

MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

VOLUME 3/ ISSUE 1 (JANUARY 2019)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Anglican Church of Chile trains young people to exercise leadership in local churches

Fifty young people from the Anglican Church of Chile (IACH) have attended a training camp this month to learn how to make disciples in their local churches. This year's El Campamento de Formación (Formation Camp - CDF) was organised by the Province's Centro de Estudios Pastorales (Centre for Pastoral Studies - CEP) as part of a scheme that is now in its 14th year. Pastor Cristóbal Cerón, the Rector of the CEP, said that the aim of CDF is for each young person to see the camp as part of a process in his life, where they are trained to serve in their local churches and train disciples; and to teach the Word of God in an appropriate way.



Dear Parish Family:

When Benedict wrote his Rule some 1500 years ago, society seemed to be falling apart. Though materially prosperous, the Roman Empire was in a state of decline. After Benedict's death, barbarian hordes would overrun Europe and the very survival of Western civilization would be called into question. Benedictine monasteries, with their message of balance and moderation, stability, hospitality, and stewardship, were credited with the preservation of Western culture, and Benedict himself was named patron of Europe. Sr. Jane Michele McClure, OSB, *About the Rule of St. Benedict* (2005).

In his rule for the monastery St. Benedict tells his monks: "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matt 25:35). Proper honor must be shown to all, especially to those who share our faith (Gal 6:10) and to pilgrims." *Rule of St. Benedict*, Rule 53.

For St. Benedict, hospitality goes beyond the exercise of the expected social graces, the superficial smile or the warm reception of expected guests.

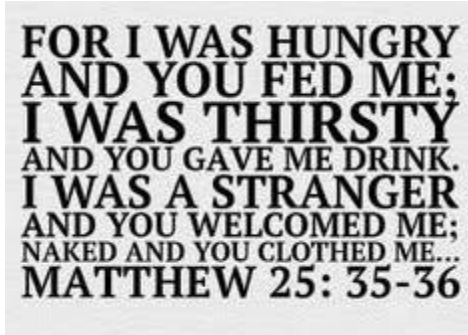
Hospitality for St. Benedict meant that everyone who comes, the poor, the traveler, the curious, those not of our religion or social standing or education- should be received with genuine acceptance. Sr. Jane Michele McClure, OSB, *About the Rule of St. Benedict* (2005).

Sometimes it seems as if our own civilization is falling apart. St. Benedict focused on Christ alone, and he called those living in the Christian community to do the same; he wrote: "Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life." *Rule of St. Benedict*, Rule 72.

As a parish, let us practice hospitality to those pilgrims who cross our threshold welcoming them as Christ among us.

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector



In December, prior to Christmas, St. Luke's, through the Vestry, gave the following gifts to groups in our community which help those in need:

Care Share Mission in Cold Spring: \$1000. Care Share Mission has an open-door policy and a reputation for being a food source for anyone in need so that no one goes hungry. Their volunteers currently distribute thousands of pounds of purchased and donated food each month. Food items include fruits, vegetables, meat, bread, canned goods, staples, and many more. The pantry is specifically designed to give food to the part of the local population that would normally go undernourished. At Care Share Food Pantry they deal with destitution in a way

that allows the client to keep their self-esteem at a turbulent time in their lives. They provide food for families that would otherwise do without! Their goal is to provide each family with enough basic food for three days. What they give depends largely upon what they have been given by their donors and what they have purchased.

MannaFest in Livingston: \$1000: MannaFest began in 1999 as a joint outreach effort between local Christian churches to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for needy neighbors in Polk County. Take-home food boxes were added as a result of requests made by representatives from the Department of State Health Services and Community Action, both of whom saw the need to help families over the holiday weekend. Over the years, other ministries have been added as efforts to assist our neighbors continue to expand. MannaFest is a member of the Southeast Texas Food Bank in Beaumont, which provides the ability to purchase many food items through the Food Bank at the current rate of 16 cents per pound.

Center of Hope in Livingston: \$1000: The Polk County Center of Hope is so much more than just a food bank. Clients of the Center are learning how to break that cycle, stand on their own, and become contributing members of our community. They offer education and training on how to write a resume and prepare for job-hunting, nutrition information, family management, information on drug abuse, and most importantly, how the power of prayer and faith will help them achieve their goals and succeed in life. In short, the Center of Hope offers a hand up, not just a hand out. And that means hope. In a recent study conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Polk County was found to be at or near the bottom of some of the most important categories when it comes to the quality of life. From a social standpoint, Polk County ranked 219th in Socio-Economic Factors such as unemployment, children in poverty, single-parent households, and inadequate social support.

Inspiration Village in Trinity: \$1000: In a world that constantly tells Mentally Challenged Adults all the things they cannot do, there is a place that shows them all the productive things they can do. Inspiration Village provides a loving, nurturing home for mentally-challenged adolescents and adults creating a family environment, in a ranch-style atmosphere. This rural ranch setting allows these individuals to live and work, becoming as independent as their physical, mental, and behavioral disabilities will allow.

Godtel in Livingston: \$1000: provides short-term housing for the homeless, on-site meals for the hungry, and clothing, household items, and furniture (when available) for those in need of these items. There is no monetary cost to the recipients of our services.

Polk County Emergency Health Board in Livingston: \$1000: Polk County Emergency Health Board provides funds for gas vouchers to help low-income adults and children get to medical appointments, as well assistance with prescriptions or medical supplies when other resources are unavailable. Limited doctor visits are provided to children only.

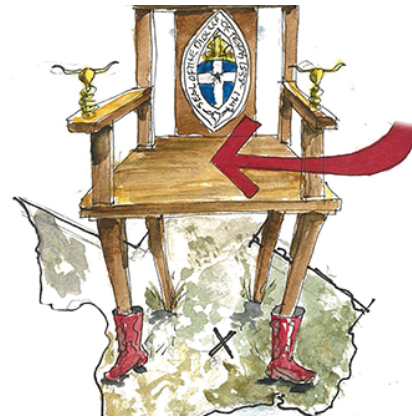
F.A.I.T.H. in Livingston: \$1000: They provide care packages with letters and cards to those serving in the armed forces from the community to keep their energy and spirits up while they are away from home and their loved ones. Their list is made up of young men and women who have personal ties to our community-either by being from here or having a loved one or friend who lives here. Our list includes all branches of the service. Since 2006 we have shipped over 15000 boxes to our troops.

Livingston Piecemakers Guild: \$100: The Livingston Piecemakers Quilt Guild was established and organized in Livingston, Texas in 1994 to promote the art of quilting and encourage fellowship among quilters. Quilters enjoy the camaraderie and the experience of learning new techniques and styles together. Their charitable work includes making quilts for veterans (Quilts of Valor), quilts for individuals in nursing homes, among other projects.

Piney Woods Lake Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist: \$100: The organization works to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within the Piney Wood Lakes area. Many of our communities and organizations rely on such citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts.

MEET THE CANDIDATE FOR
BISHOP SUFFRAGAN
OF THE WEST REGION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

CONOZCA A LAS CANDIDATAS AL
OBISPA SUFRAGÁNEA
DE LA REGIÓN OESTE DE LA DIÓCESIS EPISCOPAL DE TEXAS



The Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero
Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Houston

A third generation Episcopal priest, I was ordained in 1996, the first woman ordained a priest in El Salvador. I earned a Masters of Divinity from General Theological Seminary and pursued studies in theology at Universidad Centroamericana in El Salvador. From Douglass College, Rutgers University, I received a Bachelor of Arts in history. I began the Doctor of Ministry program at Sewanee in 2018.

In 2007, I became Rector of Trinity, Houston. Some highlights of ministry include welcoming new Christians to the faith, expanding the Trinity campus, deepening partnerships with homeless and immigrant populations, developing quality programming for all ages, supporting leadership development, heightening the connection between the church and the arts, and community building across opinions while sharing Christ's life changing love. Before Trinity, I served as Senior

Assistant Rector at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C.; Director of Theological and Christian Education in the Diocese of the Episcopal/Anglican Church of El Salvador; Associate Priest at St. John the Evangelist San Salvador; Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity Church Santa Teresa in San Martin; and as Interim Priest-in- Charge at St. Andrew's Church in Soyapango, El Salvador. With my husband Elmer Romero, I enjoy parenting our children. Other interests include Astros baseball, photography, music, swimming, and walking with my dog, Paco.



The Rev. Canon Glenice Robinson-Como
Canon Missioner for Outreach and Justice Ministries
Christ Church Cathedral, Houston

I am the third of four daughters born in Petersburg, Virginia to Ruby and Theodore Robinson. Both of my parents are now deceased, but still very much alive in my spirit. My mother worked at a mental institution and played the piano at our Baptist church. My father served in the Army and later retired from Defense General Supply Center. My dad was a deacon in the church and my very first theologian. Together my parents taught my sisters and I about serving God and our community enforced those principles as they embraced the “it takes a community to raise a child” concept. From my mother I learned compassion as I would hear her stories of those who suffered from mental illness. From my dad I learned the importance of ministry as we spent all day in church on Sundays and watching him prepare his Sunday school lessons on a manual typewriter. I attended Virginia Commonwealth University upon graduation, accepted a job with the Department of Defense in Los Angeles and lived with my sister and her family in Los Angeles. Later I met my husband Paul. We have two children Paul and Dominique, and a family dog Chance.



**The Rev. Canon Kathryn 'Kai' Ryan
Canon to the Ordinary and Chief Operating Officer
Episcopal Diocese of Texas**

I came out of the delivery room at the Miners' Hospital in Raton, New Mexico and into the font at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Life in the Church reveals the rhythms of God's grace and guidance for me. The youngest of four daughters, I attended public schools in Albuquerque. Enjoying athletics, I competed in gymnastics, track, and cross country. My life in Christ and my leadership gifts were nurtured, while a youth, in camping ministry, the Happening movement, and parish committees, including one that resettled a refugee family. On receiving my B.A. at Sewanee, I returned to Albuquerque to gain employment experience required before seeking ordination. At Sewanee, I met Tim Ryan, and we married in 1989. We have two children, Ned, 22, and Eleanor, 16. After an MDiv at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, I spent 20 years in parish ministry, including 14 years as rector of Ascension, Dallas. There I learned from brothers and sisters of other cultures how to lead a multi-ethnic community. Since 2014, I have served as Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Texas, leading the ministry staff in its work to implement the diocesan vision.

Episcopal Health Foundation and Holy Currencies Visit

On January 7, we had a visit from the Episcopal Health Foundation ("EHF") and Holy Currencies. Eric Moen of EHF wrote: "The St. Luke's, Livingston Holy Currencies

team is exploring partnered work to improve mental health outcomes in their community. The Rev. Bill Cruse of Kaleidoscope Institute celebrated and preached in addition to our meeting with the team. What a fine Epiphany Sunday!”



***FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF
THE MONTH
ANTONY OF EGYPT***

17 January

By James Kiefer

Before the conversion of the Emperor Constantine in 312 AD, back in the days when Christianity was still a persecuted religion, the act of becoming a Christian involved turning one's back on the pursuit of security, of fashionable prestige and popularity, of success as the term is widely understood. After the Emperor had changed Christianity from a persecuted religion into a fashionable one, many earnest Christians felt the need to make such a renunciation in the service of Christ, and did not see mere Church

membership as any longer enough to constitute such a renunciation. Accordingly, many of them sought Christian commitment by fleeing from society into the desert, and becoming hermits, devoting themselves to solitude, fasting, and prayer. Although this trend was much accelerated and reinforced by the conversion of Constantine and attendant changes, it had already begun earlier. An outstanding early example is Antony of Egypt, often reckoned as the founder of Christian monasticism.

Antony of Egypt, the son of Christian parents, inherited a large estate. On his way to church one day, he found himself meditating on the text, "Sell all that you have, and give to the poor, and come follow me." When he got to church, he heard the preacher speaking on that very text. He took this as a message for him, and, having provided for the care of his sister, he gave his land to the tenants who lived on it, and gave his other wealth to the poor, and became a hermit, living alone for twenty years, praying and reading, and doing manual labor. In 305, he gave up his solitude to become the head of a group of monks, living in a cluster of huts or cells, devoting themselves to communal singing and worship, to prayer and study and manual labor under Antony's direction. They did not simply renounce the world, but were diligent in prayer for their fellow Christians, worked with their hands to earn money that they might distribute it as alms, and preached and gave personal counseling to those who sought them out.

In 321, Christians in Alexandria were being persecuted by the Emperor Maximinus (the rule of Constantine was not yet universal), and Antony visited Alexandria to encourage those facing the possibility of martyrdom. He visited again in 335, when Arianism was strong in the city, and converted many, by his preaching and testimony, and by prayer and the working of miracles. His biography was written by Athanasius, who said of him: "Who ever met him grieving and failed to go away rejoicing?"

Let us pray: O God, as you by your Holy Spirit enabled your servant Antony to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, so give us grace, with pure hearts and minds, to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.”

This series will be based on the work of Fr. John Main, OSB.

Baptised Douglas Main, he was born in London on 21 January 1926. His roots were in County Kerry, Ireland. Educated at Westminster Choir School and by the Jesuits at Stamford Hill, London, he served in the Royal Signals at the end of the war after which he joined the Canons Regular of the Lateran for a short period. He left and studied law at Trinity College Dublin and then joined the British Diplomatic Service and studied Chinese at SOAS in London.

Attached to the Governor General’s office in Malaya during the Emergency, his duties took him one day to meet an Indian monk and Justice of the Peace, Swami Satyananda. From him, he learned how to meditate and took up the discipline of silence, stillness and simplicity as part of his Christian faith and daily prayer.

When he returned to the West, he became professor of International law at Trinity College, continuing to meditate as part of his Christian spiritual life. In 1958, he became a Benedictine monk at Ealing Abbey in London.

While Headmaster of the school at St Anselm’s Abbey in Washington DC in 1969, John Main was led to a new study of the roots of his own Christian monastic tradition. In the *Conferences of John Cassian* and the teachings of the Desert fathers, he found the Christian expression of the same way of meditation he had learned in the East. Now recognising the teaching and the urgent need for meditation in the modern world he began to practice again.

In 1975, Fr. John started the first Christian Meditation Centre in London.

We will use a series led by Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB. Fr John to establish the first Christian Meditation Centre in London. At the invitation of the Archbishop of Montreal, in 1977, he accompanied John Main to establish a Benedictine community of monks and laypeople dedicated to the practice and teaching of Christian meditation. Fr Laurence studied theology at the Universite de Montreal and at McGill University. He made his solemn monastic profession in 1979 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1980.

After the death of John Main in 1982, he continued the work of teaching meditation that had already begun to develop a global community. In 1991, Fr. Laurence returned to England to establish the International Centre of the newly formed World Community for Christian Meditation, now present in more than a hundred countries and which has become a monastery without walls, in which he travels and teaches widely.



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.



*Every Sunday Is Bring
a Friend to Church
Sunday!*



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

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CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.08, 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.