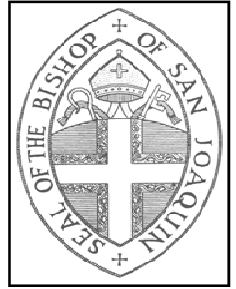


# THE SAN JOAQUIN ANGLICAN



## *The Bishop's Corner*

*The Right Reverend Eric Vawter Menees*

As I write this article I find it difficult to believe that children are heading back to school and the days are getting shorter (though it is still seriously HOT) and the leaves on my apricot tree are just starting to get a slightly yellow tinge to them. While the summer may be a bit slower for us, that does not mean that the church slowed down - not at all. This was a busy summer—and continues to be.

In June I attended the Provincial Council and the College of Bishop's meeting as previously remarked in the Anglican. We are moving rapidly toward having a top notch Catechism. This is so important for us as a young province because it helps to define who we are and what we stand for as Anglicans in North America.

In July I attended Caminemos Juntos (Walking Together) along with 18 other people from the diocese and what a blessing it was. You will remember that last year we hosted this provincial-wide conference on mission and ministry in the Spanish Speaking Community. This year the keynote speaker was the Rev. Marcos Witt who is an internationally-acclaimed evangelist and Grammy Award winning Christian musician. Pastor Witt did not disappoint in his hour long teaching on The Woman at the Well (John 4) and then singing in English and Spanish. The workshops attended ranged from Sunday School Curriculum to reaching college students to ministering to the elderly and everything in between. In addition, the Instituto San Pablo met the two days prior to the beginning of the conference. Instituto San Pablo is a leadership training program intended to raise up and develop lay leadership in the congregation. I was pleased to teach one of the classes for Instituto San Pablo on the ministry of "Service" - El Camino de Cristo es el Camino de Servicio."

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN CALENDAR*

- September 1—  
Bishop at Resurrection,  
Tracy
- September 5-6—  
ACNA Task Force on Holy  
Orders, @ Pitts-  
burg, PA
- September 7 —  
Diocesan Missions Board  
10AM-2PM  
Diocesan House
- September 7—  
Bishop at Cathedral  
Fundraiser for Legal  
Defense Fund
- September 8 —  
Bishop at St John's,  
Porterville
- September 15—  
Bishop at Christ Church,  
Lemoore
- September 21 —  
Diocesan Council  
10AM-2PM  
Diocesan House
- September 22 —  
Bishop at St Augustine,  
Hollister



*(Continued from Page 1)*

In August Fr. Mark & Michelle Hall along with Christina Raines attended the Anglican 1000 conference in Seattle, Washington. This conference is a continuation of the Anglican 1000 church planting movement that has taken the province by storm with the goal of planting 1000 new church in five years. We here in the Diocese of San Joaquin are moving forward having planted Epiphany, La Mirada (then handing off to Western Anglicans), Disciples Church Anaheim which is applying for Mission status at the upcoming Diocesan Convention, Christ Church, Cambria. Currently, we are in the process of planting a church in Tulare with the aid of St. Paul's, Visalia and St. Clement's, Woodlake and a new mission work at Fresno State University with the aid of the diocese and the Fresno Deanery.

Lastly, as I write this article, I am preparing to preside and preach at the ordination to the Transitional Diaconate of Noah Lawson. Noah has been serving as an intern at St. John's, Stockton, this summer and will be returning to Nashotah House for his final year of seminary prior to being commissioned as a Chaplain in the United States Navy.

All in all I would say that this summer has been anything but the "lazy and dazy days of summer" but action packed and ministry filled... Thanks be to God!

### **Transitions**

- Congratulations to the **Rev. Noah Lawson** who was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on Tuesday, August 20th, the Fest of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents.
- Kudos to **The Very Reverend and Mrs. Carlos Raines** along with their daughter **Christina Raines** for taking three weeks to study Spanish in an immersion language school in Mexico.
- Congratulations and godspeed to the **Rev. Douglas Buchanan** retired on August 4th from his ministry as Vicar of Trinity, Lone Pine. On August 18th **Rev. Tony Faint** began his ministry as Interim Vicar of Trinity and will be covering Trinity and St. Timothy's, Bishop.
- Seminarian **Phil Berghuis** completed his Clinical Pastoral Education this summer at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno. Phil will be returning to Nashotah House for his Middler (2nd) Year.
- Congratulations!! to the Bishop's Administrator **Tania Werner**, who, with her husband Robert, are expecting their first child in the Spring.

### **Legal & Fund Raising Updates**

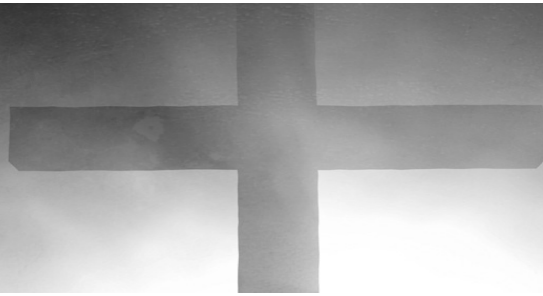
This summer proved to be active in our case to defend the diocese against the lawsuits filed by the Episcopal Church. The Fifth and Third Court of Appeals both denied TEC's appeal of their denied Motion for Summary Judgment in the diocesan suit but also in their suits against St. John, Porterville & St. Paul, Visalia. This means that the diocesan suite is set to be tried in Judge Hamilton's court beginning January 6, 2014 and is expected to run for five to ten days.

Our fundraising efforts are going very well, Thanks be to God. As of August first over \$100,000 had been received by the diocese allowing us to pay off all of our legal debts and start afresh as we raise funds for the trial.

Bishop Menees has challenged all congregations to raise a tenth of their annual budget by January 1st to support the legal efforts. Several congregations have already stepped out in faith and sent in fund including St. Philip's, Coalinga (\$10,000) St. James Cathedral (\$10,000), St. Luke's, Bakersfield (\$12,700). Scores of other congregations are in the various stages of fundraising for the defense of their properties and the advancement of the mission of the Diocese of San Joaquin!

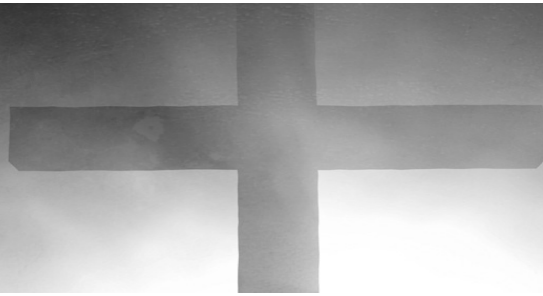
Dr. Bill Atwood, Diocesan Director of Development, is available to assist you in this fundraising effort. Dr. Atwood can be reached at: [docatwood@dioceseofsanjoaquin.net](mailto:docatwood@dioceseofsanjoaquin.net) or by calling (559)641-8034.

*(Editor's Note: read Dr Atwood's latest, "Stepping Into the Promise" on page 12)*



## Standing Committee - Diocese of San Joaquin Roles and Responsibilities

1. Pray daily for the Mission and Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin
2. Live a life that honors our Lord Jesus Christ, and brings good repute to their congregation, deanery, and the Standing Committee
3. Organize as a Committee Annually
  - Consisting of 4 clergy and 4 lay duly elected by convention
  - Election of President and Secretary from among members
4. Meet on a regular basis at call of President, or Secretary
  - Faithfully attend and participate in all meetings
5. Act as Council of Advice to the Bishop
  - Being informed of all necessary ecclesiastical, administrative, and financial matters pertaining to the Diocese, by which to offer salient opinions
  
  - May require from congregations and Diocesan institutions such reports as it shall from time to time deem necessary
6. Assume Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a Bishop authorized to act
7. Report Annually to Convention
  - Make a full report through its Secretary of its official acts
8. Extend Ecclesiastical Representation at the request and direction of the Bishop
  - Including but not limited to representation at official functions, formation and oversight of subcommittees, and pastoral concerns
9. Provide Consent:
  - In cases of alienation or encumbrance of property
  - For creation of the position of Assistant Bishop
  - For election of a Bishop Coadjutor
  - For election of a Missionary Bishop
  - For ordination of a Bishop-elect
  - For filling vacancies on Ecclesiastical Court
10. Be familiar with the Diocesan Constitution and Canons, Policies, and Rector's/Warden's Manual
11. Attend and participate in the Diocesan Convention



**MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ANGLICAN 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY!!!!!!!!!!**

**Now hear this!!!!!!!!!! The San Joaquin Secretariat is excited to let you know of our upcoming A4D Weekend at ECCO, to be held January 2-5, 2014.**



The theme of our Weekend is “The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me”. Prayer and planning are seriously underway.

The Leadership Team for the Weekend is:

Dennis Mann (St. Jude’s, Tehachapi) – Rector

Annie Curtier (St. Andrews in the Desert, Lancaster) – Rectora

Christine Miller (Trinity Anglican Church, Bakersfield) Head “Cha”

Frank Reed ( St. Luke’s Anglican Church, Merced) – Assistant “Cha”

Ron Christolear (Trinity Anglican Church, Bakersfield) – Music Director

If there are any Cursillistas/Anglican 4<sup>th</sup> “Dayers” from the past who wish to get involved again, please let us know ASAP so that you can be a part of our dynamic, Spirit-filled Team! We would love to have you!

Please be praying about those in your congregations who wish to deepen their commitment to Christ by coming to the Weekend as a Candidate.

We ask for your prayers as we seek the Lord’s will for every phase of HIS Weekend!

Questions:

Annie Curtier - 661-433-6889

Christine Miller – 661-431-9365

**2013 Meeting Schedule – all meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, except December.**

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Christ the King, Ridgecrest

October 19<sup>th</sup> – St. Mary’s, Fresno

November 16<sup>th</sup> – St. Luke’s, Merced

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

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



In Christ,  
Christine Miller, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Lay Director  
(4thdaylvr@gmail.com)



## Sequoia Deanery Medical Mission to Peru 2013

*Sue Nyberg and Larry Akey, co-team leaders*

Not long before leaving on our mission trip to Peru, Father James preached a sermon about Jesus' visit to the home of Martha and Mary. The theme of his sermon really resonated with me as last minute preparations were being made for our fourteenth mission trip. Martha or Mary, with whom did I most identify? For some of you who may have missed that sermon, Martha was distracted by all of the preparations that had to be made for the Lord's visit while Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he had to say. Martha or Mary? Having been one of the coordinators for this year's trip, along with Larry Akey, the Martha in me was struggling to make sure preparations were complete both here and in Peru in order for the mission to be successful and for team members to feel comfortable and safe. However, as the time came for us to catch our flight in L.A., I vowed to be more like Mary and watch and listen as the mission proceeded to take place.

Pulling up to the building on the first day of our clinic, I noticed tears running down the face of one of the team members. Martha or Mary, which was I going to be? When I went to comfort her, she shared with me how overwhelmed she felt seeing the poverty that suddenly surrounded her. She said she knew it was going to be bad, but she had no idea how bad. She also had an enormous appreciation for where she lived and the things she had in her everyday life.



Seeing the streams of people over the next five days who came and went in our clinic, there were many chances for all of the team members to be Maries. Our three doctors, Dr. Carstens, Dr. Roach, and Dr. Ghaly, along with their assistants, Jim Doe, Lina Naylor, and Riham Ghaly, saw close to four hundred patients in those five days, but every time I walked by their make-shift offices (large tents this year), they were totally focused on the person in front of them, listening, caring, and ministering to them.

Our triage team, Betty Blackmon, Hannah Pulley, Cheryl Weber, Francie Levy, Tracy Smith, Lucy Cooper and Verina and Jimmy Ghaly, were a team of Maries. Every patient that came in had a long list of ailments that they wanted to share and it

took time and patience to get them registered and ready to see a doctor. In the process, sometimes prayers were said and patients were anointed with holy oil by Deacon Francie. Other times hands were held, faces were touched, and smiles were shared.



The dental team consisted of Larry Akey, Becky Bailey, Lilly Cooper and a Peruvian dentist by the name of Carlos Huaman. Frightened children and equally frightened adults, both of which in some instances had never had any type of dental care, were the challenge facing the dental team. Teeth were pulled, cavities were filled, sealants were applied, and fluoride treatments were given. Martha or Mary? Sometimes I'm sure it was hard for them to choose when work needed to be completed in a timely manner, but I know tears were wiped and hands were held as procedures were being done.

The pharmacy was ruled by Robert Castaneda with his wife, Lydia, and Dawn Cooper, assisting. Pharmacy is the last stop for almost all of the patients that we see, so it is a very busy corner of the clinic. The Mary there was Lydia. Because of her bilingual skills, Lydia had the ability to really talk with the patients and she is a wonderful example of a woman who is never too busy to offer a kind word, and a compassionate touch. She is a Martha, too, often calling over one of us to let us know that someone needed bus fare or just got robbed on the way to the clinic and could we help in some way.



Martha or Mary? We all need to make that choice as we go through our daily lives and interact with strangers and loved ones, alike. As one of the coordinators for this year's mission, I was so blessed to have a team of people with me who knew how to be a Martha when work needed to be done, and a Mary when it came time to minister to the Peruvian people and to each other. A big thank you to all who prayed for us and supported us financially this year. A special thank you goes to the Cooper family, Townsend, Dawn, Lilly and Lucy, SAMS missionaries in Peru without whom this mission would not be possible.



## THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

4159 E. Dakota Avenue  
Fresno, California 93726-5297

### NOTIFICATION OF DIOCESAN CONVENTION

*(First published on July 29, 2013)*

*We are an Apostolic Community on Mission  
with the Life-Giving and Transforming Message of Jesus Christ*

**To: All Parishes, Missions, and Clergy of the Diocese of San Joaquin**

**From:** The Rev. Gordon Kamai, Secretary of Convention

In accordance with Article V, Sections 3 of the Constitution of the Diocese of San Joaquin, notice is hereby given that the Fifty-Fourth Annual Convention of the Diocese of San Joaquin will convene at St. James' Cathedral, Fresno, California November 8-9, 2013.

**Proposed Canonical Changes** must be submitted **not later than September 9, 2013** to The Rev. Cn. James Snell, 5073 N. Palm Ave., Fresno, CA 93704, fr.jim@sjoaquin.net

**Resolutions** must be submitted **not later than September 8, 2013** to Committee on Resolutions, The Rev. Dcn. Jane Williams, 371 Bethel Ave. #21, Sanger, CA 93657 dcnjwilliams@gmail.com

**Nominations** must be submitted **not later than September 23, 2013** to Committee on Nominations, The Rev. Dcn. Madeline Burton, 45155 Dillon Dr., Ahwahnee, CA 93601, mdbab@sti.net

**Delegate changes** must be mailed to the Diocesan Office  
Attention: Convention, 4159 E. Dakota Ave., Fresno, CA 93726-5297

#### **To be elected at the Diocesan Convention:**

- Standing Committee Class of 2017: 1 clergy and 1 layperson
- ECCO Commission Class of 2016: 1 clergy or layperson
- \*Diocesan Education Trust Class of 2016: 1 clergy or layperson
- \*San Joaquin Anglican Foundation Class of 2016: 1 clergy or layperson
- Ecclesiastical Court Class of 2016: 1 clergy
- Ecclesiastical Court Class of 2016: 1 layperson
- Provincial Assembly: 2 clergy and 2 laypersons

*(Continued on Page 7)*



(Continued from Page 6)

**To be elected at the Pre-Convention Deanery Meetings:**

Diocesan Council Deanery Representatives Class of:

2016 – Yosemite – 1 layperson

2016 – Delta – 1 layperson

2016 – Kern – 1 clergy

2016 – Sequoia 1 clergy

Mission Board Representatives, Class of:

2016 – Sequoia – 1 layperson

2016 – Delta – 1 Clergy

\* Committee is currently on hiatus due to the funds being frozen. In the eventuality of our win, the committee will once again become active.

**NOMINATION FORM**

Please copy and use this nomination form to submit nominations for positions which will appear on the ballot at the November 2013 Diocesan Convention. The notice of convention list above identifies those organizations seeking elected members. Nominees should bear the approval of the nominee’s vestry or bishop’s committee. Nominees should send a **brief biography** along with a **picture** to the Nomination Committee (address and email listed above).

Name of person nominated:

Address:

Email if available:

Telephone: Day: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parish / Mission — City:

Position nominated for:

Has this person accepted the nomination? (Circle one) Yes No

“Yes, I accept the nomination.” (Signature of nominee, if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by:

Parish / Mission — City:

**Please return this form by September 23 to:**

The Rev. Dcn. Madeline Burton  
45155 Dillon Drive  
Ahwahnee, CA 93601

mdbab@sti.net

## Consider attending a Road Scholar program at ECCO

In 2013 ECCO will provide 39 Road Scholar programs. You may better recognize Road Scholar's former name, Elderhostel. ECCO offers programs that include bus tours of Yosemite, watercolor classes, photography classes, golf adventures, birding excursions, tours of Sequoia National Park, hiking adventures in Yosemite, intergenerational programs for grandparents and grandkids together, and holiday programs. Programs are all inclusive at ECCO (typically 5 nights/6 days) with an emphasis on both education and Yosemite. If you have never attended a Road Scholar program, attending one at ECCO could be just the fun, educational getaway you need!



Register for and browse our programs online at [www.road scholar.org](http://www.road scholar.org) or call 1-800-454-5768 . Search the following program numbers to explore rates and dates. If you would like to commute from Oakhurst, search for the commuter rate. Road Scholar is proud to offer exclusive deals for programs that individuals would not be able to find on their own. You will be hard pressed to find a better deal or better instructors.

### Program #

- 1197 Seasons of Magic in Yosemite
- 11785 Yosemite Getaway
- 8713 Photograph Yosemite: Cliffs, Domes, and Waterfalls
- 2317 Joy of Watercolor and the Beauty of Yosemite
- 14610 Yosemite: A Birder's Paradise
- 20349 Intergenerational Program: Dinosaurs, Gold Panning, Robots, and Yosemite
- 17247 Fore! Golf Yosemite and Two other Great Courses in the Beautiful Sierra Nevada
- 13977 Hiking Yosemite: Up Close and Personal
- 16642 Thanksgiving in Yosemite
- 18331 New Year's in Yosemite

### New in 2014!

- 21317 Winter Sports in Yosemite: Snow Show, Ski and More

Stay tuned for a Fly Fishing program offered in 2014.

Kristen Cook  
Program Coordinator  
Evergreen Conference Center Oakhurst  
43803 Hwy 41  
Oakhurst, CA 93644  
ph. 559.683.8162  
fax. 559.683-4971  
[www.ECCOyosemite.org](http://www.ECCOyosemite.org)  
[ecco5@sti.net](mailto:ecco5@sti.net)

## HELP NEEDED FOR *THE S.J.ANGLICAN* NEWSLETTERS

The Communication Team of St. Paul's (now Trinity), Bakersfield has successfully launched The Anglican and it is time to put together a Diocesan Team to take the reins.

We need people who

- Like to proofread and edit text
- Visual editors who are proficient with Publisher or similar programs in compiling The SJAnglican

*If you are interested in being part of the new team, please contact Ted Yumoto at <[uncleted3@aol.com](mailto:uncleted3@aol.com)>*





## THE OUTRAGEOUSNESS OF GOD

The God whom we serve does not “make deals” and He will not be “put into a box”. Our ministry work in correctional facilities and recovery homes that we had been involved in these last several years had been touching our hearts and moving my wife and I in the direction of considering the possibility of opening a Christian sober living home here in Bakersfield. We knew that we did not have the training, skills or desire to operate such a home ourselves but we did have some modest financial resources to put towards the purchase such a home for that purpose.

After some time we began to wonder if the Lord might be moving us in another direction and it appeared as if that was the case when a dear friend of ours spoke to us of a very unique local ministry dedicated to the rescuing of women caught up in the insidious web of human trafficking for sex. This close friend of ours told us about **Magdalene Hope** and the work that their small team was doing on the streets, alley ways and darkened hotel parking lots to minister to women, both young and old, who were selling themselves.

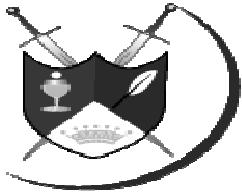


This five year old ministry had been praying for a home that these women could be taken to, kept safe, told about the love that Christ Jesus has for them and to begin to put them on the road to recovery and wholeness. After several phone calls and meetings and of course much prayer, we knew that God was bringing my wife Linda and I and our new friend and brother in Christ, Mr. Doug Bennett, into a holy partnership for the benefit of some of the least and most neglected of God’s children.

As we began our search for the right home for our intended purposes the Lord began to assert his will and sovereignty throughout the entire process. The homes that we liked, He rejected and the home that we rejected outright, He elected. The seller refused a higher offer of almost \$9,000 to accept our lower offer. It was so plain to see, God moving, God directing and God setting the terms and conditions rather than us. Our plan was to not to profit on the use of this home but rather to have **Magdalene Hope** make the mortgage payment which would have been substantially lower than any local rental rate. Not to profit but just break even. Were we wrong to say, “Lord if you will meet all our requirements then we will do this for you?” But, as every Christian should know, the servant does not dictate the terms of his service to his master and so the Lord made it very clear that we were to offer the home to **Magdalene Hope** free of charge. Isn’t that totally outrageous? We were not to see with worldly eyes but with spiritual eyes of faith and trust as we moved forward with Him and for Him in this challenging endeavor.

Since taking possession of the home in June the work necessary to make it ready has begun and soon when a street ministry volunteer asks an abused, addicted and frightened prostitute if she wants a new life off the streets and she says, “Yes” then we will be able to offer a safe, nurturing and Christ centered home where she and others like her can begin a new life of hope, recovery and joy. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ please pray for us and Magdalene Hope. For more information about **Magdalene Hope** please visit their website at [info@magdalenehope.org](mailto:info@magdalenehope.org).

Yours in Christ,  
Deacon John and Linda La Mar  
Trinity Anglican Church, Bakersfield



# VIRTUE ONLINE

The Voice For Global Orthodox Anglicanism

**Devotional : TRANSFORMATION: Ephesians 4:17- 5:2**  
Posted by David Virtue on 2013/7/31 11:20:00

**TRANSFORMATION: Ephesians 4:17- 5:2** By Ted Schroder August 4, 2013

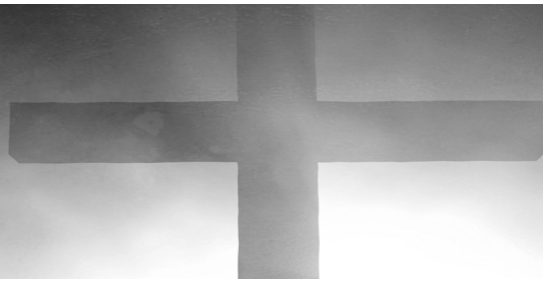
John Swinton in his book *Dementia* writes, "The problem of forgetfulness is not confined to the individual with dementia. The experience of dementia brings to the fore a broader amnesia that has befallen the world which has caused it to forget where and what it is: *creation*. When the world forgets its Creator, we begin to think that we are the creators; we begin to believe that we are self-creating beings whose task is to shape the world into our own image." (*Dementia: Living in the Memories of God*, p.164)

We live in a secular culture where the prevailing condition is amnesia about God, amnesia about our dependency upon God, and amnesia about our need for salvation. We are reverting to a pagan culture which St. Paul described in terms of *futility of thinking, darkened in understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.* (Eph.4:17-19) It is a kind of dementia, a corruption of the mind, the inability to remember who we are and from whence we have come. It is one thing to have physical dementia, it is another to have spiritual dementia, the inability to know one's own spiritual identity.

Futility of thinking is a description of meaninglessness, a feeling of uselessness, a sense of worthlessness, and an experience of emptiness. It is what Ecclesiastes expresses: "Everything is meaningless...All things are wearisome." The conclusion of atheistic philosophy, which reduces all truth to scientific description, is that we are mere biological machines with no freedom to choose and no future to hope for beyond death. Life is therefore futile. People have only utilitarian value, and can be treated as expendable. Therefore self-indulgence is the only way to enjoy what time you have on earth. That is why atheism and indifference to God is so dangerous to human value and dignity.

"Our society ignores the age-old question of the meaning of life. We busy ourselves and entertain ourselves so we do not have to think. Diversions such as drugs, alcohol, entertainment and work keep us from reflecting on life. But as wonderful as it is, life is short, painful, and - viewed from a human perspective - without much significance. If we are merely the accidental result of a 'big bang,' human existence is a cruel, cosmic joke, and no reason exists for ethical behavior. As one person put it, 'You get sick and you die, so you have to keep busy.' What would it matter if we did not exist? Humans are like grass in the desert, here today and gone tomorrow (Isaiah 40:6-8). The writer of Ecclesiastes is right, life is meaningless. Without God in the picture, nothing on this earth can comfort us if we analyze it seriously..... Pascal describes a human as a reed, but a thinking reed, all of whose dignity is in thought. The mind is the important element, but all dignity is lost when thought omits God and centers on self. Without God the mind is crosswired and without aim. Its energies go in the wrong direction...Ephesians 4:19 could have been written this morning as a telling commentary on us. We give ourselves to trivialities and diversions. Our minds are given to sports, movies and sitcoms to avoid thought. ." (Klyne Snodgrass, Ephesians, p.237f.)

(Continued on page 11)



*(Continued from Page 10)*

To recover from amnesia requires relearning your identity. You have to be tutored in your history. You need someone to help you connect the memories, the dots in your lives, to identify your relationships and to recover your skills.



**VIRTUE ONLINE**  
The Voice For Global Orthodox Anglicanism

This is what Jesus came to do for you and for the whole human race. *Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; and to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.* (Eph.4:21-24) "Take on an entirely new way of life - a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you." (vv.23,24. *The Message*)

Rather than seeking to modify our external actions, by trying to become a better person, which is the way of moralism and legalism, the route of self-improvement and self-will, Christianity reveals that Christ has to make us new inside, in the attitude of our minds. Christ has to renew us from the inside, in our spirit, and transform us from the inside out. It is not a matter of trying to do better but of allowing Christ to reproduce his character through us. If we do this from the inner spirit then our behavior, our actions, our motivations will be changed. We are being taught by Jesus through his Spirit how to think and how to behave. He teaches us about our speech, about our emotions, about our possessions, about our work, and about our relationships. We are to put on the character of God: kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and love. We are to be imitators of God.

This, of course, is a lifelong process, which we call sanctification: being created "to be like God in righteousness and holiness." It is a daily process of seeking to be indwelt by Christ and to be filled with the Spirit so that we may have the power to put off the old self and to put on the new self. We have to deal inwardly with anger, with being productive rather than being lazy, to be a giver rather than a taker, to be a contributor rather than a consumer, to be affirming rather than critical of others. This is a continual challenge to our self-centeredness. Often we will fail and fall back into old patterns of behavior and reactions. But we learn from them how to proceed in the future. We learn from our weaknesses and our need for forgiveness.

Christianity is about a relationship with God and with one another. So nurture those relationships. Don't do anything to grieve the Holy Spirit of God. *Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.* (v.30 *The Message*) You can learn to love others from how God relates to you by looking at the example of Jesus. See how Christ loved you by suffering and dying in your place, to give all he had for you and your salvation. So live out his kindness and compassion to one another, forgiving each other as God in Christ has forgiven you.

*Kindness and compassion.* Two of the biggest words in the Bible. Two of the biggest challenges to our human nature. They go against the culture of the world. They are polar opposites to the hardening of hearts and insensitivity of the self-centered. When we forget who we are, when we have amnesia about God and our dependency upon God, and our need of salvation, we lose kindness and compassion, our value and dignity. When Jesus comes into our lives we experience the kindness and compassion of God, and he can reproduce his character through us. We become capable of kindness and compassion to one another.

*The Rev. Ted Schroder pastors an interdenominational parish on Amelia Island, Florida*



## STEPPING INTO THE PROMISE

*Dr Bill Atwood, Diocesan Director of Development*

As we enter the season of autumn and the change in the season see visual signs of the wonders of God. The seasons change and we continue to grow. So it seems to be with the legal battles that our Diocese has endured over these many years. After having some decisions going against us, the Courts have now ruled in a manner which allows us to defend our orthodox theology in front of a judge in January of 2014.

Legal battles are expensive battles but there are causes worth fighting for—and defense of what we believe is a cause worth the struggle. The Anglicans of this Diocese have responded and we are pleased to report that due to the generous gifts from many, the Diocese is current with the legal fees. **Current** is the key word. Now we have the task of raising the \$350,000 necessary to wage the upcoming battle. Now is the time for each of us to step up to answer the call to defend what we hold sacred and dear. **Now! not next year.**

Between the end of August and the last weeks in December we need to have the \$350,000 in our account so that the Bishop and the elected Councils may proceed on our behalf.

Many have already given and many still are deciding what to give. A simple formula is 1% of your income. Think of it as a tithe of your tithe. For example, if you earn \$30,000 per year, your tithe to the parish would be \$3,000 and the additional donation to the Legal Defense Fund would only be \$300.

Some ask why we are fighting this case and the answer is simple—we are defending what we hold dear—The Holy Scripture and our faith and doctrine. If we walk away without a defense we will only have ourselves to blame when TEC takes the property and sells it to others.

I grew up in the Episcopal Church and have watched as things changed. Now I am an Anglican as you are. We are Angli'can's and not Anglic'can't's. I pray that each of us will answer the call to defend our orthodoxy and will send the message to our Bishop that we are standing prayerfully and financially with him.

Recently, the lessons were read in church there was that familiar line about our heart being where our treasure is. I hope we show those watching that our hearts and our treasure are in this important cause.

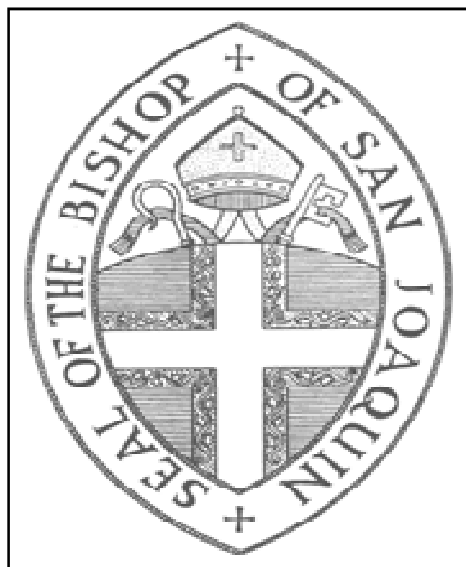
\$350,000 to go in 90 days. Joshua told us to step into the water in faith. Brothers, it is time to start stepping!

Blessings,  
Bill Atwood



## 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](mailto:erin@vegasanglican.org).



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Thank you!