Welcoming Bishop Barbara Harris to convention on 25-year milestone of her episcopate

It was 25 years ago, on September 24, 1988, that Barbara Clementine Harris was elected bishop suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. When she was ordained to the episcopate in Boston on February 11, 1989, she became Anglicanism’s first woman bishop in its history of more than 450 years.

This year, when Diocesan Convention gathers Dec. 6 - 7 in Ontario, we will have a unique opportunity to salute and celebrate with Bishop Harris, who will be with us to deliver the third biennial Margaret Parker Memorial Lecture. The lecture will be on Saturday morning, Dec. 7 (at approximately 11 a.m.) and open to visitors. I am delighted that we will hear from Bishop Harris and be able to share with her personally our love and appreciation.

Bishop Harris’s ministry and presence with us reflects another facet of our Convention theme: “Seeds of Hope: Serving Together in Abundant Vineyards.” Bishop Harris is living proof of how the Holy Spirit moves among us, achieving more than we ever thought possible when great accomplishments grow out of carefully nurtured seeds of possibility.

Our Convention speakers also will include Tim Alderson, executive director of our Seeds of Hope program, and the Rev. Andy Barnett, both of whom will highlight ways in which our congregations are thriving in their parish and mission farming initiatives. Together we are growing an abundant harvest of fruit and vegetables that are shared with those in need, and Tim will offer practical steps for those who would like to become involved with this program.

Our Convention elections this year will include voting for those clergy and lay deputies who will represent the Diocese of Los Angeles in 2015 at the Episcopal Church’s 78th General Convention, set to meet in Salt Lake City.

For further details, please see the article on page 3 and visit the Convention pages on the diocesan website, www.ladiocese.org, where you will find materials including hotel and meal reservations and information about our new venue, the Ontario Convention Center. I look forward to welcoming you there, and to celebrating the ministry of Bishop Barbara Harris as together we plant new seeds of hope in Christ.

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On the cover: Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce of the Diocese of Los Angeles, Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio of Cuba and Bishop Suffragan Mary D. Glasspool of Los Angeles called, threw and caught (respectively) the first pitch for the 20th annual Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium on Aug. 30. See story on page 8.
Diocesan Convention to meet Dec. 6 - 7: Theme for gathering is ‘Seeds of Hope’

The 1118th meeting of Diocesan Convention will take place Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 - 7 at the Ontario Convention Center, where it will continue with the theme “Seeds of Hope: Serving Together in Abundant Vineyards.”

A highlight of the meeting will be the third biennial Margaret Parker Memorial Lecture, delivered by Bishop Barbara Harris, first woman to be elected a bishop in the Anglican Communion (see Bishop J. Jon Bruno’s column on page 2 for more).

The Ontario center is located at 2000 E. Convention Way in Ontario, just north of Ontario Airport.

According to the Call to Convention mailed to delegates and clergy of the diocese on July 15, the meeting will be called to order at 1 p.m. on Dec. 6; the registration area will open at 9 a.m. in the lobby.

Before the convention, delegates and clergy are invited to submit resolutions for the meeting to consider; the deadline is Sept. 27.

Nominations for diocesan office will also be voted on at convention. Nominations must be submitted to Secretary of Convention Janet Wylie by Oct. 18.

Resolutions and nominations must be submitted using the designated forms on the website (see box below). A draft convention agenda, detailed instructions for delegates, hotel and meal reservation forms, youth participation information and childcare reservation forms may also be found there.

An assembly will be held in each of the diocese’s 10 deaneries before convention. The schedule is being finalized, and will be posted on the convention webpage.

Community safety forums to continue

Episcopalians in Orange and San Bernardino counties will be the next groups to share in diocesan Community Safety Forums, building on the success of similar gatherings recently hosted by Bishop J. Jon Bruno in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

Keynote speaker for the Orange County forum on Oct. 5 will be Sandra Hutchins, sheriff of Orange County. Hutchens was appointed to the position on June 10, 2008. Prior to her appointment, she was retired from the position of division chief within the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. In the June 2010 California primary election, she won a majority of the votes and is currently serving her first full term as sheriff.

Bishop Bruno has requested that each congregation send a team of at least two representatives — clergy and lay — to join him at one of the local forums. For information, call the diocesan Office of Community Relations at 213.482.2040, ext. 240.

Upcoming forum dates and locations:

**Orange County**
Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
St. George’s Church
23802 Avenida de la Carlota
Laguna Hills

**San Bernardino County**
Saturday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
St. John’s Church
1407 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino

New diocesan program to help church members get insurance under Affordable Care Act

The national Affordable Care Act will take effect in January 2014, and many previously uninsured Californians will be able to obtain health coverage in the revised system.

The Diocese of Los Angeles, under the leadership of Archdeacon Joanne Leslie and newly named Diocesan Health Outreach Coordinator Shelley Weitzel, is launching a program to help church members and others determine their eligibility and options for insurance.

The program will work with Covered California, the state government program formed to develop an organized marketplace where legal residents of California can buy health coverage as required under ACA.

The diocesan project is coordinated under the nonprofit Community Health Council (of which Leslie is a board member) and its partners from across the Southland to conduct outreach and education activities that will raise awareness about opportunities for affordable healthcare coverage.

Weitzel, a member of St. Mark’s Church, Glendale, will be available to visit any congregation, school, institution or church organization in the diocese to provide information about the new insurance marketplace, answer questions and help people apply online. She is available for Sunday, Saturday or weeknight forums. Help will not be limited to Episcopalians; church members will be invited to bring friends, neighbors or relatives who need to find insurance under the new laws.

For information or to set up a forum, contact Shelley Weitzel at sweitzel@ladiocese.org or 818.398.3670.

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**Contribution Information online**

All forms and instructions are posted on the Diocesan Convention page at www.ladiocese.org/convention/home.html and are updated regularly.

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**Shelley Weitzel**

A program to help church members and others obtain health insurance coverage.

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**NEXT ISSUE:**

Report on Community Safety Forums around the diocese
When members of All Saints Church in Pasadena received a report of a gunman on campus one Sunday a few months ago, they quickly sprang into action.

“We were in between services and we had a report that a man had entered the church. There was a report he had a gun. We evacuated the church, and we had a plan about how to do that,” said Nancy Naecker, All Saints’ junior warden. “The police came and arrested the gentleman; he did not have a gun,” she said.

Any given Sunday, the church’s planned responses to natural and other disasters is on a clipboard located near the pulpit, along with an emergency bullhorn, a checklist of what needs to happen next and the names of designated leaders for that particular day.

For example, during an earthquake, Naecker said, “the designated leader for the day would flip to the earthquake section and it will list what he’s going to do, what he’s going to say, to begin taking charge, so there’s no memory that needs to happen.”

Such advance planning — whatever the disaster — can help churches better weather emergencies themselves and position them to more effectively reach out to vulnerable parishioners and community members, according to the Very Rev. Canon Michael Bamberger, a diocesan disaster preparedness coordinator.

Most of the diocese’s 20 specialized institutions and 40-some schools already have disaster plans. But the diocese’s 139 congregations — not so much, said Bamberger, a volunteer firefighter and rector of the Church of the Ascension in Sierra Madre.

At the request of Bishop Diocesan Jon Bruno, he and Canon Bruce Linsenmayer, a retired Pasadena police commander, are serving as diocesan disaster preparedness coordinators. Their aim is to assist congregations, schools and institutions in developing and updating disaster preparedness plans (DPPs).

“People don’t do anything in the way of planning or preparation until something happens,” Linsenmayer said during a recent telephone interview. “And then, once a disaster happens, the first thing they want to know is, what do we do now? “There’s just no substitute for planning, even if it’s rudimentary,” he added. “Even if you walk around the house with your family and say, ‘if there’s an earthquake, we’re going to stay where we are, take cover, and wait till it’s over. Or, we’ll follow this path out the back door, and if we can’t go that way, we’ll go this way.”

He added: “If there’s an earthquake during church services, you would hope the rector or someone in a position of authority would remind people to take cover and stay there till the shaking stops and then exit in a calm fashion, and that the Sunday school teachers will know where to take the kids, to point A or point B.”

The “ABCD” of disaster planning

Southland congregations can anticipate being contacted about emergency preparedness planning, and also about asset-mapping, a pilot program that the Diocese of Los Angeles, along with five others, is participating in with Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), the international disaster relief agency, said Bamberger. (See related story on page 12.)

ERD began working to develop diocesan and local emergency preparedness resources after August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and other cities, killing some 1,800 people and racking up $81 billion in property and other damages, according to Bamberger.

About 42 of the 109 dioceses in the Episcopal Church are participating currently in ERD’s preparedness efforts, largely because “churches are incredibly well-positioned to serve the vulnerable after a disaster,” said Katie (continued next page)
Mears, ERD’s director of USA disaster and preparedness response.

“In order to do an effective job, we can put simple systems in place that allow us to respond quickly and efficiently,” she added.

Mears said that by using asset-based community development or the “ABCD” program congregations can begin to know and understand both their own and their community’s resources and needs. Other participating dioceses include Mississippi, Louisiana, El Camino Real, Northern California and New York, she said.

“We’re specifying what the assets of the Episcopal Church are,” Mears explained during a recent telephone interview from her office.

“We know that in theory a lot of churches have food banks, and a lot have homeless shelters, and AA and other recovery groups, but we don’t necessarily know where they are. So, after a disaster, those ministries become really important because those churches are often the ones who have the easiest time jumping into action, because they’re already set up to help the community,” she said.

“We’re particularly interested in helping dioceses know exactly where those ministries are so they can better utilize them after disasters.”

**The 4 Ps of Disaster 101**

Bamberger invited congregations to designate disaster preparedness coordinators and to ask for help (see information box below). He and Linsenmayer will assist them in the basics of what he calls “Disaster 101” and the “4 Ps — people, programs, property and pesos, or finances.”

“The good news is, they don’t have to start a plan from scratch; there are resources available on the ERD website to help congregations” and institutions develop plans, according to Bamberger who, as part of ERD’s Partners in Response Team, has traveled to other dioceses affected by hurricanes and tornadoes to facilitate their process of recovery.

Congregations will be asked “to think about the ministries they have that are the most vulnerable, about who in their congregation is the most vulnerable and then, taking it a step further to encourage people to get to know their neighbors so we can serve the most vulnerable in our neighborhoods in the event of disaster,” he said.

In other words, says Linsenmayer, “churches have a responsibility to their parishioners to be able to have a plan to take care of them during these kinds of incidents. The first stuff involves knowing how to get in touch with parishioners in your parish in multiple ways, just to make sure they’re okay.”

A next step is to make sure “your facility is going to work so you can get people into church as soon as you can, to get them back into a regular routine and prayer life, and to help them over the long term because, once the first responders leave, there’s no long-term follow-up and that’s what this whole disaster initiative is all about.”

**Disaster planning in the Diocese of Los Angeles**

Congregations, organizations and institutions of the diocese are encouraged to name a disaster preparedness chair and to call upon the diocesan coordinators for help in developing a plan for dealing with disaster.

Planning and training material also are available on the website of Episcopal Relief & Development at [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org) (select “Resources & Learning”)

**Contacts:**

The Rev. Canon Michael Bamberger
626.355.1133
mab@ascension-sierramadre.com

Canon Bruce Linsenmayer
626.794.4495
brucelinsenmayer@att.net

Several times in the last decade staff members at Camp Stevens have evacuated the facility due to the threat of wildfire. The camp maintains detailed plans and holds drills to prepare for such occasions.

**DPPs evolve, need updating and practice**

One certainty about All Saints, Pasadena’s DPP, says Nancy Naecker, is that it “keeps evolving.”

ERD’s DPP examples can be basic or specific, are adaptable to a variety of institutions and include evacuation procedures, what to do in case of a lockdown, and assigning specific tasks during a crisis. For example, at All Saints, in the event of an earthquake a medical team made up of clergy and ushers would help the injured with first aid.

Local police and firefighters are also tremendous resources. Initially, All Saints connected with the Pasadena Fire Department, whose liaison officer “and trainers have come out to visit and each time we learn new things we didn’t think about,” Naecker said. “We had an usher training also where some police and fire department personnel came in to teach us how to evacuate the sanctuary successfully, if need be.”

John Horton, administration director at Camp Stevens in Julian, said the camp has a “generic plan” adaptable to specific circumstances. And of course, there are regular fire drills as new groups of campers arrive, he said.

Previous fires have taught the staff that our plan “had good basics but we needed to work out more of the details” especially ensuring the interchangeability of roles, so the plan didn’t depend on any one person to be successfully executed, he said.

“Camp Stevens” (continued next page)
DPP involves three basic scenarios, depending on the amount of time campers have to evacuate. If at “the last level, is the fire’s on the road and you can’t get out … we had to come up with basic alternatives,” including fireproofing the dining hall, Horton said.

Practicing the plan is as important as regularly testing equipment, like the handheld radios campers might need to communicate. Horton said practice sessions have included allotting ten minutes for people to grab their most important personal belongings and pack their cars.

School prepares for fire, earthquake

At St. Martin in-the-Field Episcopal School in Winnetka, a preschool through 8th grade institution with about 110 students, everyone practices basic fire and earthquake drills, according to upper school headmaster Wendy Byrnes.

“But, if there’s an actual earthquake we have a much more complicated procedure, broken into different phases,” she said. “When the shaking stops, children are evacuated. We have different routes laid out depending on where children are, how to move the most children the fastest and get away from the buildings,” she said.

Their DPP involves ensuring everyone’s out of the building, setting up first aid stations, and overseeing the release of children safely to appropriate parents and adults. If need be, the school has “enough of everything — food, first aid supplies, clothing — to take care of the children for 72 hours” in an alternate onsite location.

The Los Angeles Police Department has assisted St. Martin’s in developing its DPP, and offered helpful advice about how to interact with law enforcement agencies, she said. “They’ve told us what will happen when they come onto the property, if they’ve been advised” of a shooter on campus or another potentially volatile situation, Byrnes said.

“We’re not saying that our plan is perfect, but the general consensus is to plan for the worst case scenario and hope for the best case scenario,” Byrnes said. “With all the things happening these days, you have to plan.”

Bruce Linsenmayer agreed.

“There’s just no substitution for good preparation,” he said. “People need to make sure to have something to eat or drink for several days, or to have the ability to go to a Red Cross shelter, or a food distribution point. You need to think about what you will do a week afterwards, two weeks later. Those are the kinds of things we need to include in plans.”

 Adds Bamberger: “It’s never too late to start planning. It’s important to have these plans because things happen. It’s not a matter of if we’re going to have an earthquake, it’s a matter of when.”
Andrew Oohata outlines Japan’s efforts to recover from 2011 earthquake, tsunami

By Pat McCaughan

Bishop Andrew Yoshimichi Oohata of Tokyo — in California to attend the 40th anniversary celebration of Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries — on June 26 addressed a gathering of about 60 people at St. Mary’s, Mariposa, Los Angeles’ historically Japanese American congregation.

Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce, who was among more than 40 Angelinos who also attended the conference in San Francisco, said she invited Oohata to L.A. who also attended the conference in San Francisco, said she invited Oohata to L.A.

Oohata regaled the gathering with personal stories, even singing a song in Japanese, explains his diocese’s relief efforts.

“I really ask you to pray for us and keep us in your prayers because prayer is so powerful.”

Bishop of Tokyo renews call to ‘walk together’ at Los Angeles gathering

Japan. The Diocese of Tokohu is one of 11 dioceses in the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK), the Anglican church in Japan, with 35 parishes and five chapels, representing about 5,000 congregants, 60 percent of whom are 70 years of age and older. The magnitude-9 earthquake struck off the coast on March 11, 2011, triggering a tsunami and killing and displacing thousands of people. It also heavily damaged Sendai Christ Church, the cathedral in the Diocese of Tokohu, an outlying region.

“First I thought God didn’t want me to be a bishop,” he joked.

Then sobering, he noted that the damage affected about 500 miles of coastline and took a devastating toll on families who lost loved ones. But the diocese has pledged to help rebuild the cathedral and assist in what will be a long-term recovery through a project titled “Let Us Walk Together.”

“Now we need to stand up,” he said. “We need to move on and we try to get every help that we can get, to sustain us, our life, and we need to go stand up and start over life again. We try to do everything we can do. We try hard.”

Oohata sold a diocesan bishop’s residence and committed diocesan endowment funds to aid in earthquake relief, an amount totaling about 3 billion yen (approximately $30.1 million US). He has committed to raise more money.

“We are committed to help with emergency relief to support the diocese of Tokohu because with 10 clergy it is so hard for them to support the people of the region,” he said.

As the church begins to enter the recovery’s second phase, “I’m not just talking about the Diocese of Tokohu,” Oohata added. Many survivors are still displaced, homeless, and unemployed, “especially in the area of Fukushima, because of the nuclear accident.”

Following the earthquake, a series of accidents and equipment failures resulted in nuclear meltdowns and the release of radioactive materials at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, judged the worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine.

Although, economic problems have beset the area because “no one wants to buy their food products,” Oohata said. The church has reached out to many of the Fukushima residents who migrated to Tokyo but are marginalized because of their dialect and inability to gain employment, he said.

“We encourage the people living in Tokyo to meet and have coffee with them and for their kids to play together,” Oohata said. “We meet together once a month.”

At top: Bishop Oohata, in front of a photo of John Yamazaki, late rector of St. Mary’s, Los Angeles, explains his diocese’s relief efforts.
The Episcopal News  Fall 2013

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Bishop of Cuba throws first pitch, builds connections in Los Angeles

It just might have been the power of the three women bishops on the Los Angeles Dodger Stadium field Aug. 30 that helped propel the home team to a 9-2 win over the San Diego Padres.

Tossing out the first pitch to mark the annual Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium was Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio of Cuba, who was visiting Los Angeles. Bishops Suffragan Mary Glasspool was the catcher and Diane Jardine Bruce the umpire. It was a joyous occasion for the three bishops, who first met in 2010 at the College for Bishops, which provides opportunities for education and formation for both active and retired bishops.

“There was a lot of positive energy on the field as Bishop Griselda pitched the opening ball to Bishop Glasspool. While it bounced a bit before it actually reached home plate, after a secondary inner deliberation, I called it a strike,” Bruce quipped after the game.

Especially exciting for Delgado and her husband Gerardo Logildes Coroas was a chance encounter in the clubhouse with an icon of Dodger baseball.

“Meeting [retired Dodger manager] Tommy Lasorda was a great treat, especially as he had played baseball in Cuba,” said Bruce. “He spoke with the bishop and her husband in Spanish about his time there. Bishop Griselda and her husband love baseball — baseball is a much-loved sport in Cuba.”

Added to the excitement was witnessing their own hometown hero, Yasiel Puig, also known as “the Cuban Phenom,” who joined the Dodgers in 2012. Puig didn’t disappoint: his four hits and two stolen bases contributed to the Dodgers’ win.

“It was a dream come true for them,” Bruce added. “And, as Gerardo said to me, ‘there are no words to express our gratitude for being able to be here!’”

It was a light-hearted moment in a busy calendar for Delgado, who was also scheduled to visit the Diocese of Wyoming. A day earlier, she met with a gathering of about 75 clergy and laypersons at the Cathedral Center of Los Angeles and described the Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba’s exciting new initiative — building a camp for children.

Speaking through translator Marilyn Peterson of the Diocese of Florida, Delgado drew hearty applause as she described dreams for building the camp, to be named in honor of the Rt. Rev. Alexander Hugo Blankingship, who served as diocesan bishop of Cuba from 1939 until his retirement in 1961.

“He was the last American bishop of Cuba,” she told the gathering. Before he retired, Blankingship purchased about ten acres of land on behalf of the diocese, which encompasses some 6,000 Episcopalians in 44 congregations and institutions, according to Delgado.

“The church was able to maintain the property during communism,” she told the gathering. “The land is in the middle of Cuba with a little river running through it, and it is our dream to start a camp there for the children and for the Episcopal brothers and sisters,” she said.

Delgado said, through the interpreter, that laws are being relaxed regarding property ownership in her country, and that she has confirmed that the Episcopal Church holds the deed for the land. Authorities have paved the way for work to begin on the camp, to fulfill Blankingship’s dream.

The camp will augment the church’s goal of reaching out “to bring the Gospel and the Spirit of God to the young” as well as to working people, she added.

Delgado described some of the cultural forces that stymied the church for many years and how those influences are abating.

“At the beginning, when the revolution came along, a lot of priests and people of Christian thought, including Episcopalians, left the country and … the people who were left behind were at least praying that they could keep the light of Christ and the light of the church alive through the years. That was their hope,” she said.

The Cuban revolution ousted then-President Fulgencio Batista in 1959, when Fidel Castro assumed power. His government (continued next page)
reorganized along the lines of the Communist Party in 1965.

Then, Christian churches were regarded as “superstitious or unenlightened … and most people did not want to be known as ignorant, or having a superstitious way of thinking,” Delgado told the gathering.

Yet the culture is changing with the times; both church membership and ecumenism are growing, and “the government has been opening up more dialogue with the churches, in terms of richness and content,” she added.

Church and state relations improve

Applause erupted throughout the gathering as Delgado, through the interpreter, added that even current President Raúl Castro, who assumed leadership from his brother Fidel in 2008, “has been to the cathedral in Havana four times now and has been listening to my sermons and has had interaction with our Episcopal Church.

“These are at ecumenical events that are taking place, not just Episcopal Church events but the venue has been at the cathedral,” added Coroas, Delgado’s husband, through the interpreter.

Ecumenism is also expressed through collaboration regarding social, health and other issues and Delgado, who was appointed bishop in 2010, said that in spite of theological differences over women’s ordination, she and officials of the Catholic church, the majority Christian denomination, have maintained a healthy mutual respect.

“I have had occasions to meet with the Catholic cardinal in Cuba” she said, adding that she regarded it as a great sign of respect when at one such meeting the cardinal called her “Senora Obispa” (Mrs. Bishop).

Another sign of their mutual regard, she said, was a special invitation to her from the Vatican during a papal visit in March 2012. “I was seated just about eight seats down from the president, in the front row during a mass attended by over one million people in the Revolutionary Square in Havana,” she said.

She offered a brief history of the Episcopal Church in Cuba, which dates to the middle 1800s and which eventually became an American missionary district, she said.

After the revolution, however, it became an extra-provincial diocese, governed by a metropolitan council composed of the archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church and the Archbishop of the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

That structure continues. In 2007 the council appointed Canon Nerva Cot Aguilera and Ulises Mario Aguero Prendes as bishops suffragan under the direction of an interim bishop, the Rt. Rev. Miguel Tamayo Zaldívar of Uruguay. Aguilera, who died suddenly in 2010, was the first woman bishop in Latin America.

In January 2010 the Metropolitan Council appointed Delgado as bishop coadjutor; she was installed as diocesan bishop in November of that year. She is the first woman to hold that position.

In response to a question about the status of gays and lesbians in Cuba, as well as those living with AIDS, she said that the laws in Cuba have changed and that attitudes are also changing.

While acknowledging that societal change can be a slow process, Delgado said the church has always been clear that “we give dignity and respect to human beings and in this regard, the church will continue to respect the dignity of each person.”

“The task of the church is to be able to balance these different competing things and attitudes that come along at different times and different ways in different cultures. It’s a balancing act and involves educating people, and pastoral efforts and it is one of the tasks that faces the church in Cuba.”

She also noted that the church is busily empowering leadership — both lay and ordained. Delgado’s spouse is currently a seminarian and in the process for ordination.

She noted that there are 25 clergy, including four women, who are responsible for some 44 congregations, as well as about 26 lay people involved in Christian education and six students in residential seminaries.

Yet, despite its challenges, positive change is also happening and she declared to the gathering, “The Gospel is alive and well in Cuba.”
New credit union manager’s philosophy: ‘people helping people’

Sandra “Sandee” Rosas played in Echo Park as a child, but never dreamed that she’d one day return to the neighborhood to serve as manager of the Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union (ECFCU).

She has had more than 24 years’ experience in the financial industry — 22 of it serving in credit unions — but what drew her to the ECFCU, she said, was learning about the credit union’s economic justice ministry.

“Before I applied for this position, I didn’t know much about the credit union and how important it was to the community,” said Rosas, 47, during a recent telephone interview.

But after some research, she concluded, “What the credit union does is really important for community development, giving loans to individuals who would not be able to get loans elsewhere, and offering financial education and assistance.”

That’s because economic justice gels with her own personal philosophy “of people helping people.” She aims to continue current credit union initiatives and hopes to eventually expand them.

Rosas has worked for the Household Finance Corp. and other companies and is experienced in nearly every facet of the credit union industry, including such positions as vice president of lending, executive operations manager, collection manager and director of collections.

Daniel Valdez, credit union board chair and CEO, says Rosas not only brings solid experience but also a fresh perspective to the agency.

“I’m very pleased to have Sandee join us as our credit union manager,” Valdez said. “She brings many years experience and a fresh perspective to our credit union that are surpassed only by her passion for the ministry.

“The board and I are excited by her energy and commitment to serving our members and to reaching out to those who haven’t yet discovered this vital economic justice ministry of the Diocese of Los Angeles.”

The Rev. Canon John Taylor, who chaired the transition committee, agreed.

“The committee recommended Sandee to the board after interviewing eight finalists. We were impressed by her breadth and depth of management experience and her palpable heart connection with the economic justice mission of our credit union,” he said.

“An exciting extra was that she grew up not far from the Cathedral Center. Both she and we felt it was the job she’d been preparing for her whole career.”

Reaching out to potential members

The credit union has more than 2,000 members and about $5 million in assets, and with just a few weeks on the job — she started July 22 — Rosas says she is taking the time to get acquainted with the credit union and its people.

“My focal point is to service the members we currently have and to retain them,” she said.

Eventually, she hopes to get out “and visit all the churches and let them know what we have to offer and all of the delivery mechanisms we have, letting them know we are part of a cooperative service system where all credit unions are partners.

“Potential members want to know where they can obtain money and it’s hard to grasp sometimes that they can walk into any credit union and make a withdrawal or a deposit, even though it (that credit union or system) might not have our name on it,” she said, referring to the cooperative system.

One of four children, Rosas grew up in Lincoln Heights and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from California State University at Los Angeles. Her father was a chef who fed celebrities on the sets of such NBC-TV series as “Wonder Woman” and “Hawaii”; her mother was a homemaker.

A former Catholic, Rosas says she is now a born-again Christian, “a firm believer who loves Jesus Christ and is active in her church.”

She lives in Chino Hills and has a 20-year-old daughter who is a film major and attends the Art Institute of Orange County.

She succeeds Urla Gomes, who retired July 31 as chief executive officer of... (continued next page)
Surveys seek church members’ thoughts on next PB, women’s issues

Results to inform nomination profile, church priorities

The Episcopal Church on Sept. 9 released two surveys and invited responses from all Episcopalians.

Presiding bishop nomination profile
The first survey is from the Episcopal Church Joint Nominating Committee for the Presiding Bishop (JNCPB).

“In the summer of 2015 [at General Convention], the church will again assume the responsibility for electing the next presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church,” explained Sally Johnson, co-chair of the committee. “To assist us in that work, the JNCPB has issued a survey seeking data that will be helpful in our process of developing the profile of the type of leader the church is seeking.”

The electronic survey consists of six substantive questions in areas such as most important personal characteristics of the next presiding bishop (life deeply formed by scripture and prayer; skillful manager of people and resources; understand and speak multiple languages; activities engage in fund raising; head the restructuring of the church; strengthen relationships in the Anglican Communion) and areas of focus (articulating a compelling vision for the church; work to heal divisions in the church; demonstrate a commitment to inclusive language version may be found at surveymonkey.com/s/BQWT9FM.

Deadline for completing the survey is September 20.

The committee will release the profile in December. It expects to open the nomination process on March 1, 2014.

For more information contact JNCPB at pbnominatingcommittee@gmail.com.

2014 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Input also is requested from members of the Episcopal Church for a questionnaire that will form the foundation of the church’s presence and participation at the 2014 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) meeting, March 10 - 21, 2014.

The online questionnaire, sponsored by Ecumenical Women at the United Nations (ecumenicalwomen.org), is at bit.ly/15LNwCs. No name is required; demographic information is limited to the location and gender of the respondent.

The priority theme for the 2014 UNCSW is “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls.”

“Ecumenical Women invites all to participate in deciding on its advocacy priorities,” explained Lynnaia Main, Episcopal Church officer for global relations. “The questionnaire can be answered by anyone affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Answers will be gathered and posted to Ecumenical Women’s website, and will be considered in forming Ecumenical Women’s advocacy priorities at the UNCSW in 2014. It will also be used to provide grassroots input into the Episcopal Church’s advocacy process and create stories on MDGs and advocacy.”

The questionnaire was prepared by Ecumenical Women with input from the Episcopal Church and other denominations.

Deadline to participate in the survey is September 20.

Data from the questionnaires will be submitted automatically to the Episcopal Church and Ecumenical Women upon submission. From the answers, advocacy priorities will be formulated and a joint written statement prepared to be submitted to UNCSW for the 2014 event.

For more information contact Lynnaia Main, Episcopal Church Officer for Global Relations, lmain@episcopalchurch.org. —TEC Office of Public Relations

“…We want to hear from Episcopalians throughout the church as this will help guide us in our endeavors.”

CREDIT UNION

“Right now I’m just getting my hands around it all. The ultimate goal is to grow the credit union to the point where we can open another branch or two.”

CREDIT UNION (continued from page 10)

the credit union. Gomes joined the credit union in 1994 shortly after its inception as an economic justice ministry of the diocese.

Rosas’ vision is to expand the credit union’s reach. “Basically the long-term objective is to grow as much as we can and reach more of the churches,” she said. “We have a lot of untapped resources, to make it grow while not affecting our capital.

“But,” she added, “that’s in the future. Right now I’m just getting my hands around it all. The ultimate goal is to grow the credit union to the point where we can open another branch or two.”

THE EPISCOPAL NEWS  Fall 2013   11
Congregations throughout the diocese just might receive a phone call from Johnna Dominguez inquiring about their feeding programs, food pantries, community gardens, local connections and parishioners’ expertise and skill.

It’s called asset-mapping and the 24-year-old University of Alabama graduate student is spending a year in the Greater Los Angeles area Episcopal Urban Intern Program and serving as a food systems analyst with the diocesan Seeds of Hope program.

“She’s here to do this big project that is an essential foundational piece of our whole ‘Farm the Diocese’ initiative,” says Tim Alderson, executive director of Seeds of Hope (SOH). “In order to farm the diocese we need to know what resources we have and so she will be calling congregations to find that out.”

Which means that Dominguez will “be working with me on mapping the assets in the diocese that could be deployed for food production or food distribution,” Alderson added.

Dominguez will also make visits “to identify what we have in the way of land, who’s growing food, what we can do, where we do it, where food pantries and feeding programs are and where we have the facilities to do it if we want to.”

And that’s not all.

Another aspect of the project will include mapping human assets as well as area demographics, charting local expertise as well as tracking impoverished areas, pinpointing locations of food scarcity as well as accessibility to fitness and recreational facilities.

“In other words, another layer is making the connections,” Alderson said. “Like who knows somebody, who has contacts so, if I’m trying to do something at my church and I need help, I can go on the Seeds of Hope website and find someone to help me.”

The information will help create a cooperative network to counteract such issues as food scarcity, poverty, and obesity, he said.

For Dominguez, who began her new role Aug. 12, the idea of mapping the human, social, and ministry assets and of some 70,000 Episcopalians in 139 congregations across a six-county geographic region, is more than exciting; it’s possibly even a calling.

A biocultural anthropologist who studies relationships between human biology and culture, she said that serving with Seeds of Hope “seemed exactly like what I’d done in graduate school, making surveys, analyzing data. I’m really excited because this is the kind of stuff I love doing.”

She outlined such steps to the project as data collection, survey development, and finally interviewing and visiting those who don’t respond to the surveys.

“The first part is data collection — race, ethnicity, poverty level, obesity, where grocery stores are, where parishes are, things like that,” she said. Some of that information will come through accessing U.S. Census Bureau records and collaborating with other agencies that keep track of poverty and other statistics, she said.

“We’re going to develop two surveys. The first one is a parish survey and that will be where we ask parish staff about the kind of land they have, are there gardens or food pantries and if not, what is your capability of having those sorts of things?

“The second will be for parishioners, and we’ll ask what kind of expertise they have. And about their contacts — do you know someone in politics? Farmers? Grocery stores?”

Returning to the Episcopal Church

Dominguez, who was raised Jewish and converted to Christianity a year ago, said that by joining the Episcopal Church about a year ago, she was returning to her faith roots, although she didn’t realize it at the time.

“It’s weird, because when I became interested in the Episcopal Church, I went a lot and when I told my mom I wanted to be Episcopalian, she said I’d been Episcopalian when I was younger, before she converted to Judaism,” Dominguez recalled.

She found the EUIP while seeking a way to explore Christianity.

“I was looking for a program to explore that faith and to volunteer because I thought that’s the best way to explore Christianity,” she recalled. She found the Episcopal Service Corps, a federation of young adult service programs (continued next page)
As The News went to press, Bishop Jon Bruno announced that Episcopal Church services will resume Sunday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m., and continue thereafter on Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Episcopal Church of St. James the Great, 3209 Via Lido, Newport Beach. All are welcome. Further reports will appear in the Episcopal News Update and Weekly editions.

Bishops invite young adults to become ‘Versed’ in scripture

Young adults of the diocese (ages 21 - 39) are invited to join Bishop J. Jon Bruno and Bishops Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary Glasspool for “Versed,” a series of six programs exploring the human nature of people in the Bible on Tuesday evenings, 7 - 9 p.m., beginning Oct. 8 and continuing through Nov. 12, at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles. Each program will begin with dinner and continue with a discussion with one of the bishops. Cost is $60 for the series (includes dinner). To register or for information, contact Chris Tumilty, diocesan youth officer, at 213.482.2040 or ctumilty@ladiocese.org.

Episcopal Chorale to hold 30th annual scholarship event

The Los Angeles Episcopal Chorale will hold its 30th anniversary Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, October 13 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel 506 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90056. A reception will begin at 1 p.m., with lunch served at 2 p.m. The chorale will honor its founder and director, Canon Charles H. Cheatham, as well as Mary Bruno and Lethia Flowers. Scholarship winners and the chorale will perform during the luncheon. For tickets or information call 855.353.5327.

Prism chaplains invited to retreat with Frank Rogers

Prism Restorative Justice will hold its annual chaplains’ retreat, titled “Radical Compassion: The Three-Fold Spiritual Path of Jesus,” Sept. 19 - 22 at Mt. Calvary Monastery, Santa Barbara, led by Frank Rogers, (pictured), professor of spiritual formation at the Claremont School of Theology and co-director of the Center for Engaged Compassion at Claremont Lincoln University. Individual spiritual direction will be offered by the Rev. Dennis Gibbs, CDL, director of Prism. Cost for the retreat is $360, including accommodations and all meals. For information and reservations contact Mount Calvary at 805.682.4117 or at mtcalvary1@aol.com.

Terry Hershey to conduct Oct. 5 retreat in Pomona

St. Paul’s Church, 242 E. Alvarado Street Pomona, will offer a day with Terry Hershey, author, humorist, inspirational speaker, ordained minister and self-professed golf addict. The retreat, to be held from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, is titled “How to Be Me When the World Wants Someone Else — Intimacy and Communication from the Heart.” Cost is $39 per person, including lunch. To register, call Phyllis Phelps at 909.973.6012 or the church office, 909.622.2015.

SEEDS OF HOPE (continued from page 12)

across the country, and felt drawn to Los Angeles and EUIP.

The EUIP is a service learning project of the Jubilee Consortium, where young adults live in Christian community for a year and work in nonprofit service sites in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Dominguez’s assignment to Seeds of Hope “was my number one choice” because of its familiarity and also because she wanted “to discern what my ministry is. I’ve toyed with the idea of going through a discernment process and going to seminary, but I think right now lay ministry might be the best thing for me and this is how I will do my ministry,” she said.
Louisiana composer wins contest

Costas Dafnis, 23, of Shreveport, Louisiana, was awarded a $1,000 prize in a nationwide composition contest held by the LGBT ministries of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Long Beach and St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church, Huntington Beach, and made possible by a grant from the Bishop Stevens Foundation.

The works submitted all were settings of the ancient Phos hilaron text, and were written by composers under the age of 25.

Judging the contest were James Buonemani, organist and choirmaster at St. James’ in the City, Los Angeles; Robert Isstad, director of choral activities at California State University, Fullerton; and Christopher Gravis, minister of music and arts at St. Wilfrid’s Church.

Dafnis’ setting will be premiered by the Choir of St. Wilfrid’s under Gravis’ direction at the service celebrating National Coming Out Day on Sunday, October 6 at 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s Church, 525 E. 7th Street, Long Beach 90813.

Once the work has received its premiere, copies of the score will be made available to congregations of the diocese (for information, call St. Luke’s Church at 562.436-4047). 

 Getty talks, exhibit to feature art of English cathedrals

The Getty Center in Los Angeles will host talks by two distinguished priests of the Church of England Sept. 22 and 23.

The Very Rev. Robert Willis, dean of Canterbury Cathedral, will speak on the topic “Canterbury — 14 Centuries of Community and Creativity” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22, in relation to the exhibition “Canterbury and St. Albans: Treasures from Church and Cloister,” which opens on Sept. 20 at the museum.

At 7 p.m. on the following day, Monday, Sept. 23, the Very Rev. John R. Hall, dean of London’s Westminster Abbey, will speak on issues related to the architectural conservation of that historic site in a talk titled “Westminster Abbey: For Ever New” (more information at bit.ly/1cRgqA6).

Hall also will preach at services on Sept. 22 at St. James-in-the-City Church, Los Angeles.

The “Canterbury and St. Albans” exhibition, which will run through Feb. 2, 2014, brings together masterpieces of medieval English art: panels of 12th-century stained glass from Canterbury Cathedral’s Ancestors of Jesus series, and pages from the St. Albans Psalter, an illuminated book of psalms that has been unbound for conservation purposes.

Uniting monumental glass painting with the art of book illumination, this presentation reveals how specific texts, prayers, and environments shaped the medieval viewer’s understanding of these pictures during the era of artistic renewal following the Norman Conquest of England.

More about the exhibit is at bit.ly/1aURfy.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles. It is open Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. It is closed on Monday. Admission is free: parking is $15 per car. For information, visit getty.edu online or call 310.440.7300.

MUSIC AND ART

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 4 p.m. Evidence Music Ministry (gospel) St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church 6201 E. Willow, Long Beach Information: 562.420.1311

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 5 p.m. Choral Evensong All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills Information: 310.275.0123

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 4:30 p.m. Solemn Evensong St. James’ Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles Information: 213.388.3015

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 4 p.m. Harpist Ellie Choate St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church 6201 E. Willow, Long Beach Information: 562.420.1311

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6 p.m. Vienna and Beyond All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N Camden Dr., Beverly Hills Information: 310.275.0123

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7:30 p.m. Jean-Baptiste Robin, organ St. James’ Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles Information: 213.388.3015

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7:30 p.m. Compline St. James’ Episcopal Church 3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles Information: 213.388.3015

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 5 p.m. Choral Evensong All Saints Episcopal Church 504 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills Information: 310.275.0123

Centering Prayer (recurring)

MONDAYS, 10 - 11 a.m. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church 1014 E. Altadena Drive, Altadena Information: 626.798.6747

MONDAYS, 7 p.m. St. James’ Episcopal Church 1325 Monterey Rd., South Pasadena Information: 626.799.9194

THURSDAYS, 7:30 p.m. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church 1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica Information: 310.395.0977
The Rev. Michael Fincher has been called as priest-in-charge under special circumstances at St. Paul’s, Santa Paula.

The Rev. Nancy Frausto met in August with five other Episcopal Church Foundation fellows at the ECF office in New York. Frausto, who graduated from Bloy House and was ordained to the transitional diaconate last Spring, will concentrate on supporting the development of lay leadership and reaching out to the young adult community.

Urla Gomes, who retired July 31 as CEO of the Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union, was named to the diocesan Order of Angels, recognizing outstanding volunteer and professional service, by Bishop Jon Bruno. She has guided the credit union since 1994, shortly after its inception as an economic justice ministry of the diocese.

An Aug. 25 special service marked the Rev. Canon Elizabeth Habecker’s retirement from her 13-year ministry as rector of St. Mark’s, Downey. She has been a priest of the Diocese of Los Angeles for 29 years, and has been ordained for 37 years.

The Rev. Joanna Hollis, assistant at Trinity Church, Santa Barbara, has been called as rector of Christ Church, New Brunswick, Conn., beginning Oct. 13.

The Rev. Sean Laningan has been called as community convenor of Beach Progressives, a Lutheran/Episcopal Young Adult Ministry for the greater Long Beach area.

The Rev. Abel Lopez will be installed as rector of the Church of the Messiah, Santa Ana at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 28 by Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce. The diocesan community is invited to attend.

The Rev. Janine Schenone began serving June 15 as associate for congregational development and welcome at All Saints, Pasadena.


The Rev. Norman Whitmire began serving July 1 as rector of All Saints, Richmond Hill, Long Island.

The Rev. Ernest “Bud” Williams retired as executive director of the Gooden Center in Pasadena in June. He introduced his successor, M. David Meagher, at a gala honoring his 21 years of service.

Did you know?
The Diocese of Los Angeles has a full-service Credit Union.
The Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union has been in existence for 14 years, and any Episcopalian in the diocese can join.

**ECFCU offers a full line of financial products:**
- Savings Accounts
- Checking Accounts
- Holiday Club Accounts
- Debit/ATM Cards
- On-Line Banking
- Bill Pay
- 24-Hour Telephone Information
- Auto Loans
- Signature Loans
- Business Loans
- Wire Transfers
- Individual Credit Counseling
- Financial Education
- Free Income Tax Preparation

**ECFCU offices:**
- LOS ANGELES: 1701 James M. Wood Blvd. 213/385-3366
- LONG BEACH: 1960 Del Amo at Cherry 562/424-0963

**Connections**

Canon Serena Beeks, executive director of schools for the Diocese of Los Angeles, has been elected to a three-year term on the Governing Board of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, effective July 1.

The Rev. Susan Bek was installed as rector of St. Paul’s, Ventura on Aug. 31 by Bishop Suffragan Mary Glasspool.

On June 18, the Rt. Rev. Frederick H. Borsch, fifth bishop of Los Angeles, marked the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the episcopate.

The Rev. Greg Brown began serving Aug. 1 as associate for family ministries at St. Cross Church, Hermosa Beach.

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Palos Verdes Estates has appointed Jeannie Cobb as its new director of music, youth and the arts. Cobb has served at interim director of music at St. Francis since Dec. 2012 after a long stint at St. Peter’s-by-the-Sea Presbyterian Church in Palos Verdes.

The Rev. Jon Dephouse began serving July 1 as senior associate for education and formation at All Saints Church, Pasadena.

The Rev. Katie Derose has been appointed to serve as parish deacon at St. Augustine’s by-the-Sea Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica and at All Saints’ Church, Highland Park.

The Rev. Michael Fincher has been called as priest-in-charge under special circumstances at St. Paul’s, Santa Paula.

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Blessing a bell at Good Samaritan Hospital
Surrounded by members of Los Angeles’ Korean community, Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce blesses and dedicates the new Friendship and Peace Bell at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles on Aug. 14. The bell symbolizes a relationship between Good Samaritan, founded by an Episcopal nun in 1885, and Severance Hospital in Seoul, Korea, founded by a medical missionary in the same year.

Ringing bells in memory of MLK
Staff and members of All Saints Church, Pasadena, rang handbells on the church steps at noon (Pacific time) on Aug. 28 at the same time the carillon at the Cathedral Center sounded a full peal and a 50-ring toll to mark the moment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech, delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., at 3 p.m. on Aug. 28, 1963.

A sunny event in support of seminarians
At top, seminarians of the diocese gather at the home of Bishop J. Jon Bruno for the Bishop’s Guild Garden Party, a fundraiser for theological education, on the warm (102 degree) afternoon of Sept. 7. At left, Bishop Mary Glasspool contemplates one of the artworks, created by students at diocesan schools, that were displayed and sold at the event to raise funds for seminarians. At right, Bruno chats with one of his visitors. Bishop’s Guild president Donna Keller presented to Bruno a check for more than $4,000 to help provide scholarships for seminarians.

REQUIESCANT

♦ Colonel Henry Anson Barber III, a founder and trustee of The Gooden School, an Episcopal school in Sierra Madre, died Aug. 7. He was 91. Barber graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in January of 1943, and served in World War II (earning a Purple Heart), the Korean War and the Vietnam War in the course of a 30-year military career.

♦ Betty Jean Harpster Bechtel, wife of the Rev. Gillette Bechtel, a longtime priest of the Diocese of Los Angeles who more recently ministered in the Diocese of Northern California, died Aug. 2 of complications after a heart attack. A memorial service was held in Yucaipa, where the couple had recently retired, on Aug. 6.

♦ Nancy Garrett Jenkins, 95, died June 26 in Whittier where her late husband, the Rev. Canon Albert E. Jenkins was for 27 years rector of St. Matthias’ Church. Nancy Jenkins served the parish for many of those same years as organist-choirmaster. She was also an accomplished composer, poet, writer, gardener, storyteller and animal lover. A memorial service was held July 13 at St. Matthias.

♦ Elizabeth (Betty) Shepard Jones, widow of the late Rev. R. Parker Jones, rector of St. Alban’s Church in Westwood (Los Angeles) for 25 years, died May 28. She was 89. She was a devoted volunteer for Meals on Wheels and St. John’s Hospital, Santa Monica. A memorial service was held June 13 at St. Alban’s.

♦ The Rev. Daniel Williamson, priest-in-charge of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Auburn, Diocese of Northern California, and former vicar of St. John’s Church, La Verne, from 1989 to 1993), died July 11. He was 69. Survivors include his wife Diane, daughter Barbara, sons Tim and John, and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Aug. 10 at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Roseville.

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