

MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

VOLUME 3/ ISSUE 2 (FEBRUARY 2019)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Bishop's 8,000 mile trip for confirmation in world's most southerly Anglican cathedral

Three people were confirmed this week in the most southerly cathedral in the Anglican Communion – but the cathedral's bishop, Tim Thornton, had to travel some 8,000 miles from his office in London, England, for the service. The Falkland Islands are not within an Anglican Communion province but is an Extra Provincial area under the metropolitan authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Bishop to the Falklands is a post held by the Bishop at Lambeth – the senior episcopal assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace.



Dear Parish Family:

The Psalmist invites us to “Be still and know that I am God.” Ps. 46:10.

We are reminded in 1 Kings that God is found in the silence: “He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains

and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’” 1 Kings 19:11-13.

This Lent during our Eucharist, we will have the opportunity to be still and to find God in the silence. There will be no processional hymn; rather, the altar party will enter with nothing but a tolling bell. After each reading, there will be a short period of silence, and after the sermon, we will sit in silence for about

3 minutes simply listening to what God is saying to us through His Living Word. After receiving Communion, we will sit in silence with Christ for a short while before the post-Communion prayer.

This Lent, I invite you to be still and encounter God in the silence.

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector



WRAP UP OF THE 170TH DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

By Episcopal Diocese of Texas Staff

The 170th Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas held its annual gathering in The Woodlands, Texas, on February 21-23, 2019. During this time, over 600 Texas Episcopalians met to vote for a new Bishop Suffragan, elect members to diocesan boards, celebrate Bishop Dena Harrison, attend workshops and learn of the vision Bishop Andy Doyle has for the future of the Diocese.

Bishop Harrison Celebration

Council began on Thursday evening with a Festival Eucharist and a dinner to honor Bishop Dena Harrison's many years of service to the diocese. In his sermon, Bishop

Doyle recalled memories of Harrison and her leadership in the diocese. Following the Eucharist was a celebratory dinner and program. Many stories and memories were shared, including a [video message](#) from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who recalled their time serving together on the Board of Episcopal Relief and Development. The Rev. Susan Kennard, Trinity, Galveston, also shared remembrances of working with Harrison as her Senior Warden at St. James the Apostle, Conroe in 1997. Kennard recalled the words of wisdom Harrison shared with her that would shape her life and help her to realize her call to ordained ministry.

Bishop Jeff Fisher and Bishop Hector Monterroso shared what they had learned from “Dena Harrison’s Book of Wisdom,” including witty one-liners such as “When your horse dies, dismount.” There was also a [video montage](#) with pictures of Harrison’s ministry and interviews with Bishop Doyle, Seminary of the Southwest Dean the Rev. Cynthia Kittredge, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori, Jill Vassar, Ana Gonzales, Rob Radtke, Bishop Don Wimberly, Anthony Chappel and the Rev. Francene Young. Bishop Harrison and her husband, Larry, were presented with gifts of driving shoes and a gas card to accompany them as they embark on their road trip adventure.

Bishop Suffragan Election

Last year, the 169th Council approved the election of a new bishop suffragan for the western region of the diocese upon the retirement of Bishop Dena Harrison. In November 2018, the diocesan Standing Committee announced the candidates. The three candidates—The Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, the Rev. Canon Glenice Robinson-Como and the Rev. Canon Kathryn (Kai) Ryan—participated in a walkabout at Camp Allen on January 5, 2019. On the first ballot, the [Rev. Canon Kai Ryan](#) was elected with a majority in the lay order with 283 votes, and the clergy order with 137 votes. Canon Ryan will be consecrated as the next Bishop Suffragan on June 1, 2019.

Celebrations

Canon Joann Saylor, the Canon for Mission Amplification, shared items of business to report from the Committee on Mission and Parishes, updating the council on the status of current parishes. In 2017, Bishop Doyle established an Episcopal Fellowship, San Romero Episcopal Church, in accordance with Title III of the Canons, Section 5.11. In 2018, Bishop Doyle established two more in accordance with that Canon, Good Shepherd Indian Episcopal Church and St. Philip the Evangelist Episcopal Church. The motion to seat with voice San Romero Episcopal Church, Good Shepherd Indian Episcopal Church, and St. Philip the Evangelist Episcopal Church passed with a majority vote.

Additionally, two congregations that were started as parochial missions have been approved by Bishop Doyle to become missions of the diocese. St. Isidore’s, under the leadership of the Rev. Sean Steele, was formerly a mission of Trinity, The Woodlands. SoCo Community, under the leadership of the Rev. Paul Skeith, was formerly a mission of St. David’s, Austin. In accordance with Title III, Section 5.5, each congregation was admitted into the union of council and their lay delegates were seated with voice and vote.

The Rev. Jason Ingalls, rector of Holy Spirit, Waco announced to the council that they received a large estate gift in 2018 in excess of \$2.3 million. As a part of their stewardship of such a significant gift, they gifted a tithe to the Great Commission Foundation to support the work of planting new churches, specifically to support the growth of church plant Holy Family Episcopal Church, Houston led by The Rev. John Soard.

Representatives from St. Isidore's, SoCo, Holy Spirit and Holy Family celebrated their achievements by ringing the Great Commission Bell.

From the slate of [Nominations](#), the following persons were elected:

Treasurer of the Diocese: Linda Riley Mitchell

Secretary of the Diocese: The Rev. Canon John Logan

University of the South Trustee: Ben Okoh, St. James', Houston

Church Corporation: Mark S. Browning, St. Andrew's, Bryan

Executive Board (3 Lay): Carvel Glenn, St. Stephen's, Houston; Erin Puckett McClure, St. David's, Austin; Sandra Montes, Trinity, Midtown

Executive Board (2 Clergy): The Rev. Steven Balke, St. Stephen's, Beaumont and The Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas, St. Thomas, College Station

For the Standing Committee: Gwendolyn Chance, St. James' Austin (Lay) and the Rev. Jason Ingalls, Holy Spirit, Waco (Clergy)

Bishop Fisher Update

Bishop Jeff Fisher updated the Council on the work that he has embarked on over the past year. Beginning with a final update on General Convention, he recalled the hard work that took place for the past four and a half years to plan this "once in a lifetime" experience. He continues to receive excellent feedback from the wider church on the amazing convention that the Diocese of Texas hosted.

In April, the Episcopal Seniors Foundation, which Fisher chairs, will begin offering their first round of grants to better foster their goal of health and vitality for seniors in the diocese.

Fisher made several trips this past year with the World Mission Board, including a visit to the Diocese of Costa Rica for the consecration of their new Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Orlando Gomez. He gifted the newly consecrated bishop a mitre and vestments on behalf of the people of the Diocese of Texas. He was also able to visit the Diocese of North Dakota for a pastoral visit this past June.

Fisher is continuing his work with the Small Church Network and has recently begun a task force for liturgical development within the diocese. And as he finished his 6th year as a board member of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, he was named Vice Chair of the Program, Budget and Finance committee for the Episcopal Church by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Bishop Monterroso Update

Bishop Hector Monterroso provided an update on the work he has been doing since he came to the Diocese of Texas over 17 months ago. He has participated in 46 visitations and ordained several new clergy, which he commented as being his favorite part of being a bishop. During these visits, he finds that growth is a common concern for congregations in the diocese but that all churches have a strong desire to share and proclaim the message of the Gospel.

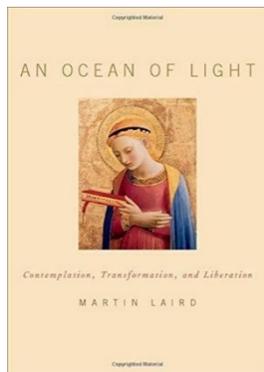
Monterroso has been working with the Commission on Hispanic Ministry and was able to attend the Hispanic Lay Leaders Conference with 260 attendees this past June. The objective of the conference was to equip lay leaders with the tools and strategies they need to lead their communities and work with their neighbors. Recalling the Bishop's Address given at the 169th Diocesan Council by Bishop Doyle, Monterroso encouraged those who are considering ordained ministry to pursue a period of reflection and discernment.

The transition of leadership for St. Vincent's house from Bishop Fisher to Monterroso was completed in the past year, as was the transition of leadership from Bishop Dena Harrison to Monterroso chairing the board of El Buen Samaritano. Monterroso has also been working diligently with the Rev. Stacy Stringer on continued recovery from Hurricane Harvey.



On Tuesday, we will have pancakes and gumbo starting at 5 PM.

The Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes will begin at 5 PM.



Book Review: *An Ocean of Light* by Fr. Martin Laird

The Church Times, February 1, 2019

IN HIS address to the synod of Roman Catholic bishops in Rome in 2012, the former Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams spoke about the centrality of contemplation in Christian faith and life. “Contemplation”, he told them, “is very far from being just one kind of thing Christians do: it is the key to prayer, liturgy and ethics, the key to the essence of a renewed humanity.” Martin Laird’s new book, which accompanies earlier much acclaimed works such as *Into the Silent Land* and *A Sunlit Absence*, takes its cue from such insights.

The practice that Laird commends for silent, imageless prayer is similar to that which can be found in many other writers, both ancient and modern. It consists of a daily routine in which we sit perfectly still for 25 to 30 minutes each day and use a prayer word (such as *maranatha* or the Jesus Prayer) in unison with our breathing. When — as happens all too often — distracting thoughts, words, and images invade our heads, we are counselled to draw ourselves gently back to the prayer word, united with the breath.

Laird, an Augustinian monk and teacher of early Christian Studies at Villanova University, brings two particular contributions to his subject.

The first is his ability to find a telling metaphor or comparison that will help us understand something that is, by its nature, indescribable: the union of the soul with God. My favorite of these was the image of contemplative prayer as something very familiar to modern Westerners: “decluttering”. In contemplation, we are not straining forward to reach some new competency, nor trying to achieve some objective, however worthy, such as a cure for

depression. Rather, we are clearing away accumulated mental junk so that we will come to know the space that *already* lies there, buried beneath it all.

Laird's second particular gift is the unusual theological depth and clarity that he brings to the subject. Because God has made us, we are *already* united with him: "union with God is not something we can or need to acquire." Contemplation is about realizing a state of being which already exists. We may or may not be able to establish a mature practice of contemplation, in which it becomes integrated into our daily routine. But contemplation is not a goal so much as a starting-point if only we knew it: "if God were not already the ground of our being, the divine breath breathing us into being, we would not exist."

Laird is an expert, subtle, and sure guide, who takes us to the heart of Christian life, and whose message urgently needs to be heard by a Church "anxious and disturbed about many things" (Luke 10.41).

The Ven. Dr. Edward Dowler is Archdeacon of Hastings in the diocese of Chichester



***ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION: "BE STILL
AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD."
PARISH HALL, SUNDAY AT 9:15***



*FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF
THE MONTH
ABSLOM JONES
13 February*

Absalom Jones was the first Black Episcopal priest in the United States; he was ordained deacon in 1795 and priest in 1802 (61 years before the Civil War). (By contrast, Augustus Tolton was the first Black to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest was in 1866, a year after the Civil War ended.)

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church at the time was Williams White (1789–1st PB; 1795–1836–4th PB). James Kiefer writes: “1786 the membership of St. George’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia included both blacks and whites. However, the white members met that year and decided that thereafter black members should sit only in the balcony. Two black Sunday worshippers, Absalom Jones (1746–1818) and Richard Allen (1760–1831), whose enthusiasm for the Methodist Church had brought many blacks into the congregation, learned of the decision only when, on the following Sunday, ushers tapped them on the shoulder during the opening prayers, and demanded that they move to the balcony without waiting for the end of the prayer. They walked out, followed by the other black members. Absalom Jones conferred with William White, Episcopal Bishop of Philadelphia, who agreed to accept the group as an Episcopal parish.”

That parish, St. Thomas, has thrived since the late 1700s to this very day where Fr. Martini Shaw serves as the parish’s 17th rector. Here is a link to their parish’s website: <http://www.aecst.org/>.

Let us pray: Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear: that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servants Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of

the children of God, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF SOMEONE NEEDS A HOME VISIT

If you know of anyone who needs a home visit because they cannot get to Church, please call the Parish Office, or let Fr. Makowski know. Either Fr. Makowski or one of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors will call on them. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Makowski at 713.299.7675.

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

Praying is something that we all can do, young and old, rich and poor, tall and short. Please pray for everyone on our Prayer List.



Eucharist at 5 PM, light meal followed by a speaker and time for discussion.

Our Mental Health Initiative Team as been listening to the needs of the Lake Livignston community. Mental Health issues are a major problem everywhere, but especially in the Lake Livingston area. We are sponsoring a series of presentations by mental health

professionals, agencies and leaders of support organizations that are dealing with the problems.

Wednesday, March 13: Melanie Taylor, Deputy CEO Burke

Wednesday, March 20: Chief Deputy Byron Lyons, Polk County Sheriff's Department

Wednesday, March 27: Ginger Hendrix, Executive Director, Livingston Housing Authority

Wednesday, April 3: Kelly Bradley, Medical Social Worker, Texas Department of State Health Services, Polk County CRCG/Interagency Coalition

Wednesday, April 10: Connie Price, Director Inspiration Village



Don't forget to bring pork and beans for our Mannafest outreach.

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.07, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA PARA EL LIBRE PORTE DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LIBRE PORTE.

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.06, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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