

THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN

The Bishop's Corner

The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2012 is in the history books. 2012 was a momentous year in the Diocese of San Joaquin. We witnessed the birth of The Disciples Church in Orange County, Christ Church in Cambria, San Martin in Fresno, Epiphany Church in La Mirada (which will be turned over to the Diocese of Western Anglicans) and the newest church plant still unnamed in Madera. Even in an era of financial difficulties, law suits and cut backs, the Kingdom is expanding and new believers are coming to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ...anytime that happens it's a good year!

We kick off 2013 with the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany...*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?"* (Matthew 2:1-2) With these familiar words, the Wise Men prove the fact that they truly were wise. It is the wise who seek Jesus, and it is the wise who humble themselves at the manger of a little baby. I pray that we will have the same wisdom and the same humility as those Wise Men two thousand years ago. This humble obedience is the foundation behind our Mission in the Diocese of San Joaquin. *"We are an Apostolic Community on Mission with the Life Giving and Transforming Message of Jesus Christ."*

That mission took an exciting new turn this past month with the formation of the Youth Leadership Mission Team. Fr. Paul Gibbons will be leading this team along with April Gibbons, Corey & Natalie McLaughlin, Kevin & Cody Ganger, Nicholas Raines & Christina Raines. This team is looking forward to raising up youth leadership in the diocese. There will be four gatherings around the diocese - The first in

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BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR

January 5—Epiphany, La Mirada for Confirmations and “official” transfer to Bp. Thompson and the Diocese of Western Anglicans

January 7—College of Bishop’s in Orlando, Florida.

January 13—Epiphany, Corcoran

January 19—Diocesan Council

January 20—St. Paul’s, Visalia

January 24—National March for Life in Washington DC with Anglican’s For Life and Archbishop Duncan

January 27—St. Paul’s, Bakersfield.

From “*History of the Diocese of San Joaquin*” ...

The Foundations Are Laid

[ed. note—the following is a series of historical essays taken from “*History of the Diocese of San Joaquin*,” Chapter 2, “The Foundations Are Laid.”]

ST. PAUL’S, MODESTO (Part 2)

In July 1920, the parish called the Rev. Harold S. Brewster as Rector. He was described as “a brilliant, deeply spiritual scholar”, and remained for seven years – the longest pastorate at St. Paul’s to that date. Lively social events – dances, minstrel shows, musical comedy and such, are recorded. The Women’s Guild reported a membership of 156, and its budget for 1921 was \$5,785. Suggestions were made that the men also organize. In 1923, St. Paul’s hosted the District’s annual Convocation. Brewster almost resigned in 1924, apparently over salary arrears, but the parishioners scrambled into action and secured enough to go on. By 1926 the Treasurer despaired, and in September 1927, Fr. Brewster was made Dean of the Cathedral in Fargo, North Dakota. Archdeacon Hawken and Lay Reader Paul Shimmon covered services for about three years. Persian-born Shimmon had completed seminary nearly 30 years before and was now priested to serve Modesto. The Vestry called for cooperation among all parishioners. At the same time tax delinquencies were reduced.



In January 1931, the parish called the Rev. Thomas C. Maxwell as Rector (though Archdeacon and Bishop had recommended return to mission status). At the same time, he was appointed Vicar of Turlock and Oakdale. The rectory was “uninhabitable”, and a firm of wreckers gave \$25 for the lumber. The Maxwell family lived in Berkeley until a house was rented for them in Modesto in 1933. The widely-experienced priest was granted leave to live with his family Monday through Wednesday each week, and so was effectively “half-time Rector.” Meeting even such a modest salary was a strain. On March 29, 1933, a special arrangement was made ,and St. Paul’s reverted to mission status, Maxwell’s salary and travel expenses to be met in part by the District for the work at Oakdale and Turlock. By 1934, the Committee felt able to promise him a home telephone, to be maintained by the church.

On February 9, 1938, a severe storm downed electric lines on the church and it burned; little was salvaged. Modesto people presented Fr. Maxwell with a purse, specifically to replace his water-damaged personal books. Sunday services were held at the Jewish Community Center. Groups went into action to raise funds for a new church building; “not at the present site” Fr. Maxwell insisted. Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians responded to appeals for funds. A new site was purchased at 17th and I Streets for \$7,500, but plans to build a rectory first were scrapped. Despite all this, St. Paul’s hosted the Convocation of January, 1939, using the Guild Hall, the Jewish Center, and the Presbyterian Church. By September 1939, plans were drawn for a gothic style building in concrete, with a wood-beam ceiling. A door to door solicitation was discouraged, but several businesses made donations. Groundbreaking was held on Sunday, March 17, 1940, and Dedication on September 18. St. Cecilia’s Guild (newly formed for the purpose) bought rows of seats from the Tivoli Theatre in San Francisco for \$120.76, including sales tax. On August 18, 1942, Fr. Maxwell died suddenly, having been Vicar through a difficult eleven years.

Bishop Sanford then recommended the Rev. Edward Birch, Irish-born world-traveler, for one year, under the supervision of the Rural Dean of Stockton. The Vestry soon decided to call him as Rector, and set itself the goal of regaining self-support. The eloquent Mr. Birch resigned in January, 1944, to accept a commission in the Canadian Army. Bishop Walters first visited in February, dedicated the War Shrine, and addressed the question of local leadership. Alvin Hilgeman was called to St. Paul’s, but served only two months.

In September 1944, the Rev. Harry B. Lee was called. The Vestry took on more indebtedness and finally bought a rectory after years of thwarted efforts. St. Paul’s was incorporated as a Parish on February 15, 1945. By the end of the year, movement was afoot to build a new hall. In 1946, the Vestry was looking for a suitable lot on which to build a rectory, and in 1947, Mr. Lee stressed the need of space for church school, a project estimated at \$40,000. Plans were accepted in October. A letter of 1948 to

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the spring in the Kern Deanery, the second in the summer at Camp San Joaquin, the third in the fall in the North of the diocese and the fourth in the Winter at ECCO. These gatherings will be designed to assist youth grades 7 - 12 with an encounter with Christ, leading to leadership in the local congregation.

Please keep your eyes open for news of the coming events and begin now by praying and encouraging the youth of the diocese to attend!

As we look to the year ahead, the challenges will be equal or greater than in 2012. We still have financial difficulties, law suits and cut backs, but with God's help and our obedience to our mission, 2013 will be a truly amazing year!

God bless and keep you all!

Bp. Menees

TRANSITIONS

This past month we bid farewell and godspeed to two beautiful and amazing ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On December 2nd, Bishop Menees celebrated the Requiem Mass for the **Rev. Wolfgang Krismanits** & his wife **LaDonn Krismanits** who were tragically killed in an automobile accident. We bid your on-going prayers for the Krismanits children - Paul, Steven, Sonja & Summer and their spouses and children.

We welcome **Tania Pacheco** to the Bishop's Staff. Tania began work as the Bishop's Administrative Assistant/Diocesan Administrator on January 1st.

January 1st also saw the beginning of a new ministry for **Fr. Jim Stout** who has was named as Interim Vicar at St. Michael and All Angel's, Sonora, and St. James, Sonora.



Please be in prayer for our Movement. We desire to offer this wonderful discipleship tool to all who will come!!

In Christ,
Christine Miller
4th Day Lay Director
4thdayluvr@gmail.com

2013 Meeting Schedule *all meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month*

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| January 19 | St. Paul's, Bakersfield |
| February 16 th | ECCO – During President's Day Retreat |
| March 16 th | St. Michael's, Ridgecrest |
| April 20 th | St. Luke's, Merced |
| May 18 th | St. Jude's, Tehachapi |
| June 15 th | St. Mary's, Fresno |
| July 20 th | St. Paul's, Bakersfield |
| August 17 th | St. Jude's, Tehachapi |
| September 21 st | St. Michael's, Ridgecrest |
| October 19 th | St. Mary's, Fresno |
| November 16 th | St. Luke's, Merced |

**(All Meetings: Secretariat at 10 AM;
Lunch at 11:30; Ultreya at 1 PM)**

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the parish expressed his expectation that the parish membership would double in five years; church seating for 500 would be needed. Groundbreaking for the Hall was on January 23, 1949. The \$84,685 building was completed later that year.

Many hours were spent trying to dispose of the old property (which had been leased). It was finally sold for \$21,000 in early 1952, a smaller amount than a previous bid. Many physical improvements, and stained glass windows were added. By this time parish finances had become stronger and more dependable. In September ,1950, the Vestry granted, then withdrew permission for a year's leave of absence for Mr. Lee. They feared "disruption of the prosperous condition" of the church. Harry Lee then resigned and served for a time in Napa before going to St. James' Cathedral, Fresno, in 1965.

The Rev. H. Ward Riley was called as the next Rector from Sonora in November, 1950. The Vestry proceeded to employ a professional fund-raiser to help retire the debt of \$30,000. In Wiley's first year, all records in giving and Sunday School attendance were broken as Babyboomers began flooding in. This influx did not continue, however. In November 1952, Wiley submitted his resignation, effective February 1, 1953, and left for Auburn. The Rev. Wilbur Caswell (retired) then became Priest-in-charge. Caswell was severely injured in an automobile accident in March, 1953, but wrote out sermons for laymen to read. From his hospital room, he wrote to appeal for a large Easter offering and reminded parishioners, "Whether you make a pledge or not, you cannot consider yourself in 'good standing' unless you are taking some share in support of your church. And the best way to do this is to apply for weekly envelopes, and indicate what you believe is possible to contribute weekly, monthly, or annually."



The Rev. Robert Chidwick accepted a call to be the next Rector as of June 1, 1953. The English-born artist and priest had been a choir boy at Westminster Abbey; he trained at Wycliffe College, Toronto. A live radio broadcast from the church was undertaken in September, and the Vestry noted that "no liquor be allowed on church property" even for weddings. The Presiding Bishop launched a "Builders for Christ Fund", but the Vestry voted to refuse it, even after a special appeal from Bishop Walters. On October 3, 1954, the Treasurer reported the church "solvent". Mr. Chidwick followed up on the newly confirmed and expressed appreciation of their attendance at Holy Communion; he urged the Bishop consider confirmation at an earlier age "when indelible impressions are made and lifelong habits formed." He made special approaches to families "detached from fellowship" who "appear to be somewhat confused in their thinking on spiritual matters."

Finances continued to be a problem, and the Women's Guild was unable to help the Vestry to the extent asked. St. Paul's sent a contribution of \$500 to the "Builders for Christ" campaign although the Bishop had requested they meet a quota of \$2,000. Fr. Chidwick made an "irrevocable decision" to resign in December 1958. The parish called Fr. Caswell back as interim priest. He served again through February 1959.

(to be continued...)



New Year's Eve at ECCO: A Sensible Celebration

ECCO would like to invite community members and area visitors to spend New Year's at our peaceful and forested conference center. Overnight packages are available. Enjoy music, games, dancing, delicious food, and socializing with friends in our cozy lodge. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m., on December 31st, with a social hour and end after a New Year's brunch at 10:30am. Ring in the New Year with a New York New Year's toast at 9 p.m., and enjoy optional festivities until midnight. Prices: \$29 for New Year's Eve festivities only, \$77/person for a two-person lodge room, all festivities and brunch. \$99/person for a private room. Reservations required. Ph. 559.683.8162, programs@ECCOyosemite.org, or register online at www.ECCOyosemite.org
ECCO: 43803 Hwy 41, Oakhurst CA 93644

Little Brothers and Sisters of Sacrifice Winter Retreat

Feb 1-3 at ECCO

International Worship Leader, Biblical Teacher and Missionary, Kelly Ferrari Mills, has called people around the world to passionate, repentant worship of Yeshua (Jesus) our Messiah, who is God and Lord over all. Her anointed music and teaching brings people into intimacy with Him. Steeped in the richness of the Torah, Kelly brings exciting, profound teaching of the Scriptures from a Hebraic understanding, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Cost: \$89/person for a two-person room. Register with Sadie at www.conferencecenter.org, by calling 559.683.8162 or email at ecco@sti.net.

Vestry/Bishop's Committee Retreat

February 1-3 & 8-10

Bishop Menees will be leading this retreat on Leadership Development in the congregation. We will look at questions of roles and responsibilities of Vestries, Mission and Vision Statements, Christian Leadership and Development. This retreat will be repeated on both the first and second weekends in February but is best participated in as a Vestry or Bishop's Committee. Time will be set aside for individual Vestries and Bishop's Committees to meet.

\$89 for double or quad occupancy, private rooms are an additional \$25

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DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Early this week, Dec. 16th through 18th, a very energizing and encouraging retreat was lead by Bishop Meenes and attended by seven leaders of youth ministry in the diocese: Fr. Paul (Leadership Team Facilitator/Coordinator) and April Gibbons, Kevin and Cody Ganger, Nick Raines, Christina Raines, and Corey McLaughlin. There were excellent times of fellowship, prayer, and Bible study, and those things all contributed to the important discussions that were had regarding how to best encourage and support youth ministry in the Diocese of San Joaquin.



While no one anticipated that we would come up with every brilliant solution to all of the challenges facing diocesan youth ministry over this one retreat, some very exciting beginnings were made. One thing became abundantly clear by the end of our time: **A primary goal of youth ministry, at the diocesan level, is to empower and equip clergy, parishes, and families to disciple our young people and to engage them in serving Jesus Christ in their churches and communities.**

This empowering and equipping will require many resources that will either be developed from scratch or incorporated from other successful ministries, but which will always have the Gospel of Christ at the heart of things and will endeavor to reflect the Anglican character—multifaceted as it is—of our diocese. In pursuit of this goal, it was decided, as a first step, to start by examining and improving what the diocese has already been doing—beginning with Camp H₂O.

Camp H₂O has almost always been at ECCO in the past. However, diocesan resources are slim and ECCO in the summer is beautiful, but expensive. In an effort to cut costs at the diocesan level, as well as to reduce the cost required of each camper, it has been decided to change the location of the camp. Consequently, in the summer of 2013 Camp H₂O will be held at Camp San Joaquin. This change affords numerous benefits, and you should keep your eyes peeled for more precise information regarding dates, cost, etc. (NOTE: All dates of the various events in this letter are TBD, as well as several of the locations. This is intended as a “heads-up” report.)

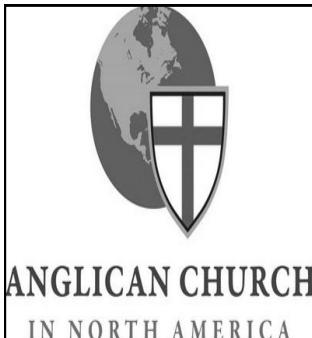
The costs associated with Camp H₂O have not been the only thing limiting participation, however. There have been many misconceptions regarding what happens at the camp, and there is a general line of questions that could be best summed up thus: “What is the point, and why should we push to get our kids there?” As part of helping to answer these questions, it is intended to hold a single-day “sampler”/Q&A event in each of the diocese’s six deaneries. These events will allow clergy, youth leaders, parents, and the youth themselves to ask their questions and see what the camp is all about, thus helping to ensure that everyone is receiving a complete picture instead of scattered reports and vague impressions.

Beyond costs and misconceptions, the next challenge surrounding Camp H₂O has been continuity throughout the year and across the diocese. The individuals attending have been blessed and have had their fires kindled, but there has been little to no fanning of the flames. As a way of supporting parishes and families, sustaining the work begun in high school students at Camp H₂O, sparking interest even earlier in our junior high students, and involving parents more directly, there will be two weekend events—one in the south and one in the north of the diocese—where continued training and discipleship will be offered. The hope is that these events will make things more accessible to a greater number of our people, making this important work in the diocese more self-sustaining. The first of these events will be in the southern portion of the diocese this coming Spring 2013, and the dates, content

Diocesan Youth Ministry Events for 2013

- Spring: The Well South—Youth Conference (Date and Location TBD)
- Summer: Camp H₂O at Camp San Joaquin; potential Junior High Summer Camp (Dates TBD)
- Fall: The Well North—Youth Conference (Date and Location TBD)
- Winter: Youth Retreat at ECCO; Young Adult Retreat at ECCO (Dates TBD)
- Six Deanery Primers for Camp H₂O (Dates and Locations TBD)

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Anglican Church in North America News

Archbishop Duncan attends Papal Audience in Rome

On November 28, 2012 Archbishop Robert Duncan, accompanied by Bishop Ray Sutton, was invited to Pope Benedict XVI's weekly public audience in Rome. Archbishop Eliud Wabukala, Primate of Kenya and chair of the GAFCON Primates Council, was also invited, but the arrival time of his flight prevented his attendance at the audience. As a sign of the "special relationship" between Roman Catholics and Anglicans, articulated by the Second Vatican Council, three chairs were set in front of the entire audience hall for the Anglican leaders to occupy.

At the conclusion of the audience, Archbishop Duncan and Bishop Sutton were afforded the opportunity to bring greetings to His Holiness on behalf of the Anglican Church in North America and the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans.



Prayer for the victims and families of Newtown, CT.

Beloved in the Lord:

Please join us in praying for the victims of and families affected by Friday's shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT.

"Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

Faithfully in Christ,
+Robert Pittsburgh
Archbishop and Primate
Anglican Church in North America

(Youth Ministry News, continued from page 6)

summary, and other information will be provided over the intervening months.

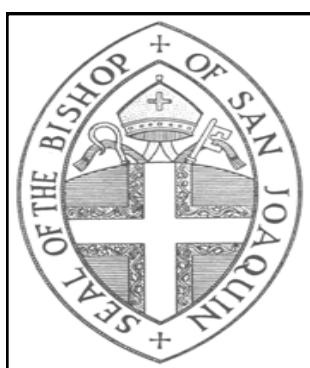
It has already been stated that the above items are just a beginning to the process of creating vital and sustainable youth ministry in the Diocese of San Joaquin. Other ideas have been discussed, such as a Winter Retreat for teens at ECCO, a Winter Retreat for Young Adults at ECCO, and a separate Summer Camp for junior high students. Gathering ideas for training resources and ways of connecting youth leaders to each other—or raising up youth leaders where there aren't any—has begun.

This is an exciting time of transition and renewal, and you are all invited to participate in it by attending events, praying as the Leadership Team continues to meet and hammer out details, and praying for the clergy and families in the diocese. As you attend events, you are invited to share your direct observations. As you pray for God's work of ministry to the youth in this diocese, you are invited to share what the Holy Spirit reveals to you. While some are called to lead in this ministry, we are all called to serve—we are in this together as the Body of Christ.

From the Diocese of San Joaquin Leadership Team Secretary ~ Corey McLaughlin
(corey.a.mclaughlin@gmail.com)

Link to Bishop's Note series--

The **Bishop's Note** is a pastoral message published weekly by Bishop Eric Menees. To subscribe, send an email message with your email to erin@vegasanglican.org.



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Submissions will be accepted for consideration anytime; Contributions must be received by the 20th of the month for possible inclusion in the newsletter in the following month.

Please send these to uncleot3@aol.com

Thank you!