There is a paradigm shift in our culture as this nation becomes more and more unchurched and the voices in our culture become more and more unChristian. We cannot simply offer worship and hope people show up on Sunday. We must be pro-active in every way possible to re-engage this culture with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

We have begun campus ministries this year at Tarleton State and the University of North Texas. We have a renewed presence at TCU with a full-time campus minister, supported by Christ the Redeemer. Programs at Camp Crucis, along with the St. Michael's and St. Gabriel's Conferences provide other powerful ways to share the catholic faith with young folks. We continue to foster and support these ministries.

I've appointed a team to restructure and reorganize our camp leadership and implement a new strategic plan for the camp. I want to thank them; they have put in a lot of hours and a lot of work. But this will help us to reach the next generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Even as we celebrate 40 years as a diocese our camp has been touching the lives of children for 75 years. In the end discipling the next generation needs to begin in our nurseries, but more importantly in our homes. The role of catechesis for discipling, preparing not just young people but new Christians, has to become a priority.

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A new chapter begins at Camp Crucis

Our diocesan camp in Granbury has seen many changes in 2022. Last spring, the diocesan Board of Trustees decided to invest about \$1 million in needed improvements at the Granbury property. Before summer camp began, most were done, including blacktop on several roads and drives, new air conditioning units in the buildings, several water heaters, and lots of new paint! A new gate with improved security was recently installed as well.

In November, after nine years of service, camp Director Philip Craig and his wife, Janet, who ran the horse program, decided to step down. Since the last real review of the camp had been about 20 years ago when several new buildings were added, Bishop Reed appointed a task force to assess the camp's successes and challenges, solicit comments about the opportunities ahead, and assemble a team to lead in 2023.

"Camp Crucis was given to us when the old Diocese of Dallas was divided 40 years ago," Bishop Reed notes. "We have a special heritage in this Diocese and an opportunity to serve Christ through our camp.

"That legacy extends to many families, including clergy, who have sent two and three generations to camp. Many members of the Crucis Board of Managers are former campers and staff. They're sending their own children to summer camp now, and they serve out of love for everything the camp has meant."

In the closing weeks of 2022, the Board has been actively involved in the transition, volunteering many

hours and offering their talents and skills as a team. Thanks to all these efforts, the retreat calendar has not had to be cut, and plans are in place for summer camp.

A Youth Rally was held in early December for grades 6-12, with 55 participants and over 20 adult leaders.

A hard decision was made to discontinue the stabling of horses. In time, a horse program may be re-established, but the cost savings were needed to maintain other programs at full strength.

A full-time caretaker is living on-site, and a cook and housekeeper are working on a contract basis for the retreat program. A retreat coordinator, who is not expected to live at camp, is being sought.

Dean Mark Polley of St. Vincent's Cathedral has stepped forward to serve as 2023 Summer Camp Director.

"Camp Crucis is an incredible ministry where lives are transformed by the love of Jesus Christ," he reflects. "Growing up in this diocese, I went to Camp every summer – it was the place where my faith become alive and active, the place where I met many life-long friends, including my wife, and the place where God called me to ordained ministry. My years serving on staff were some of the best summers of life.

"I'm very excited for this upcoming summer! It has the potential to be life-changing for all the campers, coun-



The new main gate at camp

sors, and staff members as we re-focus on Building Up the Body of Christ."

Dean Polley will be hiring staff and volunteer cabin counselors in the months ahead, with training planned for June. It's hoped that a permanent director will be selected by that time, so that he or she can shadow Dean Polley this summer.

Looking farther ahead, a Strategic Plan to focus on the next five years is under development.

Even as all this is being done, the camp is available for vestry retreats, family reunions, and other activities. For events this winter, contact the diocesan office at 817-244-2885.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Save the date! Camp Crucis will mark its 75th anniversary with games, food, raffles, and more on

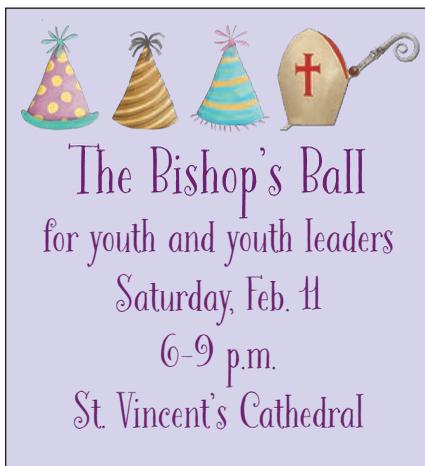
Saturday, April 15

from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come join the fun!

“We are the Church” is the theme of a retreat for younger adults aged 18 to 30+ to be held Friday through Sunday, Jan. 6-8, at Camp Crucis. The time will be spent on an exploration of spiritual gifts and vocation, as well as worship and fellowship. For details and registration, contact Catherine Marshall at catherineleemmarshall@gmail.com.

The 2023 Men’s Conference is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, at St. Peter & St. Paul in Arlington. This year’s speaker is Dr. Ken Wilgus, a psychologist who works with both adolescents and adults. He is the author of *Feeding the Mouth that Bites You*, a guide for parents; and founder of Ring Leaders, a ministry for Christian husbands. Prior to the conference, a dinner with Dr. Wilgus will be held at the church and is open to all. To register or make reservations, go to fwmensconference.com.



The St. Gabriel’s Conference, an immersive formation weekend for adults who want a deeper understanding of the catholic faith in the Anglican tradition, will be held Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 2-5, at Camp Crucis. The conference includes study, worship, and fellowship, beginning Thursday evening. To register and find further details, see stgabrielsw.org.

The annual Bishop’s Leadership Workshop is planned for Saturday, Feb. 25, at St. Andrew’s, Fort Worth. In addition to important information for parish administration, the 2023 gathering will feature keynote speaker

Meg Greto, a deacon and canon for ethics and protection in the ACNA Diocese of Christ Our Hope. Deacon Greto’s topic will be “Best Practices for Managing and Recruiting Volunteers.” Clergy, staff, and vestry members are encouraged to attend. The program begins at 9:30 a.m., with a workshop for new treasurers at 8:30 a.m.

The Diocesan Altar Guild will gather Saturday, March 25, at St. Alban’s, Arlington. All Altar Guild members are encouraged to come and enjoy worship, fellowship, and lunch together. The speaker will be Bishop Keith Ackerman.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a hands-on children’s education program that introduces liturgical worship, establishing a child’s relationship with God from a young age. The program requires a classroom or other dedicated space (called an atrium), various materials, and a trained catechist. A two-part training will be held this spring to equip catechists to present the program to 3-to-6-year-olds by fall 2023. Leader Lynn Schmidt will offer the training at St. John’s, Fort Worth, on March 2-4 and May 4-6. Fees will be underwritten by the Diocese. To sign up, contact Lisa Estes by phone or text at 817-600-8552. Learn more about the program at cgsusa.org.



Left: On St. Andrew’s Day at Nashotah House Seminary, the morning office was read from the Traditional Language Edition of the 2019 Book of Common Prayer. Copies of the book were supplied through gifts from the Diocese of Fort Worth and St. Peter’s Cathedral in Tallahassee. Among those pictured are Fort Worth seminarians John Heffron (fourth from left), Jacob Hootman (rear, white surplice), and K.C. Lopez (fifth from right).

To achieve better balance and representation in the Diocese, Bishop Reed has expanded the number of Deaneries from six to eight, beginning in 2023. This primarily affects the Eastern and Southern Deaneries, which were very large in numbers and geography. The new Deaneries will elect representatives to the Executive Council, expanding the Council by six members.

Eastern

Dean: Fr. Alan Horton

St. Alban's, Arlington
 St. Mark's, Arlington
 St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington
 St. Philip, Arlington
 St. Andrew/San Andres,
 Grand Prairie
 St. Gregory's, Mansfield
 All Saints', Monroe

Northeastern

Dean: Fr. John Jordan

St. Vincent's Cathedral, Bedford
 St. Francis, Dallas
 St. Matthias, Dallas
 St. Barnabas, Fort Worth
 St. Stephen, Hurst
 Santa Maria, Richland Hills
 St. Laurence, Southlake

Southern

Dean: Fr. Michael Heidt

St. Francis, Austin*
 Incarnation, College Station
 Light of Christ, Georgetown
 St. Mary's, Hillsboro
 St. Alban's, Hubbard
 Our Lady of the Lake,
 Laguna Park
 Christ Church, Waco*

Fort Worth East

Dean: Canon Sergio Diaz

San Juan Apostol, Fort Worth
 San Miguel, Fort Worth
 St. Andrew, Fort Worth
 St. John, Fort Worth*
 St. Simon, Fort Worth
 St. Timothy, Fort Worth

Northern

Dean: Fr. John Munson

St. Patrick's, Bowie
 St. John the Divine, Burkburnett
 St. Paul's, Gainesville
 Trinity, Henrietta
 St. Thomas, Jacksboro
 Good Shepherd, Wichita Falls*
 Holy Spirit, Graham
 Ascension/St. Mark, Bridgeport

Southwestern

Dean: Fr. Cooper Morelock

St. Anthony, Alvarado
 St. John's, Brownwood
 Holy Comforter, Cleburne
 St. Matthew, Comanche
 Trinity, Dublin
 Cross of Christ, Glen Rose
 Good Shepherd, Granbury*
 St. Mary's, Hamilton

Fort Worth West

Dean: Fr. Roger Grist

All Saints', Fort Worth
 Christ the King, Fort Worth
 Christ the Redeemer, Fort Worth
 Holy Apostles, Fort Worth
 St. Anne/Santa Anna, Fort Worth

Parishes marked with an * are currently in the search process for new rectors. Please keep them in your prayers as they look forward to calling new leaders.

Western

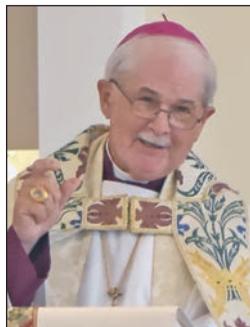
Dean: Fr. Donald Sackett

Holy Cross, Abilene
 St. Andrew's, Breckenridge
 Holy Trinity, Eastland
 St. Luke's, Mineral Wells
 St. Peter, Possum Kingdom
 All Saints', Weatherford
 St. Francis, Willow Park
 Christ Church, Midland

Remaining Faithful from one generation to another

by the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, Bishop Emeritus

We have gathered, once again, for our annual Diocesan Convention. As always, we begin at God's altar, with the celebration of Holy Eucharist.



This one is very special – it is our 40th Convention. It celebrates the completion of a whole generation of believers known as the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

As you know, the number 40 is very important in the Bible. It's a sacred number. In fact, it is mentioned 146 times in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Forty represents a period of testing, trial, temptation, and then finally triumph! Moses lived 40 years in Egypt, and then 40 years in the desert. The people of Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness, searching for the Promised Land. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days, and was

tempted by Satan, before he began his ministry. The Risen Jesus appeared to His disciples and others for 40 days after His Resurrection, before ascending into Heaven.

This 40th anniversary signifies the coming of a new generation of followers of Jesus Christ who will serve and lead our Diocese in the coming decades. The old is passing away; the new has come. What we celebrate in this Diocese is the Apostolic tradition. We pass on to a new generation that which we received; they are to observe it faithfully and keep it intact and pass it on to the next generation as "True Disciples, Remaining Faithful."

[To hear Bishop Iker's full homily, including a history of the founding of the Diocese, see the 2022 Convention page at fwepiscopal.org.]

I want us to focus on the future and the wonderful gift of a new generation. We are talking about those who are under 40.

We already we have a new Bishop –

God bless you! – the Fourth Bishop of Fort Worth, Ryan Reed. We owe you a debt of gratitude for accepting the election and taking up your crosier and following the way of the cross in Christian leadership in trying, challenging times.

Tomorrow we look to the future that Bishop Reed has helped lay before us in the Strategic Plan for mission and growth in the decades to come. It is a challenging vision for making disciples, for planting churches, for fostering spiritual formation in every congregation and seeing the Diocese grow in numbers and spiritual vitality.

We set our faces toward the future, to which God is calling us. Thanks be to God for His grace and guidance that have sustained and empowered this Diocese in the trials and tribulations and challenges of the last 40 years.

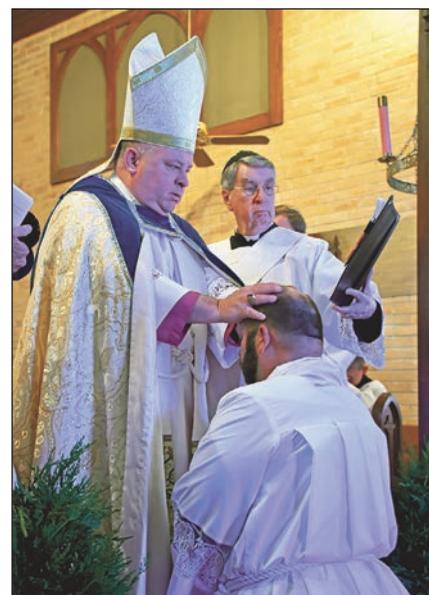
And now we gladly embrace and vigorously pursue the new vision for growth calling us forward. True disciples. Remaining faithful. 🙏



ORDINATIONS

Left: Bishop Reed ordained Deacon Travis Province to the priesthood at St. Laurence Church in Southlake on Sept. 10.

Right: Steve Watson was ordained a deacon on Dec. 3 at All Saints' Church in Weatherford.



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We need to equip all of our people to walk out into a world that is often ruled by the princes and principalities of this present darkness. I believe it's time to take risks for the Gospel, even if we fail. Failing just gives us an opportunity to try something new.

For many reasons the church in the United States began retreating from the public square in the 1960s. The Christian voice is rarely heard in public now. I think it is time to leave the cultural basement that we have been hiding out in for the last 60 years and re-enter the public sphere. There is so much evil that we must confront, that we must speak God's love and grace into. There are so many lost people who need to know the love of Jesus. Within our culture are people who are starving and dying of thirst, yet we hold in our hearts the bread of life and the living water. Jesus is the answer to every problem confronting our culture today. Do you realize that? He is the answer.

Let me just hit a couple of hot topics: Human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The human family is God's ideal for nurturing human relationships, especially children. And our identity is not based in our sexual attraction or even gender, but whether or not we are in Christ, whether or not we are living as children of God. Over the next 40 years may we find ways to build relationships where we can share Jesus with others and allow them to know the hope and the peace and the joy that come from being an adopted son or daughter of God. Even as we celebrate today, going forward let us remain faithful and prove to be true disciples. Amen.



40th Convention Highlights

The convention on Nov. 4 & 5 began with a blessing as an afternoon storm cleared and bright sunshine returned in time for the opening Eucharist at St. Laurence Church. The Saturday business meeting was made



more colorful with a procession of parish and ministry banners. And after all business was dispatched, clergy and delegates enjoyed a fajita lunch and a relaxing time of fellowship at St. Laurence.



In the year ahead, Bishop Reed encourages every Deanery to host an event to celebrate God's blessings on his people and invite others from around the Diocese as well as local guests.



FR. KLEIN RETIRES

Fr. David Klein, pictured at right bringing the next generation into the Church, is retiring after 23 years as rector of St. John's Church in Fort Worth. The parish will host a party honoring him and his wife, Diane, on Jan. 21.



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DIOCESAN CALENDAR † WINTER 2023

- 12/24 ST. VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL, Bedford (Bishop Reed)
ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, Arlington (Bishop Ackerman)
- 1/6-8 Next Generation (young adult) retreat, *Camp Crucis*
- 1/14 Ordination of Deacon Richland Stoglin to the priesthood, *St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington*
- 1/15 CROSS OF CHRIST, Glen Rose
- 1/16 9:30 a.m. Commission on Ministry
- 1/17 1:30 p.m. Standing Committee
- 1/19 10:30 a.m. Finance Committee
1:30 p.m. Executive Council
4 p.m. Risk Management
- 1/22 TRINITY, Dublin; ST. MATTHEW'S, Comanche; and ST. MARY'S, Hamilton
- 1/23-26 Clergy Retreat, *Montserrat Retreat Center*
- 1/29 ALL SAINTS', Weatherford (Bishop Ackerman)
- 2/2-5 St. Gabriel's Conference, *Camp Crucis*
- 2/5 ST. FRANCIS, Dallas
- 2/10-11 Men's Conference, St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington
- 2/12 GOOD SHEPHERD, Granbury

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