

THE

SUMMER 2012

Episcopal News

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Legacies and new horizons

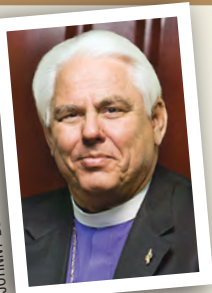
Bishops, General Convention deputies, Triennial delegates head for Indianapolis

Prism ministry cultivates 'good seeds' at juvenile hall

Grace Church celebrates 100th year in Glendora

Seamen's Church Institute bids a 'good' goodbye to port ministry

Peter Bergstrom to retire after 40 years at Camp Stevens



J. Jon Bruno
Bishop of Los Angeles

By J. Jon Bruno

A Season of Healing

thank you, everyone, for your love, prayers, cards, notes, gifts and other expressions of support that God is using to bring his healing touch to my life. Mary and I are deeply grateful for you all. I am feeling strong, and my doctors are providing the best possible care as I continue in remission from leukemia. As I look ahead, I know that this summer will be a season of healing. The upcoming rounds of chemotherapy will help me prepare for a good future ahead.

As I look forward, I see other forms of healing emerging this summer within our faith community. Our diocese remains steadfast in its commitment to welcoming all people into relationship with God and one another. For those who have

'...let us join our hands in healing for the good of all of God's people everywhere.'



disagreed on various points of view, there is still room for us to journey together in common prayer and ministry, staying open to the healing power of the Spirit working among us.

In these weeks before the 77th General Convention opens, a key date is June 20, when Orange County Superior Court Judge Kim Dunning will meet again for a status conference with the attorneys responding to the property disputes that have challenged our diocese for the past eight years. As many of you are aware, Judge Dunning on May 10

will address, among other topics, the orderly transition of the properties of All Saints, Long Beach, and St. David's, North Hollywood, to ministry and program directly overseen by the Bishop's Office. My clear expectation is that this process will be completed by year-end, and that the additional lawsuit with St. James', Newport Beach, will also move promptly toward resolution.

General Convention brings us still more opportunities for healing. Our diocese has not been alone in its stand for reconciliation and respecting the dignity of every human being. The Diocese of Virginia has recently seen resolution of its years-long property cases, and we join them in solidarity. We also give thanks for our churchwide leadership, which through the offices of the Presiding Bishop and General Convention have been of support to us.

One of the most tangible signs of that solidarity has been the allowance for the Diocese of Los Angeles to pay its full diocesan asking to the Episcopal Church on a deferred basis. As noted by Diocesan Council and Convention, once the litigation is concluded and its final costs paid, our diocese will again be in a position to remit in full our outstanding asking. Meanwhile, we continue to support the churchwide mission generously with other projects in addition to our diocesan tradition of always meeting our full asking.

Although my ongoing medical treatment will not allow me to travel to Indianapolis next month, I will watch the livestream video online, and I will be looking and praying for additional acts of reconciliation that will bring further healing among groups and individuals within our wider church. Please join me in reflection and intercession.

As the summer continues, I will keep you informed of my progress. I continue to attend daily to my responsibilities as your Bishop Diocesan, and I give thanks for the ministry partnership shared with my colleagues, Bishops Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary Douglas Glasspool, and our diocesan staff.

In this season more than ever before, let us join our hands in healing for the good of all of God's people everywhere. †

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reaffirmed the California Supreme Court's 2009 ruling that Episcopal Church properties are held in trust for the mission of this diocese and the general church. The June 20 conference

On the cover:

At a centennial celebration on June 3 at Grace Church, Glendora, Sunday School teacher and choir member Bobbie Patterson leads some of the parish's youngest members in song. Bishop Catherine Roskam celebrated the Eucharist on behalf of Bishop J. Jon Bruno. **Story begins on page 14.** Photo/Rick Sandona

Beth Bojarski named director of Camp Stevens

Bishop J. Jon Bruno on June 8 announced the appointment of Beth Bojarski of Campbellsville, Kentucky, as executive director of Camp Stevens. Bojarski, who is currently director of youth programs for the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, was nominated for the Camp Stevens position after a national search. She is to succeed Peter Bergstrom, who will retire Sept. 1 after 40 years as executive director (see story on page 10).

Camp Stevens, located in Julian, serves the dioceses of Los Angeles and San Diego with a wide range of year-round camping experiences, from summer camp for children to backpacking trips for teens and family camps, as well as special interest sessions. Its conference center facilities host dozens of church and non-church groups each year.

"Beth brings outstanding gifts and skills to Camp Stevens and its ongoing excellence shepherded so faithfully by Peter Bergstrom," Bruno said of the appointment. "I greatly appreciate the work of the search team, co-chaired by Canon Larry Sawyer of Los Angeles and Blair Shamel of the Diocese of San Diego. I also thank Bishop Jim Mathes in San Diego for his collaboration in the search process."

Bojarski has served as an adjunct instructor of recreation, tourism and sports management at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky; as an outdoor educator for several schools and colleges; and as a development officer and events planner for the Rescue Mission of Syracuse, New York.

Bojarski is particularly interested in environmental stewardship — a long-time priority at Camp Stevens — and is author of *To Serve and Guard the Earth*, published in 2010 by Church Publishing. She holds a master of theological studies degree from Virginia Theological Seminary and a master of science degree in recreation and leisure studies from the

State University of New York College at Cortland, as well as a bachelor's degree in contemporary ministries from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, New York.

She is married to the Rev. Mitch Bojarski, an Episcopal priest; their son Eliot is three years old.

"Mitch, Eliot and I are delighted to join the Camp Stevens, Diocese of Los Angeles and Diocese of San Diego families, and we look forward to getting to know each," Bojarski said. "Thank you for your warm welcome, and we'll see you in August!"

Bojarski will begin her new responsibilities this summer.

The camp will mark its 60th anniversary with a celebration at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2. The diocesan community is invited to attend.

The camp is named in honor of the Rt. Rev. W. Bertrand Stevens, second bishop of Los Angeles. Founded, owned and operated by the Diocese of Los Angeles, Camp Stevens maintains a collaborative ministry with the Diocese of San Diego, created out of the Los Angeles diocese in 1974.

Further information is online at www.campstevens.org. †



Beth Bojarski

Griswold to lead Advent events

Save the dates for quiet day, clergy retreat with retired presiding bishop



Laypersons and clergy are invited to an Advent quiet day to be led on Saturday, Dec. 1, by Bishop Frank Griswold and Barbara Braver, both of whom will also lead an Advent retreat for clergy Nov. 29 - 30.

The Cathedral Center will host both events under the theme "Fitting the Pieces Together: An Advent Puzzle."

Griswold and Braver collaborate extensively in writing and speaking, a practice they began during his tenure as the Episcopal Church's 25th presiding bishop. Their annual Advent retreat began at Washington National Cathedral and has been offered in various cities thereafter.

Advance reservations are required by email to bishopsoffice@ladiocese.org. Suggested donation for the quiet day, including lunch, is \$20 per person.

Clergy retreat participants may request group rates for overnight accommodations and meals by email or phone at 213.482.2040, ext. 240. Retreat registration is also open to commuters. †

Court rules in favor of Episcopal Church, L.A. diocese

Superior Court Judge Kim Dunning granted a motion on May 10 for summary adjudication in favor of the Episcopal Church, declaring the church properties in Long Beach and North Hollywood are held in trust for the current and future mission of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the general church.

"I give thanks for this ruling. After nearly eight years, we appreciate the court's conclusion confirming the church properties of All Saints' and St. David's belong to the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles," said Bishop Diocesan J. Jon Bruno after the ruling was issued.

John R. Shiner, lead counsel for the diocese, added, "Today's ruling marks the third occasion that a Court has determined property under the control of a departing parish rightfully belongs to the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles."

A June 20 conference with Judge Dunning will address the orderly transition of the Long Beach and North Hollywood properties to direct oversight by the bishop of Los Angeles.

The conference will also address next steps in a separate court case pertaining to the Episcopal Church property of St. James, Newport Beach. †

Hard work and 'gift of service' await deputies at General Convention

By Pat McCaughan

along with the Los Angeles bishops, eight lay and clergy deputies and several alternates to the 77th meeting of the Episcopal Church's General Convention July 15 - 12 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis will consider such issues as church organizational and structural reforms, the Middle East peace process and reconciling the church budget.

With the start of convention a few weeks away, more than 250 resolutions have been filed by committees, commissions, agencies and boards (A resolutions), by bishops (B resolutions), by dioceses and provinces (C resolutions) and by deputies (D resolutions) on a wide range of topics; challenging congregations to develop websites, improving the church's health care outreach, strengthening families, the theology of marriage and advocacy for a just global economy for international trade, among others.

While Bishop Jon Bruno continues treatment for leukemia, Bishops Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary Douglas Glasspool will represent the Southland in the House of Bishops and lead the diocesan delegation.

Bruce is assigned to the Stewardship and Development legislative committee and is eagerly anticipating pondering such legislation as A146, Budget Appropriation for the Archives of the Episcopal Church, she said recently.

"Having served on the Archives Strategy Committee, I know the work that is being done to protect for future generations, yet have available for research, the rich history of our church in many forms," she said. "This work is important for us as a church, as is funding a permanent, appropriate Archive to house the collections we have and to support this work."

Glasspool, previously a four-time deputy from the Diocese of Maryland, is anticipating "my first time serving in the junior house," the House of Bishops, she told about 25 people attending a June 2 pre-convention gathering at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul.

Glasspool will be celebrant at the Integrity Eucharist, planned for June 9 in Indianapolis; retiring Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire will preach.



JANET KAWAMOTO

Assigned to the Ministry Committee, she hopes that "our General Convention this summer will witness to the world that the Episcopal Church is alive and fundamentally engaged in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ."

Deputies and bishops have their work cut out, she added, noting such major challenges as "extreme poverty ... epidemic diseases and the results of natural and sometimes unnatural disasters that leave people homeless or unable to sustain themselves."

She added: "We have much work to do to prevent further abuse of 'this fragile earth our island home' and to care for all of God's creation. I hope we will attend primarily to those important issues in the name of Jesus while we continue promoting to practice the all-inclusive love and justice of God."

Nearly 47 percent of all deputies are new this convention; six of the diocese's eight deputies are officially "first-timers" even though many have attended previous conventions. Four of the eight are serving on convention legislative committees, which consider resolutions assigned to them by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson based on their content.

For extensive General Convention information, visit www.generalconvention.org.

Deputation members



Lay deputy **Dan Valdez**, a parishioner at All Saints, Highland Park, is chair of the diocesan deputation. Members of the committee he serves, Social and Urban Affairs have already begun online introductions and reviewing legislation assigned to them, he said. It involves responses to a range of issues including racism, social and economic justice, homelessness and health concerns.

A four-time General Convention deputy, he is also interested in discussions (continued on page 5)

At top: Deputies to General Convention from the Diocese of Los Angeles pose with Bishop Suffragan Mary Glasspool outside the Cathedral Center church. *From left:* Janet Wylie (lay), Jim Newman (clergy alternate), Diane Berry (lay alternate), Altigracia Perez (clergy), Dan Valdez, deputation chair (lay), Joanne O'Donnell (lay alternate), Lester Mackenzie (clergy), Glasspool, Susan Russell (clergy), Mimi Grant (lay), Betsy Anderson (clergy alternate), Kathryn Nishibayashi (lay) and Jim White (lay alternate). Not pictured are Cindy Vorhees (clergy) and Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce.

about restructuring the church's organization, parity between lay and ordained employees, and the costs of implementing the new denominational health plan.

"There was an expectation, I think, that we would have a single rate across the nation (for the health plan) and there are some discussions that some dioceses are being negatively affected by its cost," he said.

But, he added, "I don't think it's the kind of thing we should take a step back on. We've made tremendous progress in that area. In the Diocese of Los Angeles, we were very proactive in terms of challenging the Church Pension Group to come up with proposals that were workable with the diocese and they may need to do that same work with other dioceses."



Mimi Grant, lay deputy, Trinity, Orange, is a first-time deputy who attended the two previous General Conventions in Columbus (2006) and Anaheim (2009) and is the "unofficial" secretary for the diocesan deputation.

Although she has not been assigned to any committees, she aims to "watch over" the Church Pension Fund and help with evangelism.

"My primary concern is church growth, so I'll be as involved as I can be with any issues that related to 'best practices' emerging from the Episcopal Church that have resulted in our growing our church and individual congregations," she said. "The good news is that 25 percent of our churches are growing, so we have an opportunity to learn what they are doing and share it."



The Rev. **Lester Mackenzie**, associate rector at St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades, is a first-time deputy, but a veteran of several General Conventions including 2003 when he made a presentation to the Episcopal Church Women's Triennial as part of L.A.'s Hands in Healing delegation and again in Anaheim in 2009 when he led music during worship.

As part of the National and International

Concerns committee Mackenzie will focus, in part, upon statehood for Washington, D.C. and the Middle East Peace Process. The Los Angeles diocese has introduced two resolutions on this topic, and Bruno has reiterated his support for a two-state solution.

Mackenzie's other interests include: "Resolution C025 about evangelism, mission and community colleges, considering what the draft budget looks like as far as young people in the national church are concerned. I will be curious to see how that unfolds." He also hopes to focus on more urban-suburban church liturgical and outreach partnerships, as well as camps for children of the incarcerated.

"Looking at the schedule, it seems wonderfully packed," he added. "It's a gift to be part of church business and a representative for this diocese. When the church is gathering there is exciting busy-ness because we really get to consider the future as we're moving forward."



Kathryn Nishibayashi, lay deputy, St. Mary's, Mariposa, is a teacher. A first-time deputy but three-time General Convention attendee, Nishibayashi is "very much looking forward to Indianapolis." She has previously attended as part of the 2003 Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries consultation held concurrently with convention and through the Young Adult Festival. She "decided not to seek a committee assignment so that I had time to soak even more in as a 'first-timer' than I may have if I was tied to a specific committee."

She added, "It seems like many interesting issues will be coming forward at General Convention. I am curious to see where discussions lead."



The Rev. **Altagracia Perez**, rector, Holy Faith, Inglewood, is a four-time deputy. She will serve on the communication committee but will attempt to focus as well on Christian formation, evangelism and church growth "because those are areas I'm interested in."

About her committee work she believes

that the church "suffers a bit from trendiness. We tend to get caught up in trendiness and not so much the real core ways, effective ways of communicating what's going on with us, especially given the great things the church is doing — that's not always what gets communicated."

She hopes to help facilitate more effective parish-to-parish and parish-to-world communication, via social media and the Internet, and on "how we get the news out within ourselves and with us and the world."



The Rev. Canon **Susan Russell**, a senior associate at All Saints, Pasadena, a first-time deputy assigned to the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music Committee, is attending her seventh General Convention.

Previously she has served as a legislative aide, and as part of the press corps, the Episcopal Church Women's Triennial Meeting team and Integrity's leadership team.

"I've been privileged to serve during this triennium on one of the SCLM task forces collecting and developing liturgical and theological resources for the blessing of same-gender (continued on page 18)



Bishop Bruce forges ties in Asia

Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce, with the Rev. Ada Wong Nagata and the Rev. Joshua Ng, recently visited Manila for the World Anglican Chinese Clergy Fellowship, which occurs once every four years. They also traveled to Shanghai, Nanjing, Beijing, Hong Kong, Macao, Seoul and Taipei, building ties for Asian ministries. Bruce blogged about her travels at obispadjb.blogspot.com; a video report is at bit.ly/KZFLgT. Ng, Nagata and Bruce are pictured above with Korean Archbishop Paul Kim and his staff in Seoul. Bruce will host Kim in the Diocese of Los Angeles June 28 - July 1.



Los Angeles delegates eagerly await ECW Triennial

5K walk/run
will be among
highlights of
Indianapolis
meeting

By Pat McCaughan

Most Southland delegates to “Many Paths, One Journey,” the Episcopal Church Women’s 47th Triennial gathering July 5 - 12, agree on one thing — they’re planning to join in the 5K walk/run at 6:30 a.m. Sunday July 8 along the Canal Walk in downtown Indianapolis. The 5K walk/run is a new feature and part of an exciting line-up of events during the gathering, which meets in conjunction with General Convention and is expected to draw hundreds of women from across the Episcopal Church.

An opening celebration on July 5 will feature Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who will bless crosses to be distributed to participants, according to Christine Budzowski, a parishioner at Holy Nativity Church, Westchester, and a member of the national ECW board.

“We are pre-loading the first five days of the meeting onto flash drives, which are part of a bracelet, and presenting them to participants,” said Budzowski, who is also a member-at-large for multimedia and will be overseeing Triennial communications.

“We will make the rest of the meeting content available on the website for them to download and fill up the flash drives when they get home,” she added. “We are hoping that provides a way for delegates to bring the Triennial meeting back and share it easily with people back in their dioceses.”

Like the Episcopal News Service and other media, the “Triennial Today” will be published daily online. The editor is Rogena Schuyler Silverman from Holy Nativity, Westchester, who has worked for the Los Angeles Times, Budzowski said.

“We will be publishing articles daily and have a daily online update that can be accessed through our website at www.ecwnational.org,” Budzowski said.

Marie Greatorex, 86, a parishioner at St. John the Divine, Costa Mesa, will be recognized during the gathering as the Los Angeles diocese’s “Distinguished Woman” (formerly known as the “Honored



Christine Budzowski



Marie Greatorex



Woman”). Each diocese is asked to select a woman whose service has been exemplary and, according to the requirements, whose “life in the secular community reflects her Christian values.”

Budzowski said Greatorex is “a driving force behind Girls Friendly [Society]. She’s been active on the ECW board and with communications, she’s always doing whatever she’s asked to do.”

Greatorex said she’s been a member of the ECW “since I married 60-some years ago. I remember going to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in the little town of Plymouth, Connecticut, and we made quilts to sell at the fair and all kinds of things.”

After she became a registered nurse she discovered that while the ECW was changing with the times as its members were increasingly joining the work force, fund-raising and service remained a constant. She is eagerly anticipating the Triennial — the second one she’s attended.

“I think it’ll be different and kind of exciting and fun to get to know the women,” she said during a recent telephone interview. “It’s a chance to meet new people and learn new things. They’re doing lots of fun things. I love that they will have information put on a flash drive and it’ll be like a bracelet. I’m going to take my iPad and I won’t have to have any other computer.”

As for the 5K walk, sponsored by National Episcopal Health Ministries and the Society for the Increase of Ministry and others, Greatorex said she’s registered but isn’t sure she’ll actually walk. But, she added, “what the heck, you can always get a T-shirt for joining it.”

The Rev. Liz Habecker, rector of St. Mark’s, Downey, has attended

(continued on page 7)

At top right: The Canal Walk in Indianapolis will be the site of an ECW-sponsored 5K walk/run on July 8, part of the organization’s Triennial meeting, which runs concurrently with the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.



Elizabeth Habecker



Petra Barragan



Lynn Headley



Loyce Hill



Jo Ann Weeks



Margaret Nolde



Janice Mangangey

nine Triennial gatherings and served twice as a General Convention deputy.

"The ministry of the women in the church has been a strong presence since the 1800s," she said. "As the church of today struggles with budgets, attendance, and membership, the work of the organized women's groups continues on. I see a new resurgence and interest in UTO, Girl's Friendly Society, Daughters of the King and the Episcopal Church Women. New alliances are being formed with the newer interest groups of women as we increasingly combine our efforts to move into the future. The issues facing women, lay and ordained, not only magnify the importance of our presence, we believe we are shaping the next chapter for the Episcopal Church."

Petra Barragan, a parishioner at St. Bartholomew's, Pico Rivera, is among the workshop presenters. "I'm very excited about going. This is my first Triennial," said Barragan, who has served as *rectora* at Cursillo weekends and other ministries and will offer a Spanish-language workshop on women's spirituality at Triennial.

Lynn Headley, a parishioner at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Corona del Mar, and outgoing Province VIII representative to the United Thank Offering board, will also attend.

"I think of UTO as the one place in the church where people can come for funds for new programs," she said. "It's a win-win. When we personally think of the things we are thankful for and put our dollars and our coins into those little blue boxes we win too, because we are thinking about what we're thankful for and it's being turned into things that are blessings for others."

Noting that Loyce Hill of Church of the Advent, Los Angeles, will present the Southland's offerings during the Great Eucharist and UTO Ingathering on July 9, she said: "It's the one time everybody's

together where you hear the name of every diocese in the church called. It's a unifying moment in the convention," she said, for UTO, ECW and Daughters of the King who have stayed to participate.

Headley said she is especially anticipating the ingathering and leading a workshop involving an open discussion of all things UTO, she said. "It's going to be driven by the people who attend, their questions and concerns, what they have to share," she said.

Hill, active in the Union of Black Episcopalians and various other ministries throughout the diocese, currently administers the diocesan ECW medical ministry grants and is looking forward to attending her third triennial.

"It's good for women to get together and share about the work we do," Hill said during a recent telephone interview. "Women have always taken care of the church," she added.

Budzowski will be among the DOK members who join in Triennial events. DOK traditionally meets the week prior to General Convention. This year, they will gather at the Indianapolis Marriott

East for worship, workshops and community. As part of their June 27 - July 1 gathering, "Looking to Jesus — Spreading His Love," members of the order pray for the physical location of convention as well as for the work of legislative houses and committees and for all deputies and convention participants.

The Rev. Jo Ann Weeks, vicar of Grace Church in Moreno Valley, will present an aromatherapy workshop on Essential Oils for the Triennial and Margaret Nolde, a parishioner at St. John the Divine, Costa Mesa, will give a workshop on Girls Friendly Society.

Janice Mangangey, a GFS member, freshman at UCLA and active member of Holy Trinity and St. Benedict Church in Alhambra, will also attend the Triennial, Nolde said. "I decided to invite her to attend with me, using my honorarium to pay for her plane ticket," said Nolde. "She can see the General Convention and also assist me."

Echoing an anticipated General Convention theme, the order members will also discuss structural changes that could possibly make attendance more feasible for more women, Budzowski said.

"In the old days this was the women's meeting and General Convention was the guys," she said. "But now women participate fully in all aspects of General Convention and they're not all free to attend Triennial. We are going to look at what alternatives might be." †

MOUNT CALVARY AT ST. MARY'S RETREAT CENTER PRESENTS
A MUSICAL WEEKEND RETREAT
EXAMINING WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SACRED MUSIC AND POETRY

O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord:

Women's Voices Ring Across the Centuries



MALCOLM COLE, professor emeritus of musicology at UCLA, will introduce seven remarkable visionaries: Hildegard of Bingen, Lili Boulanger, Sophia Gubaidulina, Libby Larsen, Isabella Leonarda, Margaret Rizza, and Mariane von Ziegler, a Leipzig poet whose vibrant sacred verse drew inspired musical responses from J.S. Bach.

LEONORE SULLIVAN CASH, a licensed therapist, writer and teacher, will lead participants through the receptive aspects of our lives and spirituality, drawing her theme from Mary's response to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation: "Be it to me according to thy word."

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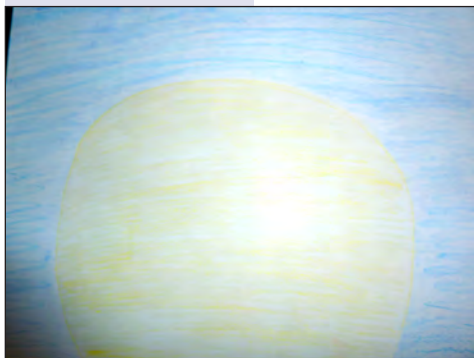
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Prism ministry cultivates 'Good Seeds' at juvenile hall

Episcopal nun
helps young
offenders begin
to overcome
deep hurts,
troubled pasts

By Pat McCaughan

At top: Artworks by
"Serena," an inmate
at Los Padrinos
Juvenile Hall, express
her inner turmoil.

feeling beloved is a tough sell for "Serena", 15, and the other students in the "Good Seed" classes taught by Episcopal nun Sr. Greta Ronningen. Their schoolwork says so.

Like Serena, whose series of four colored pencil self-portraits depict "parts" of herself and also illuminate her inner battles:

A huge sun;

A small white spot showing "God" inside a well of darkness, all of which is nearly swallowed up by bright red anger.

Another, of a demon she called "Rebelision," is a derivative of rebellion and confusion, with question marks for eyes, jagged teeth in a mouth opened in rage, scary enough to evoke tears.

Enabling Serena and the other girls to connect with themselves, with one another and with God through art therapy, meditation, journaling, prayer and counseling are aims of Ronningen's program, also called the "Peace Project."

On May 14, at the urging of her classmates, Serena read from a poem she wrote and titled "Inner Demon":

*There's this inner demon full of flaws
and complications,
she's inside of me, here to destroy ...
she wants to destroy me
she wants me to be sad
she wants me to be depressed
and not feel whole but less than half*

*She hates me she hates me
but yet she's a part of me
She hates me She betrayed me
She wants me to be angry ...*

Dressed in prison issue black pants and gray T-shirts, Serena and five other girls who live in the

special housing unit at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey file into the classroom Ronningen has carefully prepared. (The young women's names have been changed to protect their identities).

Their laughter and good-natured banter belies deep hurts, troubled pasts, and overwhelming histories of victimization, abuse, violence. A total of 400 minors are in the facility awaiting trial on a variety of charges; 75 are girls.

Ronningen prepares the room for class by popping meditative music into a CD player, distributing colored pencils and paper, rearranging chairs, spraying lavender-scented air freshener for "aromatherapy" and lighting a candle.

This particular day, a Monday, Ronningen is teaching on the "sun side" of the unit, a pink building that houses older girls like Serena, ages 15 - 18, charged with serious felonies. The other, or "moon side," houses younger girls facing less serious charges and is where she teaches on Wednesday afternoons.

Though minors, these girls are often labeled by society as monsters, but each was "wounded, hurt and abused" prior to arriving at the facility, Ronningen said. She is a former yoga instructor and business owner turned "subversive" Episcopal nun, who sees traces of herself in these girls, and hopes they can benefit from her own evolution.

Through a three-year grant from the Episcopal Church Foundation for transformational ministries, she is able to offer informational classes on stress, anger, forgiveness, power and control, abusive relationships and healing as well as teaching breathing, meditation and other coping skills. She also offers opportunities for Christian formation and faith-building, for deepening relationships with God.

"I usually start the class on healing by telling them that I was raped when I was 17 by my stepfather's best friend," Ronningen said. "That opens the door for a deeper level of sharing. One class, when I spoke about that, every girl sitting at the table — there were four of them — all four shared their experience of rape. Many tears were shed."

But she adds: "In this environment, it's tricky to be revealing. Some of these girls are in gangs; some live in neighborhoods that (continued on page 9)

“When the holy water was poured on my forehead, I wanted to cry ... It felt like a new beginning, like I was God’s child. I know my life will never be perfect but I will try to maintain the ten commandments from this day forward.”

— “Destiny,” 15, an inmate at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, of her recent baptism

are in conflict with one another. I’m very careful about sharing, but when this came up, it was quite amazing. It helps them build compassion for each other, for the suffering they’ve gone through, and it was very powerful.”

The path to healing involves facing past demons and learning new ways of coping, Ronningen added. Her own experiences led her to “risky behavior and drugs and abuse and it prepared a fertile ground from which I do this ministry.”

She has served for nearly four years as a chaplain for Prism, the restorative justice ministry of the diocese, visiting inmates at the Twin Towers facility in downtown Los Angeles and other locations. She has also completed three units of clinical pastoral education and is working toward a master’s degree in spiritual formation at the Claremont School of Theology.

She is a founding member of the Community of Divine Love, an Episcopal religious order in the Benedictine tradition, in San Gabriel. She had founded the two largest yoga businesses in the United States and continues to teach yoga, including breathing and meditation classes, to cancer patients at City of Hope Hospital.

She also offers individual counseling.

This particular Monday, 15-year-old Christina wanted to stay after class to talk. “There’s a lot of anger in me I wish would be out,” she tells Ronningen, worried that she will spend yet another birthday in jail. She has essentially been on her own since she was nine years old and was arrested at 14 and charged with murder, she says.

She isn’t sure how she got to Los Padrinos. “I never did drugs, didn’t drink, I always went to school, I didn’t get into trouble, how am I here?” she says. “I feel like this is a bad dream. I don’t want to be here. I want to be free and with my family, not waking up with strangers, eating at a precise time, lights off at a certain time, with time limits on the phone, my mail is opened, wearing these clothes.

“I keep thinking about all the other stuff I could be doing.”

Ronningen interjects: “Take a deep breath and get some perspective,” she says. “You are here and you can use this time ...

“... to be productive,” Christina finishes the sentence. “I have faith,” she concludes. “I hope God has my back. He knows what’s in my heart, who I am, that I don’t want to do bad, that I’m just waiting and ready to go home. I have a lot of hopes that the Peace Project is helping me see what’s truly there.”

“I love this,” Ronningen said of her ministry at Los Padrinos. “There’s such a need. There’s such a huge hunger. I just want more people to actually join us. People who have volunteered with Prism just love it.

“People who are incarcerated are so hungry,” she said. “They’re so humbled by this brokenness in their lives, by this crisis that there’s an opportunity to bring this nutrient-dense word of God into their lives.”

Recently, she was asked to be the godmother for one of her students.

Destiny, 15, grew up in Compton. Fresh-faced, soft-voiced, shy, she rakes her hand through her shoulder-length hair as she describes first connecting with Ronningen seven months ago.

That was after she graduated from “Level 3 ... when they say you want to kill yourself or somebody else.”

Ronningen’s revelations about her own experience of rape struck a chord with Destiny, also a victim of sexual abuse. She soaked up all the Good Seed classes she could, repeating the lessons aloud.

“What got me was how we can breathe, try different types of breathing, and learning about anger issues and calming ourselves down, to think before we act,” she said.

She has learned a great deal, she said, especially about forgiveness and redemp-



PAT MCCAUGHAN

Greta Ronningen of Prism, the diocesan restorative justice ministry, works with young women at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

tion. She hopes to someday work in a hospital, conducting sonograms for expectant mothers. “It represents a new life, new children from God. A healthy life.”

“When the holy water was poured on my forehead, I wanted to cry, but I didn’t. It felt like a new beginning, like I was God’s child,” she said.

“I know my life will never be perfect,” she added, “but I will try to maintain the ten commandments from this day forward.”

She wants people to know, she said, that whatever the circumstance or situation “whether you’re being abused or bullied, whatever things people do to put you down or see you said, don’t believe what they’re saying. Love your life.”

Destiny, Ronningen said “is so beautiful, she has hope, she’s such a bright light, she has such a tender heart, having suffered so much. We’ve talked about the idea that she would someday be of great inspiration and hope to others who also suffer.

“I think that these girls need to have good seeds planted in their hearts and minds: coping skills, wisdom, love of God,” Ronningen added. “I think that these seeds are planted and will come to fruition in their lives.” †



JANET KAWAMOTO

Camp Stevens celebrates Bergstroms' 40-year legacy

Director to
retire at
summer's end

By Pat McCaughan

Peter and Vicki Bergstrom had been married four short years — which included both domestic and overseas volunteer service — when they took a chance on a newly created position at Camp Stevens.

“Peter happened to see a job announcement at Camp Stevens; they had never hired a year-round director before,” recalled Vicki Bergstrom during a recent telephone interview. “We went there thinking, maybe we’ll stay a year if we like it.”

That was 40 years ago.

It was 1972, two years before the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego was carved out of the Diocese of Los Angeles. Camp Stevens was located on 78 acres of land near Julian and served about 700 children in the summers only. The camp was about 20 years old when the Bergstroms arrived. There was one staff person, multiple buildings in serious need of repair and a \$40,000 annual budget.

Now as they prepare to celebrate both the camp’s 60th anniversary and their Sept. 1 retirement, Peter Bergstrom, 65, recalls there being “a lot of maintenance and repair to existing facilities and helping to cook and wash dishes and clean buildings” the first few years. Vicki Bergstrom served as a volunteer and eventually as part-time reservations coordinator.

They are leaving the Julian camp significantly changed. Today it occupies 256 acres of land, has an annual operating budget of \$950,000, and 17 full-time staff members, plus interns. The camp serves 550 children during the summers and another 2,000 children and 3,000 adults year-round.

Its phenomenal growth, says Bergstrom, is due simply to inviting change and continually working himself out of a job.

“It’s been a totally different job every five to six years,” Bergstrom recalled. “After I mastered one part of it, I’d hire somebody else to take that over and move on to other things. That’s what’s kept it interesting and challenging for me.”

Legacy to be honored in new building

The camp serves both the Los Angeles and San Diego dioceses. Bishop Jim Mathes of San Diego said: “the people of San Diego will always, always remember the Bergstrom’s lifetime of loving work at Camp Stevens.”

“Perhaps their greatest legacy is that Camp Stevens is now a leader in environmental stewardship with solar panels, an organic garden, a recycling program and more,” Mathes said. “We’ve all been taught to be a bit more gentle with ‘this fragile earth, our island home’ because of them.”

The couple will have another lasting legacy at the camp. Diocesan treasurer and Camp Stevens board member Larry Sawyer unveiled plans for the proposed Bergstrom Lodge during a June 2 gathering at the Irvine home of Bishop Suffragan Diane Bruce.

“This is a great step forward for our next 60 years of existence for Camp Stevens,” Sawyer told the gathering of about 80.

He noted that the camp was founded 60 years ago through the vision of Bishop W. Bertrand Stevens and the Rev. John Lax and the Rev. C. Boone Sadler Jr., and continued through Peter and Vicki Bergstrom’s tenure. “Camp Stevens has become a place very integral to many of our lives,” Sawyer continued. “It’s a place to enjoy nature, to be off in the quiet, to feel a part of God’s creation, to be in a closer relationship with our Lord. Those are very important things for all of us and we want to make sure it’s available for future generations.”

Bruce told the gathering that if everyone who ever spent time at Camp Stevens gave \$100, the amount would be, at the least, more than \$2.5 million.

The new lodge will accommodate up to 35 guests. More than half of the estimated \$900,000 cost has already been raised, thanks to a gift of \$450,000 from the Rev. Michael Kaehr, retired rector of St. John’s Church, Chula Vista, and Dr. Nancy Olmsted Kaehr. A formal capital campaign is slated to begin in early 2013 to raise the remaining funds for the lodge, as well as funds for three adjacent hermitage cabins, eight guest rooms and meeting rooms. The lodge will be located on a hillside above the dining hall with a view of Volcan Mountain and will be ideal for adult retreats, couples and small families, Sawyer said.

Bergstrom also told the June 2 gathering that Camp Stevens had received a \$500,000 gift from the Seamen’s Church Institute *(continued on page 11)*

Vicki and Peter Bergstrom speak at a June 2 reception in their honor at the home of Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce and Steve Bruce.

(see related story, page 12) for use in maintaining its organic garden.

“Your being here is an important part of this legacy and I am grateful you are here,” Bruce told those assembled to honor the Bergstroms. “Bishop Bruno is grateful you’re here. We’re very grateful all of you came, however far — it says something about what this camp means to you, to your families, your history. We’re very, very grateful.”

‘More than a camp’; inviting change

Over time Peter Bergstrom transitioned from maintenance worker, dishwasher and cook to counselor to administrator to developer and fundraiser. Now he is ready for yet another change — “retirement.”

“I think 40 years is plenty long to have one person in charge,” Bergstrom said during a recent telephone interview. “It’s time for other people with new ideas and more energy to come in and work with the staff and develop new programs and new responses for the changing social climate in which we find ourselves.”

Changing social trends have concerned him, both at Camp Stevens and in his role as part-time executive director of the Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers Inc., a national association. He plans to continue in that role after he retires, helping to equip others to meet the challenges of increased competition from summer sports and specialty camps, as well as social media and the reality of dwindling youth populations in churches.

“There are 85 camp properties around the Episcopal Church, including Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador, and there are another 20 or so programs that don’t have [permanent] sites,” Bergstrom said.

“We will have to have different programs, that’s for sure,” he said. “We’re trying to be very proactive. We realize that huge change is already happening and even more is coming and we can’t just sit and wait for it to put us out of business.”

Proactive is one way that John Horton, the camp’s director of administration, describes Bergstrom’s leadership style. Visionary, practical, and egalitarian are others.

“It’s not the typical, top-down leadership model,” Horton, 59, said in a tele-



JANET KAWAMOTO

phone interview.

He arrived at the camp four years after the Bergstroms, after his college graduation, at Peter’s invitation, Horton recalled.

“Peter said, why don’t you come up and learn how to fix stuff, because everything is broken here. So I did, and it was fun.”

Most importantly, however, “we started to dream about what kinds of things we could do to increase the use of the camp,” he said.

“It became very clear to me that we were an educational institution of the church and not just a camp,” Horton said. “We weren’t a Sunday school or a vacation bible school or just a summer camp; we were an educational institution that had camping and environmental education and provided a place ... where people could come and have outdoor experiences and retreat into God’s creation ... and we got busier and busier.”

Patsy Brierley, 69, says her Camp Stevens experiences in 1956 while growing up at Holy Faith, Inglewood, inspired lifelong volunteerism in the diocese. She has been a Camp Stevens counselor and board member, and is a member of the search committee to name Bergstrom’s successor.

“Peter is a great leader, he has done wonderful things with that camp,” she said during a recent telephone interview. “I can’t think of any place that has done more to form children in this diocese than Camp Stevens. It’s a place where kids learn the importance or relationships, of working together, of completing a task, even of failing and still being loved.”

Brierley, a parishioner at St. Cross by-the-Sea in Hermosa Beach, praised espe-

Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce points out photos of Peter and Vicki Bergstrom dating from 1972, the beginning of their long tenure at Camp Stevens, to the present. The Bergstroms’ daughter Jenne, at left, and her brother Erik grew up at the camp.

cially Bergstrom’s foresight to purchase additional land surrounding the camp, preventing the encroachment of development, and his vision in mentoring young leaders.

“Peter has a gift of not only choosing great people to be on his staff but also in training great (continued on page 16)



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A 'good' good-bye: Seamen's Church Institute ends port ministry

Conclusion of
institute's
century-old
mission
benefits Camp
Stevens, other
programs

By Pat McCaughan

Seafarers relax at the
Seamen's Church
Institute, an institution
of the diocese
founded in 1905.

back in the day, the Seamen's Church Institute offered spiritual and physical refuge, respite and refreshment for mariners wandering Los Angeles area docks while waiting to ship out again.

It was the 1950s and Captain Brian Harrison, 84, of Rancho Palos Verdes, a former British Merchant Marine, remembers it well.

When ships, like the United Kingdom-bound vessel on which he served as second officer, docked at the ports to load grain, lumber and citrus fruit, its 70-member crew had opportunities ashore for recreation, connecting with families overseas, financial assistance, and even pastoral support at the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI).

"The Institute provided a place of refuge for seamen who were in port or on a ship. Or sometime they were living here, waiting for a ship," Harrison said during a May 16 telephone interview from his home.

"People could go seek advice, maybe even play a sport like soccer if there were enough people around at the time and there was a chaplain. He helped them in any way they needed help," Harrison said.

That was the agency's heyday. Then technology happened. Rapid change meant reinventing the ministry.

The SCI adapted to the changing culture until, more recently, its board discerned that "our work with seafarers, our ministry in the ports of San Pedro and Long Beach, had come to an end. It was not sudden, it was something we realized was coming

to a close," said the Rev. Kelly Crawford, who has served as SCI director for about 20 years.

But there were no sad farewells.

Rather, there was "real joy when we started looking at new mission and new ministry," said Crawford. "Ministries have two ways to go when this happens. One is to hold on till they die — not a good death. The other is to recognize their ministry is ended and to celebrate it."

Noting that the ultimate goal of a nonprofit is "to work yourselves out of a job, that that's the greatest thing that can happen," Crawford and SCI board members designated the agency's remaining assets for several other diocesan ministries, including Camp Stevens (see related story on page 10).

"Every port is different," he added, "but at least in Long Beach and Los Angeles, it had come to a time where to be good stewards of our resources we needed to look for different types of mission and ministry."

A legacy of service

Founded in 1905 as a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles the agency's original aim was "to minister to the seafarers to keep them away from bars," according to Crawford.

In 1921, its name officially became the Seamen's Church Institute and the agency ministered "to the isolation, the poor working conditions, poor pay" associated with the industry, he said.

During World Wars I and II, the agency enjoyed its heyday. "San Pedro at that time was quite an active place," said Crawford.

"There was a very active American Merchant Marines. The other big power on the seas was the British Merchant Marines."

Then, ships were in port for weeks at a time as stevedores loaded cargo. Often mariners' pay didn't stretch for their entire shore leave. The SCI filled the gap, offering food, a place to congregate, a way to connect with family overseas, spiritual sustenance.

"There are pictures during the holidays when the SCI had a location down on the harbor on the old Beacon Street and the hall was filled with seafarers all lined up and ready for a Christmas dinner," he added.

The agency relocated to the pier for increased visibility and accessibility to seafarers. The Rev. Art Bartlett, a former longshoreman and the grandson of a seafarer, served for 30 years in a variety of capacities. He started as a volunteer, became program director in 1958, and later was executive director and chaplain. Bartlett initiated a program for seamen's wives, and began an annual memorial service to remember seafarers who died the preceding year.

But as technology (continued on page 13)

changed so did the face of the maritime industry, forcing the ministry to adapt.

"The SCI has gone through many changes in its life as the industry changed," said the Rev. Canon Paul Lawson, a long-time SCI board member. "There used to be loose cargo, so seafarers would come and be onshore for days or weeks while waiting for another ship, or while their ship was loading."

An international seafaring presence replaced the 19th- and early 20th-century American and British mariners. Shipping containers replaced loose cargo, requiring fewer seafarers and shorter port stays. Crew size dwindled, from as high as 100 to a dozen or so.

When Crawford was called as interim director in 1991, "my specific charge was to determine whether or not the SCI of Los Angeles had a mission and ministry or whether it should close," he said.

"At that time we decided that we wanted to refocus our mission and ministry and experiment with a few ideas and possibilities to decide what we might do."

Agency focus shifted to the cruise line industry. At the time, crews "were more often in port. Their living and working conditions were not the best and there was a great need for land-based services" such as postal, financial and telephone services.

The Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union opened a satellite office in 1996 at the SCI to help accommodate those needs, according to Urla Abrigo, ECFCU manager and CEO.

"It was open on weekends only, Fridays, Sundays and Mondays, because those were the days the cruise ships came in," she said.

Cruise ship personnel kept the office very busy, especially sending money to relatives overseas via wire transfers, Abrigo said, "because the SCI had a safe place to put their money. They sent a lot of wires home; we used to send about 30 to 35 wires a day."

But the office closed in 2004 for various



At top: A Seamen's Church Institute chaplain distributes supplies to sailors at the Port of Los Angeles. At right; Princess Anne of Great Britain chats with the Rev. Canon Art Bartlett, then-director of SCI, during a July 1984 visit to the institute. The princess was president of an international organization for the benefit of seafarers.



reasons, including increased governmental restrictions and "because cruise ships were relocating from San Pedro to Long Beach"

which reduced clientele, she said.

"When I first came it was not uncommon on a cruise ship for five men or women to share a room with four or five bunk beds," Crawford recalled. Their closets were roughly the size of public school gym lockers and "they barely had room to turn around in. They also shared common baths and showers."

The agency became a stopgap for crew members, who could be stationed aboard for up to a year, and often were isolated from family at home, which led to the creation of the telephone bank, according to SCI board member Chuck Naylor.

But changes in the cellular industry reduced the cost of overseas calls; communicating via Skype was free. After attempting to discern other ministries the board concluded "we just didn't find anything in the seafaring community and so I think it was sad for all of us to let that go but the seafaring life is not what it was," he said.

Naylor, a former parishioner at St. Pe-

ter's Church, San Pedro, and a maritime attorney, said today's seafarers are paid well enough they don't need a "crash pad."

The evolution was "in a way it was kind of like watching your children grow up and become independent," he added. "It's terrific, but it is still kind of sad to say goodbye to an organization that had been part of service to seafarers for so long."

"Cell phones and the Internet changed how seafarers communicated and what their needs were," Crawford agreed. "The telephone banks that had been essential for them to communicate with folks at home ended up being redundant because they could use cell phones and call from almost anywhere at any time."

"We kept looking for a way to adapt as long as we could," added Lawson, who praised Crawford's leadership through a very difficult time and many changes and transitions. "He also did a lot of pastoral stuff. He went on board ships to resolve issues crew members had, for example," Lawson said of Crawford.

"He did a really good job of finding places for the ministry to go and of keeping everyone on board and doing the ministry there was to do. And when it became clear that the ministry was ending, he worked really hard so it would morph into new life." †

Grace Church marks 100th year as 'a solar light' in Glendora

Yearlong
celebration
reaches
mid-point
with festive
Eucharist

By Pat McCaughan

Surrounded by parishioners, Bishop Catherine Roskam and Rector Susan Scranton prepare to bless a newly refurbished playground during a June 3 centennial celebration at Grace Episcopal Church, Glendora.

There are a lot of ways to celebrate a centennial anniversary and for Grace Episcopal Church, reprising the Glendora congregation's rich musical heritage seemed especially appropriate.

So did rededicating a refurbished pipe organ and a brand new preschool playground structure at a June 3 anniversary Eucharist and brunch. The Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam, retired bishop suffragan of New York officiated on behalf of Bishop Jon Bruno at the 10 a.m. service, attended by about 280 current and former parishioners, friends and guests.

Tying together the anniversary celebration and Trinity Sunday, Roskam spoke about the church's task of bringing light to the world, and called Grace Church "a solar light that was placed in the garden of this community" in 1912. She said that the abundant sun-power of Christ is "a light and life and power that carries us through life with joy, and that is what we have to offer to the world.

"May the Holy Spirit empower you for at least another 100 years of being a light in God's garden," she concluded.

A highlight of the centennial service was a rousing arrangement of "When in our music God is glorified," performed by the choir, organ, handbells and trumpet. All the performers were members of the congregation.

"We have an enormity of gifted musicians, so we enjoy all this glorious music. It's a blessing," said the Rev. Susan Scranton, rector, who holds a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Southern California.

The yearlong celebration has featured both choral and instrumental musical offerings. It began with a joint January Evensong service at St. Luke's Church in Monrovia, which initially planted the Glendora congregation a century ago, Scranton said.

The lineup of events has included an April 22 handbell concert at the Nixon Library and participation in a May 20 interfaith community choir that has become an outreach for the church's 20-voice choir, according to David Aldrete, choirmaster.

"It's quite an experience, and a lot of work for everyone involved," Aldrete said. "It started out of

love of wanting to make music together and putting aside religious differences and joining together in things we have in common and using music to praise God."

That sentiment has been the cornerstone of Grace's community, according to Frank Boyd, a former senior warden who currently serves on the vestry, outreach, stewardship and centennial committees.

"The thing I like about this church is, we are a group of people who are in many ways very different and have different opinions ... but in the end we all respect each other and we all have a love for each other," he said.

"We come together and are joined in the fact that we're here for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We're always able to go into that sanctuary to pray and worship together and that's the strength of this church," Boyd said. "When you come here you're not going to find people who all believe the same thing and are all unified. We all come from different places and we all respect each other and we share communion together."

Scranton agreed. "We really are trying to embody that for one another, for the people that are here and the ones who walk in and to reach out to the community as well. To let them know that no one is alone when somebody is in difficulty. That there's somebody there to lend a hand, to pray, to walk with them."

A rich musical heritage

Grace Church has always been "absolutely known for strong music," according to long-time member Jackie Stong, 73, of Azusa. She recalled being confirmed along with her entire family by Bishop F. Eric Bloy in 1949 at the age of eight. She and her mother, Roberta Stong, joined the junior and senior choirs respectively.

(continued on page 15)



MOLLY KAWAMOTO

"We have an enormity of gifted musicians, so we enjoy all this glorious music. It's a blessing."

— The Rev. Susan Scranton

At that time, Grace was known as the little redwood church on Vista Bonita Avenue. The Rev. Wallace Essingham was the rector and his wife Nona Cowles Essingham was organist and choir director, "a wonderful musician and a special person who always gave of herself," said Stong.

"Her gift of music has provided a good foundation throughout the years to the present day," added Stong, whose mother served as choir director from 1960-64.

She recalled "when the junior choir was asked by Dorchon Rubel to sing for her wedding to John Forman on July 15, 1950. What a thrill that was!"

Dorchon Rubel was the daughter of one of Grace's storied rectors, the Rev. Henry Scott "Heinz" Rubel, a Broadway and radio performer and comedy writer and musician/composer for stage, radio and motion pictures, and who was key to the church's community involvement and development.

That tradition of musical excellence continues today, with a choir that is "absolutely passionate about the music" and accompanied by Rick England on organ, said Aldrete. Some choir members also perform occasionally with the flute, oboe, trumpet, guitar, bass, and there are also several handbell choirs under the direction of Marilyn Scranton, the rector's mother.

Upgrading the church's organ, created in 1974 by Manuel Rosales, who designed the organ for the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, was key to that passionate expression, Aldrete said. "Music is such an integral part of our worship experience. We don't do anything halfway, everything is full out. We really do try to put our best before God with the music, and that shows in the worship of the congregation."

A century of growth, stewardship and development

Zella Cramer, the parish's resident historian, said she and others were passionate in their quest to document the congregation's roots. They visited diocesan offices, local libraries and checked the records at

St. Luke's, Monrovia.

Grace's is a story of stewardship, planted in November 1910 by about ten people, and cultivated over a century of faith and conviction. That handful of aspiring worshippers met initially in a private home on Minnehaha Street, now Foothill Blvd., with the Rev. Henry Quimby, vicar of St. Luke's, Monrovia, according to Boyd.

It was the home of J.F. Bandholt and was known as Boulder Grange and sat on a 20-acre citrus orchard. "Today we know it as the La Fetra Center," Boyd wrote in an article for the centennial. "Now, whenever I pass the La Fetra Center, I see in my mind's eye this small and faithful group — the founders of Grace Church — sitting in the Bandholt's parlor for Evening Prayer."

Quimby continued to travel via horse and buggy to hold services for the fledgling church in the Masonic Hall and later, in Converse Hall (now a drug store) after serving his own Monrovia congregation.

The congregation grew quickly and a year later purchased a lot and erected a 20x30-foot redwood building on Vista Bonita Street. Intended to be a parish hall, it was used for worship. Records indicate the opening service was held June 28, 1912, a first baptism was performed Sept. 1 and by December of the same year the congregation had grown to 80.

The Rt. Rev. Joseph Horsfall Johnson, first bishop of the then eight-county Los Angeles diocese, performed the first public confirmations in March 1915. In 1920, the church officially became a mission of the Diocese of Los Angeles and welcomed its first vicar, the Rev. Romeo Gould, two years later. Parish status was achieved six years later; the first sanctuary was outfitted with furnishings purchased from the old St. Paul's Church in Los Angeles. By 1937, the building was debt-free and Bishop Bertrand Stevens consecrated it.



PHOTOS: RICK SANDONA

Don and Barbara Dexter and Bishop Catherine Roskam check out the Dexter's 1912 Model T. On September 15, Grace Church will sponsor a classic car show as one of its centennial events.

Rapid growth prompted Rubel to envision building a new church, a dream nurtured by subsequent clergy, including the Rev. Wallace Essingham (1948-52) and realized through the efforts of the Rev. Peter J. Brownlee (1953-64). A rectory was built in 1953, followed by the parish hall, classrooms, a main sanctuary, bell tower and chapel. The first service in the new location was held Christmas Eve 1954 and for a while, both locations were used for worship. The present church, located on East Mountain View Street, was dedicated on Oct. 27, 1957.

In 1986, the parish's rectory became known as "Grace House" and was home to teen-aged unwed mothers. Childcare was provided and Grace parishioner Dorothy Raney served as "house mother."

As Zella Cramer and fellow parish historians Marylen Hart and Mary Ann Burkhalter delved into the parish's history, they discovered, along with a tradition of community outreach and stewardship and a lifelong love affair with music, that the parish had sometimes a checkered past.

There was, for instance, the matter of Sally Rand, famous fan dancer and Grace parishioner, whose 1942 wedding had to be performed in the parish hall instead of the sanctuary because she married a divorced man — a major scandal at the time.

Another red-letter day was the 1993 visit from retired Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who blessed children, celebrated the Eu- (continued on page 17)

people who came to the camp to be interns or part-time staff and then who have taken that training out into the greater United States if not other places in the world," she said.

Empowering camp leaders and 'good citizens of the world'

Eva LaBonty served in various capacities on and off for six years at Camp Stevens, beginning in 1995. "I'm really going to miss Peter and Vicki. They've really made the place feel like home and they've created that with a lot of people," said Labonty, 38, who with her spouse, Greg Clensy, is a co-director of Camp Latgawa, a Methodist and Episcopal camp in southern Oregon.

She is among 10 former camp staffers who now operate camps throughout the country. She recalled Bergstrom's visionary leadership in creating programs to train camp directors as well as counselors, "actually teaching young adults how to be good Christians in the world and to be good citizens of the world."

Also outstanding was the way he embraced change, especially from "young 20-somethings on the staff who wanted to try out new approaches and ideas," she added. "Not too many people have that skill of being able to embrace change, embrace new ideas and see where they go."

Bill Slocumb agreed.

"Peter lets people go with their passion," helping to create a training ground for leaders, said Slocumb, a former Camp



The proposed Bergstrom Lodge, shown here in an artist's rendering, would accommodate up to 35 guests. Fundraising will begin in early 2013, anchored by a gift from Michael and Nancy Kaehr.

Stevens intern and staffer who has served as ECCC full-time staff member for the past five years.

"Peter gives you chances to make mistakes and chances to have responsibility," Slocumb said.

40 years of memories

For Bergstrom, there are some obvious stand-out moments from his tenure at Camp Stevens, including creation of year-round programs for public and private schools and the John Horton-inspired challenge and teambuilding course, as well as developing the organic garden and embracing environmental sustainability.

Rebuilding and fundraising after the 2007 "Angel" wildfire is another seminal moment that catapulted Bergstrom into a major fundraising role. The fire severely burned 70 acres of forest, destroyed 12 buildings, and reduced camp capacity from 124 to 40 beds.

That capacity has been restored through the use of temporary facilities and new construction. Fundraising is still under way, particularly to expand and renovate the dining hall and to complete construction of three cabins.

The camp's conservation efforts have earned several awards, including an Energy Oscar from California Interfaith Power and Light, and an EARTH Award presented by the mayor of San Diego.

Diocesan community invited to celebrate Sept. 2

A celebration of both Camp Steven's 60th anniversary and Peter and Vicki Bergstrom's 40-year ministry is planned for 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2 at the camp. The Los Angeles and San Diego diocesan communities are invited to attend.

Bergstrom hopes to have his successor on board by August, to have some overlap before his Sept. 1 retirement date. (His successor was announced June 8 by Bishop Bruno; **see story on page 3.**) The couple is moving about six miles from the camp and both plan to remain busy — Peter with ECCC and Vicki as part-time technology coordinator at Spencer Valley School, a position she has held for nearly 30 years.

"We also hope to travel," said Vicki Bergstrom. "We're taking a group to Costa Rica in February and doing a couple of the Baja backpacking trips we do every year. This summer we are still doing the women's and the family backpacking trips in the Eastern Sierra Mountains. We take a group up to hike at base camp at 10,500 feet, and go from there."

As for Peter, he says: "I'll be available to give any assistance needed for the new person, or to just stay out of the way." †

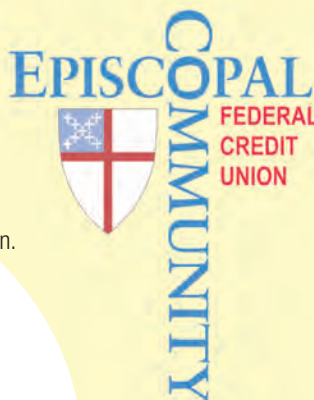
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charist and warned the gathering “against television, money and power.” He added his hopes: “this community will flourish on a foundation of faith and live for others,” according to an article in the Pasadena Star News.

“The thing I’ve enjoyed is that we’ve been here 100 years but the community hasn’t changed a lot,” said Frank Boyd. “There’s always been a strong sense of community centered around Jesus Christ and you can see it” even in church records. “They’re wearing different clothes and listening to different music, but there always seems to be this real, close-knit community that cares for each other. It’s cross-generational — these are not people being sent to the seniors club or the juniors club or the married people’s club, but we all share communion together.”

Through the years the women’s auxiliary and other women’s groups were key fund-raisers. The first record of a woman vestry person, Lucille Edgar, dates to the early 1970s. After several rectors with relatively brief tenures, the congregation called its 18th and first woman rector, Susan Scranton, in 1997 — “a great steward of the Lord’s money,” said Marylen Hart, centennial committee chair.

Looking ahead: 2012 and years to come

Under Scranton’s leadership, ambitious repairs have been made in Baxter Hall, the kitchen, classrooms, and the church, as well as refurbishing the organ and purchasing new playground equipment.

“We were able to do that because we became stewards and are very prudent with our money,” Scranton said.

The church incorporates reminders of the church’s roots, from the Vista Bonita chapel: the altar, the wood beam, the memorial wooden door and the wooden cross, located above the door of Baxter Hall.

A 1912 Model T Ford, driven by Don and Barbara Dexter and parked outside the church June 3 recalled the church’s illustrious history and reminded parishioners of another coming centennial event: a Sept. 15 classic car show at the church, Scranton said.

A June 24 service will replicate as closely as possible the liturgy and music from 1912. Other celebrations will include a

performance of John Rutter’s *Requiem* on All Saints Sunday and end with a Dec. 16 Christmas concert, Aldrete said.

“As we’ve been thinking about the next hundred years ... we hope the church will be around and will have that same dedi-

cation and love,” Aldrete said. “We see a timeline of music that has been there all the way through as well as the gift of outreach to the community, so it’s not just an insular community. We really do proclaim the gospel in a number of different ways.” †

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Bishops urge Obama to intervene in UN funding cut for Gaza hospital

[Episcopal News Service] The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has ended its financial support to the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, an institution run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The decision, made June 1, cuts the hospital's budget nearly by half. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori (pictured) along with 103 Episcopal Church bishops from 43 states and the District of Columbia have written to U.S. President Barack Obama calling for his intervention in reversing the decision that, they say, could have "disastrous consequences for the more than two million residents of Gaza, already living in conditions of profound humanitarian need." Bishops Jon Bruno, Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary D. Glasspool of the Diocese of Los Angeles are among the signers. More information and a video report are here: <http://bit.ly/K7BHKP>



Youth leaders' retreat planned at Santa Barbara center

Leaders who work with youth and young adults at congregations in the Diocese of Los Angeles are invited to the Program Group on Youth & Young Adults annual retreat, titled "Repose, Respite and Recreation," June 22 -24 at Casa de Maria Retreat & Conference Center in Santa Barbara. The annual Santa Barbara retreat "has awakened a clear vision of youth ministry's unique community," according to diocesan youth officer Chris Tumilty. A video preview of the retreat is here: youtu.be/afX7iOLbZxw. Cost is \$100 per person; make checks payable to the Diocese of Los Angeles with PGYM in the memo line and mail to PGYM Retreat, 840 Echo Park Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90026. Also, please email reservation information to Shawn Evelyn at shawn.evelyn@gmail.com and Chris Tumilty at ctumilty@ladiocese.org or call 213.482.2040, ext. 211.



Butler Bass, McLaren to discuss new 'great awakening'

Claremont School of Theology will present best-selling author, scholar and Episcopalian Diana Butler Bass; public theologian and best-selling author Brian McLaren; and the Rev. Mark Whitlock, senior minister of Christ Our Redeemer African Methodist Episcopal Church, the largest AME church in Orange County — all experts on the cutting edge of new "emergent church" trends — in a forum titled "A Great Awakening? Signs of a New Christianity," moderated by CST Dean Philip Clayton. All are welcome to this free event Tuesday, July 24, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Mudd Theater, Claremont School of Theology, 1325 N. College Avenue, Claremont 91711. For more information, visit www.cst.edu or call 909.447.2500.

(continued on page 19)

DEPUTATION *(continued from page 5)*

unions in response to General Convention 2009 Resolution C056 (<http://bit.ly/KUR1tF>) and I look forward to working with the

committee that will consider those resources for the church," she said.

She will also focus on such "interest areas as inclusion, evangelism and communication" and has contributed to the production of "Voices of Witness: Out of the Box" a documentary giving voice to the witness of transgender Episcopalians which will be screened at convention and distributed to all bishops and deputies.



The Rev. Canon Cindy Voorhees, an associate of St. John's ProCathedral, Los Angeles, is a first-time deputy "interested in small congregations, local ministries, mission and the status of women."

A frequent participant in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, she is the founder of Voorhees Design, a Huntington Beach commercial design firm focusing on religious institutional building. She is also the founder of Orma's Fund and of Building Africa, a nonprofit

organization of architects, engineers and building professional involved in community development in Africa.

She also aids churches in strategic planning and liturgical renewal and adapting facilities to changing circumstances.




Janet Wylie, lay deputy, St. Andrew's, Fullerton, and diocesan Secretary of Convention, is a first-time deputy. She attended the two previous conventions. She hopes to parlay more than 30 years' involvement with Sunday school and youth programs into "anything to do with youth" while at General Convention.

Alternate deputies include: the Honorable Joanne O'Donnell (St. James' in-the-City, Los Angeles); Canon Jim White (All Saints, Pasadena); Diane Barry (St. Wilfrid of York, Huntington Beach); the Very Rev. Canon Jim Newman, rector of St. Bede's, and the Rev. Betsy Anderson, associate at St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades. †

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Retreat will examine women's voices in sacred music, poetry

"O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord": Women's Voices Ring Across the Centuries," a musical weekend retreat with co-conductors Malcolm Cole (pictured) and Leonore Sullivan Cash, will be held at St. Mary's Retreat House Friday - Sunday, August 17 - 19, sponsored by Mt. Calvary. Cole, professor emeritus of musicology at UCLA, will introduce seven visionaries: Hildegard of Bingen, Lili Boulanger, Sophia Gubaidulina, Libby Larsen, Isabella Leonarda, Margaret Rizza, and Mariane von Ziegler, a Leipzig poet whose sacred verse drew inspired musical responses from J.S. Bach. Cash, a licensed therapist, writer and teacher, will lead participants through the receptive aspects of human life and spirituality, drawing her theme from Mary's response to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation: "Be it to me according to thy word." Cost is \$200 per person (including all meals). Participants should arrive after 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17; the workshop will conclude after lunch on

Sunday, Aug. 19. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required. Registration should be made directly with Mt. Calvary at St. Mary's Retreat House; visit the website, call 805.682.4117, or email to mtcalvary1@aol.com.





Applications now open for Abundant Table Farm Project internship

The Abundant Table Farm Project (ATFP), an Episcopal Church program in Ventura County, is seeking applications for one- to two-year Episcopal Service Corps internships for young adults (ages 21 to 30) interested in farming and gardening, living in community with others, vocational discernment, spiritual reflection and engaging in community justice building. Intern jobs include local land-based organizations such as a small scale organic farm, a community garden, a native plant nursery, an assisted living community, etc. For information, visit theabundanttable.org or call 888.707.6513 or send an email to info@theabundanttable.org.



Young people prepare for visit to Pine Ridge reservation

For the past 12 years, young people, clergy and lay leaders from the Diocese of Los Angeles have traveled to the village of Red Shirt on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (Lakota-Sioux) in South Dakota to perform a variety of service projects to improve life on the reservation. This year teens from seven congregations of the Los Angeles diocese, plus Native young people from South Dakota and Minnesota, accompanied by the Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls and the Rev. Michael Cunningham, will travel to Pine Ridge July 15 to August 1. The trip is planned without cost to the young people; adult leaders pay their own expenses. Cunningham and Two Bulls have received several grants for the work and are seeking donations to pay expenses for the young people, fund the work and buy materials. Donations in any amount are welcome, and may be made payable to St. Mary's Church, 2800 Harris Grade Road, Lompoc, Calif. 93436. For details, contact Cunningham at 805.733.4400 or rector@stmaryslompoc.org. More information is here: <http://bit.ly/KnJbUT> †





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CONNECTIONS

◆ **Jadon Dean Hartsuff**, **James Kyung-Jin Lee** and **Sharon Kay Sheffield** will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 16 at St. John's ProCathedral. The presence and prayers of the diocesan community are invited.

◆ The Rev. **Khushnud Azariah** has been called as vicar of St. George's, Riverside.

◆ The Rev. **Charleen Crean** has been called as a deacon at All Saints Church, Pasadena.

◆ Church of the Messiah, Santa Ana, held a retirement party on June 10 for the Rev. **Carolyn Estrada** to celebrate her 12 years of ordained ministry there.

◆ The Rev. **Dina Ferguson** has been called as vicar at St. George's, Hawthorne.

◆ **George Mercer** has retired as executive director of Community Housing Management Services (CHMS), an outreach of the Diocese of Los Angeles launched in 1986 to provide quality housing to low income people. CHMS and Episcopal Communities & Services (ECS) recently announced their formal affiliation.

◆ The Rev. **Margaret McCauley** has been called as deacon to St. John's ProCathedral, Los Angeles.

◆ The Rev. **Kelly O'Connell** will begin her ministry as rector of St. Stephen's Church, Santa Clarita, in July.

◆ The Rev. **Altagracia Perez**, rector of Holy Faith Church, Inglewood, will be the

REQUIESCAT



◆ The Rev. **Don Lewis**, who served congregations in San Juan Capistrano and San Marino, died on May 31 at age 81 at Morro Bay, Calif. His wife Huntley, a daughter, a son and daughter-in-law and a granddaughter survive him. A celebration of Lewis's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 15, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2700 Eaton Road, Cambria, Calif. 93428. †

Obituaries may be read in full at www.episcopalnews.com

CLUE honors Lydia Lopez

Canon **Lydia Lopez** was presented with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by Clergy United for Economic Justice (CLUE-LA) at the organization's ninth annual "Giants of Justice" breakfast on May 24 at St. Anthony Croatian Catholic Church, Los Angeles.

Lopez is retired associate for communication and public affairs in the Diocese of Los Angeles and a past president of the United Neighborhoods Organization (UNO).

Canon **Marian Wright Edelman**, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, based in Washington, D.C., also participated in the event. The program concluded with a stirring address by James Forbes, retired senior pastor of New York's Riverside Church.

Other honorees were: the Rev. David Farley, pastor of the Echo Park United Methodist Church and chair of the Cal-Pac immigration task force; Los Angeles City Council member Paul Koretz; the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, director for Justice, Southwest Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and Dream Team L.A. (Emerging Giants), college-based immigration rights organizers.



Lydia Lopez



Marian Wright Edelman

first recipient of the Pauli Murray Distinguished Humanitarian Award at the Union of Black Episcopalians Legendary Tribute and Gala on Tuesday, July 3 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, just prior to General Convention, to which Perez is a deputy from the Diocese of Los Angeles.

◆ The Rev. **George Silides** begins his ministry as priest-in-charge under special

circumstances at St. Ambrose's Church, Claremont, in June.

◆ The Rev. **Kay Sylvester** has been called as rector of St. Paul's, Tustin.

◆ The Rev. **Martir Vasquez** has been called as rector of St. Andrew's, Glendale, Arizona. His last Sunday as rector of St. George's, Hawthorne, was April 22. †



RICK SANDONA

Bishop Roskam pays pastoral calls

The Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam, retired bishop suffragan of the Diocese of New York, now resident in the Diocese of Los Angeles, has recently made several pastoral visits on behalf of Bishop J. Jon Bruno, who is being treated for leukemia. Above: Roskam greets a parishioner at Grace Church, Glendora, where she presided at the parish's June 3 centennial celebration on Bruno's behalf. (See story on page 14.) †



GFS chapter launched in Woodland Hills

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Woodland Hills, has established a Girls Friendly Society branch. Above: Alex Jacobs, a member of the diocesan board, and the Rev. Barbara R. Stewart, outgoing chaplain of GFS/LA present a charter of organization from GFS/USA to Tonya Page-Rynerson, Elizabeth Bates, and GFS members on May 5. GFS is a world-wide fellowship for girls ages 5 to 18. †