



# diakoneo

GREEK: TO BE A SERVANT; TO SERVE

THE ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL DEACONS | ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

AUGUST 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE

- [Campus Ministry](#) . . . . . 1
- [From the President](#) . . . . . 2
- [From the Executive Director](#) . . . . . 3
- [Conference Follow-up](#) . . . . . 4
- [Board Nominees](#) . . . . . 5
- [News From AED's Board](#) . . . . . 11
- [Diocese of St. Ives](#) . . . . . 12
- [Prison Ministry: Listening with love](#) . . . . . 13
- [Prison Ministry: God's Grace](#) . . . . . 14
- [Newly Ordained](#) . . . . . 16

**ELECTION SECTION -**  
 Nominee Bios  
 begin on [page 5](#).  
 Ballots due October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Campus Ministry & God on the Go!

BY ARCHDEACON JANICE L. GRINNELL

St. Augustine's, the Episcopal Center at the University Rhode Island (URI), in the Diocese of Rhode Island, started an exciting campus ministry that continues to grow and has recently adopted the name "God on the Go!" St. Augustine's has been the Episcopal presence at URI for over 55 years, and members of the present congregation include those who were or are URI students, faculty and staff from our founding until the present day. The campus ministry became dormant for many years, and then in the fall of 2012 – one new freshman student came on a Sunday morning. Madi is a counselor at the Diocesan summer camp and wanted to go to church when she got to the campus. The parish embraced her with hugs and warmth that made her feel at home, and she continued to come to worship on the Sundays when she was on campus.

Madi was encouraged to invite other students to join her, and eventually, Eileen started to come. This meant there was a 100% increase in our student participation on Sunday mornings! A bond quickly started between the students and the parishioners – each felt accepted and loved by the other. It was natural for Madi and Eileen to invite other students to join them for our 2013 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. A nice home cooked meal found St. Augustine's (affectionately

called St. A's) hosting five students for pancakes and ice cream sundaes. During dinner, I asked them if they liked home-cooked meals - an intentional conversation catalyst that really had no special intent other than to help me engage in conversation with them. When they said "Absolutely!" I continued the conversation by asking each of them to name their favorite home-cooked meal. One named lasagna, and I thought that this would be an easy meal to serve to a large group of people. So I proceeded to walk over to the Senior Warden and a few parishioners to ask them if they would like to host a dinner for the students. The enthusiasm was immediate! In further conversation with the students, I suggested to them that the price of admission would be for each of them to bring a friend. Then I said that we would call the meal, "Feed a Friend." This was the beginning of a monthly dinner that the parish has hosted for the students during the academic year. The exciting part of the student response was their request



*Continued on page 4*

AED is an association of persons and dioceses working for the diaconate and servant ministry within the Episcopal Church, USA, and Anglican Church of Canada.

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## “Walk in Beauty” Upholding one another

BY DEACON TINA CAMPBELL



*Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry and the weight of your responsibility in presenting N.N. for ordination to the sacred order of deacons... (BCP p. 539)*

As I write this article we are in the midst of diaconal ordinations across the Church. In the diocese where I serve, Bp. Beisner prefers to have these liturgies at the Cathedral. The next day the newly ordained deacons scatter to the various congregations where they will serve and begin the real work of ordained ministry with all its complexities. It seems to me that at this time a delicate dance begins in a diaconal community. It is a dance that involves the freshness and enthusiasm of the new deacons and the experience and wisdom of the previously ordained. In my diocese most deacons return to their home church and the task before them is to return as a different minister than the one who left. In places where deacons are assigned to new churches there is the work of finding a place in the staff and congregation. Some will serve in churches which have had experience with a deacon on staff, and others will find themselves establishing precedents and practices which are new in the congregation's life and worship. This is where the voice of the experienced deacon can be helpful. Once the music of the ordination hymns fade and the sheer excitement of the day gives way to a different pace and routine, new deacons can face questions and situations that were not covered in their formation process. This is one reason the Canons call for the new deacon to have a Deacon Mentor for one year; but in truth, just as deacons are called and formed in community, so too, do they thrive and grow in community. In our dioceses there are deacons who have had deep and rich experiences in ordained ministry; these are the ones we hope will be open, inviting, supportive and accessible to their new brother and sister deacons. These are the ones whom the newly ordained should feel comfortable in approaching.

The new deacons in our midst have dreams and plans that they have been waiting to unleash. They bring new perspectives and gifts to the diaconal ministry of the Church. The already existing community of deacons should be ready to engage, befriend, and nurture these new colleagues. They should also be prepared to be enriched, stretched, and renewed.

It is when these two groups partner in the dance of ministry that we can answer the Bishop's question with certainty and enthusiasm.

*Will you uphold him/her in this ministry?*

We will!

(exclamation point added)

## in memoriam

*Deacon deaths received by AED, listed by name, date of death, diocese, (age) and ordination date.*

Deacon Jean W. Hickox, Apr. 3, 2014, Rhode Island (92) 1986

Deacon Marylou M. Taylor, June 5, 2014, California (90) 1985

Deacon Anthony Brian Turney, July 4, 2014, California (76) 1996, Archdeacon, 2007-2009

*Every effort has been made to provide accurate information and we regret any errors. We appreciate being notified when a deacon has died. Please send notifications, including diocese, date of ordination, age and date of death to [membership@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:membership@episcopaldeacons.org).*

## Setting goals

BY DEACON LORI MILLS-CURRAN

The first thing I did when I got this job was to make a three-year planning calendar for all the regular events of AED. I have discovered I did not actually list most of the things that would take up my time! But we have made progress on some big goals:

**Website revamp:** I could not do my job at all without our incredibly organized new Communications Director, Anne Pillot. Anne is hard at work on the new website, and this is taking some time because we are determined to make it searchable by topic. There are over 5000 entries in our website, and we are sorting them all. This will, we hope, make the website much more accessible.

**2016 Triennial in Minnesota:** We are very excited to have a local team and a national team almost fully in place for the next Triennial. The setting in Chaska, near Minneapolis, is gorgeous, and Janet MacNally and her local crew are on top of everything. I am the micromanaging newbie to this work, but they are very patient.

**AD&DD Conference March 19-22, 2015 in TX:** My search for inexpensive, warm, western and attractive sites for our Archdeacons and Deacon Directors' Conference finally surfaced – lovely San Antonio.

**Future of The Seven:** Kyle Pederson has been a stalwart organizer of the three-year pilot program for mentoring young adults in the diaconate. Kyle reapplied for his ECF fellowship and was renewed for a final year. AED has also squirreled away a goodly sum to pay for a season of on-line and in-person gatherings to harvest learnings from the program and create a formal set of recommendations for duplicating it. A Seven alum, Tom Lutes, has been appointed to the AED Board. Janet MacNally (a Seven mentor), Tom and I hope to caucus with Kyle

this summer in Minnesota, to get that ball rolling. Other mentors and alums (and even young deacons) will be invited to participate in this effort.

**AED's relationship with The Fund for the Diaconate has been deepened:** Pam Nesbit and I attended the May Board retreat of the Fund, and wonderful depth was added to my personal understanding of how the Fund functions. I look forward to warm collaboration on projects of common interest. Thanks to Ted Hallenbeck, Fund President, for his deep wisdom and care for this organization. (I have known Ted for 25 years, and I keep waiting for him to get older, because I know I am!).

**Board Elections:** Look forward to a competitive ballot with more nominees than ever. Thanks to Lauren Welch's hard work, almost every race is competitive, even the Bishops'!

**I will be earning an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising:** August 4-8 I will be attending a highly regarded course through The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, offered at Fuller Seminary. Who knew you could learn how to make people give you money? This intensive course will, I hope, prepare me to secure AED's financial future to a better degree than I am prepared now!

I urge us all to take these last few weeks of the summer to receive some of God's grace in a more relaxed way. I will be visiting a Michigan lake with my extended family. Pray for me and pray for AED, as we elect our new board and move ahead to a busy new program year.



## calendar what's coming

### ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN DEACONS IN CANADA

#### Tri-Annual Conference

August 14-17, 2014

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Keynote:** The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz,  
Primate Anglican Church of Canada

**Theme:** *Servants by the Sea*

**Register:** [www.anglicandeacons.ca](http://www.anglicandeacons.ca)

### NEW ENGLAND DEACONS NETWORK

#### Prov. I Deacons Conference

October 3-5, 2014

The Sheraton Framingham, MA

For more information contact:

[kyle.pedersen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kyle.pedersen@sbcglobal.net) or

check the Province I website:

[www.province1.org](http://www.province1.org).

### DEACONS CONFERENCE

#### Diocese of New York

October 25, 2014; 9 am - 4 pm

St. George's Church, Newburgh

For more information contact:

Deacon Geri Swanson at

[deakswan@aol.com](mailto:deakswan@aol.com)

### ARCHDEACON/DEACON DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE

March 19 - 22, 2015

[San Antonio, TX](http://San Antonio, TX)

### 78TH GEN'L CONVENTION

June 25 – July 3, 2015

Salt Lake City, Utah

[www.generalconvention.org](http://www.generalconvention.org)

### DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean)

October 21-27, 2015

Brazil

[www.diakonia-world.org/](http://www.diakonia-world.org/)

### 2016 DIACONAL ASSEMBLY

June 16-19, 2016

Oak Ridge [Hotel](#) & Conference  
Center, Minneapolis, MN

### Let AED publicize your deacon events

We'll include your event in our print and electronic materials. Send an email with the event name, date, location and contact person to [communications@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:communications@episcopaldeacons.org).

*Don't forget to send photos & news of the event afterwards, too!*

# Deacons Councils

*From the Archdeacons/Deacon Director's Conference*

BY DEACON TINA CAMPBELL

This year at the March Archdeacons/Deacon Directors (ADDD) Conference we explored the concept of Deacons Councils.

Over time the Diaconate has grown in various dioceses and Archdeacons have been charged with the care of more deacons and larger programs. From this has emerged a style of shared leadership which we call Deacons Councils.

Like so much in the Diaconate there are many ways in which the Councils operate. How they have emerged, how they are led, their composition, and the scope of their responsibilities vary widely.

Prior to the ADDD last March we invited dioceses who had functioning and efficient Deacons Councils to participate in a panel discussion at our Conference. Seven dioceses responded: Maine, Chicago, Dallas, Minnesota, New York, Los Angeles and Toronto.

These are the highlights from my notes on that panel.

Meeting schedules included monthly, bimonthly, and meetings every six weeks, or three times a year. Most meetings were face to face.

The composition of the Councils is quite varied. In Chicago and New York there is representation by deanery or region and several Councils include members from all four Orders. Some members were recommended by the Archdeacon, others were elected in the diaconal community. Generally, the archdeacon acts as Chair, but in Chicago the Bishop has this role and in New York, the Canon to the Ordinary does. In a few places the members are confirmed at Diocesan Convention.

Generally all of these Deacons Councils are responsible for helping build community among the deacons. This includes planning regular gatherings, retreats and Continuing Ed opportunities. Most have a large role in the sharing of information among the deacons and in issues of pastoral care.

In some dioceses Deacons Councils are given a particular charge or issue

on which to concentrate. In Minnesota the body chooses a particular mission initiative on which the whole diocese concentrates.

Some Deacons Councils provide leadership in diaconal discernment and formation. In Dallas they are exploring the possibility of financial support for diaconal students.

Like so much in our diaconal communities the work (or even existence) of the Deacons Council can be affected by a change of leadership, dependent as many are on the support of the Bishop or Archdeacon. But where they operate smoothly they can greatly enhance the overall health of the deacon community, be a model of shared responsibility, build leadership skills, and lessen the burden on the Archdeacon or those who exercise the ministry of an Archdeacon.

For more information please contact me at [tinarcampbell@comcast.net](mailto:tinarcampbell@comcast.net).

*“Generally all of these Deacons Councils are responsible for helping build community among the deacons.”*

*ADDDC participants Archdeacon Elaine Bellis, Deacons Diana Luck & Janet MacNally*



*The Revs. Will Mebane, Susan Russell, Kate Harrigan at a meeting of The Taskforce on the Study of Marriage.*

*Photos by Deacon Maureen-Elizabeth Hagan*

*God on the go!, from page 1*

to be able to bring dessert, and also to have the parishioners come to share the meal. The menus are chosen by the students. We do this to introduce these young adults to God's unconditional love, with no strings attached.

An amazing spin off of the Feed a Friend meals was the inclusion of LGBTQ students. URI has a staffed LBBTQ center on campus, and St. A's has an LGBTQ Outreach which includes hosting the URI LGBTQ Center's "Spirit Group" (where students explore life of the spirit in their own lives), joining "Sing Out" gatherings (that explore sacred text) and the performances when they occur. A member of the LGBTQ staff is now a parishioner at St. A's, and we have joined

Annie in supporting Coming Out week activities, hosting the LGBTQ 20th Anniversary Symposium Opening, and enjoying getting to know the LGBTQ students at our Feed A Friend program. Their meetings started on the night when the parish was hosting Feed a Friend. The LGBTQ students were specifically encouraged to join us, and over time a beautiful bond has developed, and subtle reconciliation and reparation for harm done to these precious children of God who have been historically harmed by the Church. They are loved and embraced by the parish, and especially at the Feed a Friend dinners. A response from their community



*Students present rainbow flag.*

was to present St. A's with a rainbow flag that is now proudly displayed in the parish! This is a ministry that also continues to grow.

# Board Nominee Profiles, Q & A

The AED Board of Directors presents 16 candidates for election to the Board. Candidates are listed alphabetically, by position they are seeking. Please read these bio's in preparation for voting. Ballots will be mailed to AED members around Sept. 15 and **must be returned by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**. Results will be listed in the November Diakoneo as well as on the website and social media.

**Each candidate has provided a brief bio and answers to two questions:**

1. *How do you envision contributing to the AED Board? What are your special talents and gifts?*
2. *What is your vision for the future of the Association for Episcopal Deacons?*

## ELECTING ONE LAY PERSON / Presenting 1 candidate

**Bradley A. Peterson**, Diocese of California, is office Administrator, Old First Presbyterian Church. Bradley currently serves as history and theology instructor, School of Deacons and is a member of the Commission on Ministry. He has a PhD, History of Christianity, Christian Education MUP Public Policy Analysis and planning. He is fluent in German and is competent in reading and some conversational Spanish.

### Question #1 Response

Besides happily undertaking the general work of the board, I offer

- my training and experience in policy and administration for budget and program oversight and strategic planning.
- my experience in the education of deacons and experience as a diocesan Commission on Ministry member for developing AED recommendations for the formation of deacons,
- my secretarial and communication skills for promoting community among deacons and development of membership, and
- my theological commitment that the church's diakonia is led by deacons, not dumped on them, for keeping the ministry of deacons firmly embedded in the ministry of the baptized.

### Question #2 Response

Though the AED may need to support deacons in a number of roles, it strikes me that its most important role is community building for

- fostering mutual, on-going formation,
- collaborating across parochial and diocesan borders as well as with those outside the church,
- sharing models of leadership in diakonia, as well as concrete examples of *diakonia*,
- diversifying the models for the practical employment of deacons, and
- promoting the wider understanding of the ministry and vocation of deacons in *diakonia*.

The church needs a well-knit, well-formed, articulate body of deacons leading the church in *diakonia*: the prophetic, conciliatory, healing salvific vocation of the whole church – in a time when we Christians have let our faith appear irrelevant, if not antagonistic, to the welfare of this world, which God creates and loves and would deliver. The AED as an institution would not be that body of deacons, but rather should support that body.

## ELECTING THREE DEACONS / Presenting 10 candidates

### Deacon Candidate

**The Rev. Mary Lynn Adams**, Diocese of Fond du Lac, serves as deacon at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, De Pere, WI. Her ministries include adult education, elder care, parish life facilitator, hospice vigiler, and an occasional retreat. Mary Lynn is a retired CPA and Chief Financial Officer. She has served on the Corporate Board of Small Business.

### Question #1 Response

First, as a deacon myself, I have a desire to serve other deacons, providing them with the support, formation opportunities and spiritual development that they need so that they, in turn, can serve their Dioceses and parishes.

Secondly, I believe that I can contribute to the Board and to the deacons of TEC through my passion for Benedictine spirituality. I am an oblate of the Order of St. Benedict, and my study of the Rule has convinced me that this spirituality, grounded in Christian listening, study, prayer, work, and holy leisure, can deeply enhance one's faith, life and work.

Finally, my experience as the Chief Financial Officer of a small multi-national business gives me a business, legal and financial perspective that would be of use to the Board.

### Question #2 Response

"[The Association for Episcopal Deacons] exists to promote the diaconate, serve the church, and support deacons and dioceses. It encourages every diocese to develop a diaconate program to recruit and select, form, deploy, and supervise and support deacons." My vision for AED is to continue on this mission, developing greater depth and breadth in these core ministries.

I am particularly interested in supporting deacons on all levels of the church: to be a representative and advocate of the order at the national level, to provide resources for deacon formation, policy and promotion at the Diocesan level, and to be a support for diaconal formation, spiritual care, education and fellowship at the local level. Caring for our individual deacons provides the foundation for promoting and advocating for the diaconate on the national and diocesan level.

More specifically, I would like to see the AED be a resource for dioceses and deacons, providing spiritual development, continuing education and opportunities for fellowship and mutual worship and support. While there are benefits to doing this on a national and provincial level, the time constraints imposed on deacons from work, family and parish duties, requires that this primarily take place on the

*Continued on page 6*

local level and scheduled with an eye to these pressured calendars. I would like to see the AED work towards developing resources such as written materials, videoconferences and webinars, and/or prepackaged retreats/meetings/workshops that can be implemented locally.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Rev. Douglas Argue**, Diocese of Southern Ohio, serves as Deacon at large, Convener for the Community of Deacons, Diaconal Formation and Spiritual Director. He works at Coalition on Homelessness and Housing. Douglas has a B.A. in Theology and a Masters in Social Work. Douglas has served with non-profit boards for over 25 years. He is currently serving on the Community Shares of MidOhio Board and with the board of his employer.

#### Question #1 Response

I recognized my calling to the diaconate very early in my life. At the age of 19, I knew that God was calling me to a life of service; I answered boldly and have not regretted saying “let’s go” at any point in my life. I believe I can bring that same passion, drive and determination to AED. My vision consists of pushing AED further to the edges of service for the diaconal community as well as more boldly proclaiming the needs of creation to those in church leadership. My talents of organization, planning and administration compliment my gifts of spiritual direction, teaching and public speaking. Through prayer consideration with AED members, I foresee all the baptized understanding how diakonia with God’s creation is a calling and responsibility we all have.

#### Question #2 Response

Having a community of support is of the utmost importance in a life filled with faith. AED needs to be the grounding for this support for deacons across the church. Additionally, AED can be a leader in how the church can re-imagine itself in the future as it reaches out to connect with those living in the margins. This support can be envisioned by providing regular continuing education opportunities to deacons, helping to organize provincial gatherings of deacons on a regular basis, establishing standards for the canonical areas of diaconal study, educating the church at large about the diaconate and what it means to be a deacon. Sometimes I think we get too focused on our individual work and are not paying enough attention to caring for ourselves or our diaconal community. AED could be the resource to our diaconal community to help it rest, help it refocus when needed, pray for it constantly and point the way to those in need. AED has been a strong leader over the years and has been a constant and consistent voice to the church. With a new wave of diaconal presence breathing life into the church pushing it to change with the times, AED might benefit from some of this new breath as well. I would like the chance to be there as a board member to capture the Spirit and allow it to transform AED into whatever instrument God needs.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Venerable Elaine Bellis**, Diocese of Chicago, serves as Archdeacon; is a member of the Commission on Ministry; Diocesan Council; Secretary to Diocesan Convention and a Community Organizer around Elder Financial Abuse. She studied Interior Design at the Art Institute of Chicago and Personnel Administration at

Roosevelt University. Elaine is Vice President of the Neighborhood Block Club Board.

#### Question #1 Response

I hope to contribute to the AED Board by being open, present and honest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the Diaconate. I will gladly serve on any committees or task forces that would be helpful in moving AED into the future. I will continue to encourage deacons in my Diocese and around the country to become members of AED and to ensure that my Diocese is a member in good standing. I hope to promote more involvement of minorities and young adults in becoming deacons and use social media, Face Book, Twitter and Diocesan newsletters to recruit viable nominees for the Diaconate.

The gifts and talents I will use are leadership, organizer training, Pastoral Care, counseling, singing, prayer and presentations about the importance of being a deacon in the Episcopal Church.

#### Question #2 Response

My main vision is one of growth and inclusion for the future of AED. Without growth and the infusion of more young adults and minorities, I think we will become a minor voice in the Church. We need to be a major voice! The adage that “there is strength in numbers” I feel is so true. We need to become a force that is heard, active and moving our Church into the next century. We need to continue to bring the cares, concerns and hurts of the world to our congregations and to our Church and because the Diaconate is graying more and more each day, it is vital that we concentrate our efforts on youthful growth. I am sure that there are other visions that are equally important to the future of AED, but this is my vision and hope for our future.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Rev. James L. Brown**, Diocese of Ohio, serves as deacon at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Mentor, Ohio. He has served on the Diocesan Council. James has a B.A. and M.A. in English and a PhD in Higher Education & English. James has served on the boards of Tarnes House, Diocese of Kansas and the Episcopal Social Services, Diocese of West Missouri.

#### Question #1 Response

I was ordained in 1982 so I have been a deacon for over 30 years. I believe that this experience is important to the membership of the AED Board of Directors. I have lived through the give and take years of the diaconal identity and formation. I have served under 4 bishops in 2 dioceses. I believe that I bring a view of history and change to the Board. I am a consensus builder and team player yet I’m not afraid to champion a position which is in the minority if I feel it needs to be heard and taken more seriously.

#### Question #2 Response

I would hope that the Board would explore why the renewal of the diaconate has been so successful in some diocese, e.g., Kansas and so unsuccessful in other diocese, e.g. Ohio. I would also like the Board to explore the possibilities of a more standardized formation process across the dioceses.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Venerable Genevieve M. Grewell** serves as Archdeacon for the Diocese of Olympia, Trainer for Safeguarding God’s Children /

Safeguarding God's People, ex-officio member of Commission on Ministry, and member of Liturgy & Arts Commission. She also serves as deacon at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lakewood WA.

She serves on the Long Term Recovery Board in Thurston County, WA and is President of Professional Secretaries International.

#### Question #1 Response

I envision contributing to the AED Board by being present and being a good listener with an ability to discern the bigger picture. I have been a member of AED since 1997 and have followed closely the changes and transformation that has happened over the years. Deacons are becoming more visible in the church and in the world. I see deacons becoming the agents to effect transformation in the church and bringing the church forward to be viable in the future. The talents and gifts I would bring to being a member on the board are ones of organization, attention to detail, and being able to see the bigger picture. I also have a natural gift of gathering and bringing people into the belief that what they are doing will make a difference in the world.

#### Question #2 Response

The vision I have for the Association for Episcopal Deacons is to continue to be a presence across the church. I believe as a member of the board it is our role to encourage all deacons to become members of the association, and also to encourage all dioceses to become members. I know that we do not have 100% participation and believe that we can achieve this goal. As I said above, I believe the Association can be a part of assisting the church to move forward to be a viable presence in the future. I also would like to see the Association be a bank of resources for education and training of future deacons. We have already begun this work and I am excited to have been a part of hearing the initial material that was being put together to offer to all in the formation process.

All members of the Board will need to contribute as we work together for us to be successful in this endeavor. I believe that we all need to be willing to think outside the box and be creative in how we present the Association and what we are doing. Too many times we get locked into "this is always the way we have done (blank).....", rather than thinking, let's try something new.

Being more proactive in holding Province Gatherings on a regular basis to gather deacons to network would be one way that this could happen.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Venerable Janice L. Grinnell**, Diocese of Rhode Island, serves as Archdeacon and as deacon at St Augustine's, Kingston, the Episcopal Center, at the University of Rhode Island where she is involved in Campus Ministry. She has a B.S. in Education and M.B.A. in Management. She is the Owner of Grinnell Appreciative Consulting, LLC. Janice serves on the National Child Support Association Board (NCSEA).

#### Question #1 Response

My secular employment has provided me with great experience in organizational development. Also, I have been trained in Appreciative Inquiry as an organizational development model that has been employed successfully in various parishes in the Diocese of Rhode

Island where I have functioned on a Priest/Deacon interim team for eight years. In addition, I served on the Board of Directors for a national non-profit organization for six years (National Child Support Enforcement Agency) and gained valuable experience in both governance and best practices. My skills and talents in addition to organizational development include communication skills, project management and general leadership skills. I am good at discerning and identifying strengths and weaknesses of organizations and creating positive strategies for helping to reach goals and objectives.

#### Question #2 Response

My vision for AED is based on my experience of the organization throughout my 23 years of ordination. I have been a member of the group since its beginnings as NAAD, and benefited first through the published communications. It was not until this past year that I was able to attend the triennial conference. While there, I was overwhelmed with the empowerment of my own ministry through the material presented at the conference and through the new relationships that I was blessed to experience. My vision for the organization is focused on growing the organization's membership through identifying the passions of the members for the association and the successes of the past. This vision is based on my understanding of Appreciative Inquiry where we define our future based on the best of the past. I cannot articulate that at this time in detail, but only offer my understanding of how to identify what the vision might be after this type of discernment. I do know that a vision must come from within a group and cannot be imposed by those in leadership and be successful. The ultimate goal is to enable all deacons to benefit from the same empowerment and formation of relationships that I experienced in order for each ministry to flourish and spread the good news of the love of God in a broken and hurting world.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Venerable Carole Maddux**, Diocese of Atlanta, serves as Archdeacon-at-large. Carole has 10 years' experience as Executive Director/CEO Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center. She has a MS Health Care Policy & Administration and BIS Communications. She serves on the Church of the Common Ground Board and previously the Georgia Charitable Care Network and The Hub Board.

#### Question #1 Response

Eighteen years in non-profit management has provided me with deep experience in all aspects of organizational development---finance, development (capital and organizational), compliance, strategic planning, volunteer management, communications, governance and community relations. I also have experience in for-profit finance, marketing, communications and public relations. I have participated in three leadership programs – healthcare, civic leaders, and one for non-profit CEOs. I have a strong belief in life-long learning. This includes my CE for the diaconate, both personal (reading, lectures, etc.) and institutional (CALL courses, IMTE courses).

Personally, I have an irrepressible sense of humor coupled with both an analytical mind and a compassionate heart. (And tons of humility!)

#### Question #2 Response

I believe that the poor, and service to and with the poor, are the treasures of the church. AED is in a unique position to advance and encourage this through support for deacons and the diaconate,

advocacy and communications to the church and the world, and presence at church gatherings.

I became a member of AED before my ordination in 2006. The support, knowledge and camaraderie provided has informed and enriched my life as a deacon and an archdeacon. AED can continue and enhance this for other deacons and the church through communications, assemblies, provincial meetings and education.

Just as each deacon has a prophetic voice, AED is a prophetic voice to the church and the world. In 2008, I introduced to our diocesan council a resolution, based on an action of Bishop Untener's, to put the poor on the church's agenda---every agenda---for the next year. How what we do affects the poor should be a question throughout the church---whether outreach committees or finance committees. This resolution evolved into "the Deacons' Resolved" at General Convention in 2012. I believe this is just the beginning of our using our voice, united, to speak for the poor.

Finally, continuing the presence of AED and deacons at church gatherings and the raising the profile of deacons and the diaconate will support and educate deacons and the whole church---resulting in increased service to and with the poor and a deeper and closer following to the teachings and will of Christ.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Rev. Tracie Middleton**, Diocese of Fort Worth, serves as deacon at St Stephen, Coordinator of the Disaster Response Team, Commission on Ministry and on the Disciplinary Board. She has a B.A. and M.A. in English Literature. Tracie works at Ennova Learning Solutions in college and career counseling. The Right Reverend Rayford B. High Jr. asked Tracie to consider serving on the AED Board and enthusiastically recommends her.

#### Question #1 Response

I have an interest (and some experience) in helping to develop and disseminate tools for deacon recruitment and discernment. Other special talents include skill in process analysis – seeing how a system is structured and how to remove hang-ups and bottle-necks. For example, while serving on the Commission on Ministry, I created a process map showing each person's involvement at every step from aspirant to ordinand. It has made the process more transparent to discernment committees, vestries, sponsoring clergy and aspirants. Members of the COM, Standing Committee and diocesan staff also find it helpful. I think some of these types of structural and process improvements can smooth the way for increasing the ranks of deacons.

#### Question #2 Response

Part of my vision for the Association for Episcopal Deacons is to creatively imagine a more sustainable future for the diaconate, given the current and projected economic climate. Currently, (since in many dioceses deacons are non-stipendiary) there is a limit to who has the resources of time and money to serve as a deacon. An unintended result appears to be that a sizable percentage of deacons don't get to the point of being ordained until around the time they retire or are able to work part time. Looking ahead, retirement will not be nearly as common; it's already true that many people (especially younger people) work more hours just to stay afloat, with fewer employers offering retirement plans,

so a model of the diaconate that relies on people having a substantial amount of free time to volunteer isn't sustainable moving forward.

Another aspect of my vision for AED is to become more visible to younger generations who increasingly have little to no experience of church. The "Y" and "Millennial" generations in particular are already motivated and passionate about issues of justice for those being marginalized; they may just not be aware of the church's tradition and teaching regarding these issues. The diaconate makes this aspect of our identity known and can offer a doorway into the church, channeling some of that passion and also invigorating our community. I don't know the answers to these issues, but I feel that I could add a useful perspective to the conversation.

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Venerable Mark D Sluss**, Diocese of Missouri, serves as Archdeacon, Commission on Ministry member and deacon at the Deaconess Anne House. He is a deputy for the 2015 General Convention. Mark is employed as a Senior Food Labeling Specialist at ConAgra Foods. He has a B.S. in Biology. Mark is competent in Spanish.

#### Question #1 Response

As Archdeacon, I challenge myself to care for the deacons of the Diocese of Missouri in 3 particular ways: a) caring for their education; b) caring for them pastorally; and c) caring for them socially. I would use these gifts for the AED board. I have gifts in organizing and planning and project management through my secular job. I also embrace technology for communications using networks of social media, WebEx meetings and Skype for meetings with colleagues in other locations; I have used those skills in the leadership of the order in Missouri to further our presence and exposure in this diocese.

#### Question #2 Response

The vision I hold for the Association is to embrace new ways to encourage and support young persons to explore a call to the Diaconate; that is the main desire I have for the Association (The 7 is a wonderful way to do this). I am currently working through my placement with the Deaconess Anne House (An Episcopal Service Corps Placement site) to identify how we can make discernment and formation for young people a part of their year of service. I have just presented our report to our Bishop and our Commission on Ministry and received wonderful support and encouragement to "run with it". Working alongside our Executive Director of our House, we are also planning with our dean of the School for Ministry (school for deacons), to identify a formation plan for our Corps Members who will reside in our house for 2014-2015 year. We feel that it is an organic and natural questioning time where our young adults are doing diaconal works in our community to discern whether they are called to ordination into our Order. I also am continually working for more exposure of the order within the diocese of Missouri (I travel the diocese and preach and teach on the Diaconate at our parishes). Nationally, I want to bring to the mind of the church the ministry of Deacons and the voice of the servant; that is the reason I ran and was elected as a deputy to General Convention 2015 (the first Deacon chosen by our diocese to serve).

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#### Deacon Candidate

**The Rev. Helen C. Trainor**, Diocese of Washington DC, is currently working in the Diocese of MA at Christ Church Parish, Plymouth,

MA where she is in charge of congregational development and mission project implementation. As an Attorney, Helen worked as Assistant Federal Public Defender; United States Supreme Court Fellow; Director and VA Institutionalized Persons Project. She has served on the boards of Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA and Plymouth, Cape & Islands Mission Hub. She is competent in French.

### Question #1 Response

In 2003, I was hired as a full-time staff member at St. Columba's in Washington, D.C., charged both with "ministry development" and with managing a nearly \$800,000 outreach and mission effort.

In 2010, I began work with my current rector at Christ Church, Plymouth, MA to bring our parish back from dysfunction and insolvency. My rector and I functioned as a team as well, modeling the kind of collaboration and trust that is at the heart of servant-leadership.

In 2012, I became the first director of the Plymouth, Cape & Islands Mission "Hub". We have just completed the first year of "A Course in Mission" designed to train and support folks from all of the parishes in the deanery to be missionaries to the elderly, youth and to our environment.

### Question #2 Response

I think we are at a truly critical juncture in the development of the diaconate in our church. I say this having had the experience of being an ordained (and experienced) deacon but being unable to live out my vows in a diocese that did not recognize the diaconate. There are three aspects of the vision that I have for the AED. First, building on the excellent work of the AED in the past two years in defining its own organizational goals, I believe the AED should move towards developing national standards for discerning a call to the diaconate; formation of deacons; and utilization of deacons within dioceses and parishes.

Second, I believe the AED should develop a speakers' bureau and a consulting capacity to inculcate the wisdom and importance of the standards nationwide. The diaconate is not well understood, not because it is complicated or ill-defined, but because what we are called to do is always revolutionary. We need to understand that reality and then proclaim as we became the agents for the emerging church.

Third, I believe the AED should be a leader in offering continuing professional education opportunities, perhaps through local or regional chapters. Deacons, like priests, need education and training in managing change within church organizations; in creating "bottom up" churches; and in understanding the boundaries of pastoral counseling. We can be a leader in developing this new kind of curriculum, perhaps in conjunction with seminaries that understand the current deficits in theological education.

## ELECTING ONE PRIEST / Presenting 1 candidate

**The Rev. Kate Harrigan** is the Rector, St Paul's Harrisburg, Canon for Liturgy, Diocese of Central PA, Chaplain, St. Stephen's School, and the Civil Patrol and Faculty, Stevenson School for Ministry. Kate has a B.S. Education, M. A. Michigan State University, MDiv, Yale Divinity School. She is currently serving her first term on the AED board and on the Committee for Vocational Development and Life Long Learning.

### Question #1 Response

I believe that I contribute to the AED board as a presbyter, understanding the great need for building the relationship between deacons and priests and being an advocate for the diaconate. I bring a deep understanding of the diaconate as well as extensive experience working with deacons and working in the area of formation for ministry. I bring the experience of developing programs in our local school for ministry. I have been serving on the committee for Vocational Development and Lifelong Learning and envision continuing that service and contributing to the board.

### Question #2 Response

I believe that first and foremost the Association for Episcopal Deacons serves as a voice for the diaconate, both present and future. My vision is that AED will be a growing and articulate voice and advocate for the presence of deacons in the church and for the ministry of deacons. The ministry of the diaconate is vital for the future of the church. I feel that the Association for Episcopal Deacons needs to continue to provide avenues for the understanding of diaconal ministry, for the expansion of diaconal ministry in the church and for the quality formation of deacons. I believe AED can continue to open pathways for the church to hear the prophetic voice of the deacon and to also creatively provide the pathways that the church needs for servant ministry. AED is also the vehicle to continue to envision the calling, discerning and formation of deacons, which is ongoing work for AED. I also ask the question in envisioning the future of AED: how do we call young deacons as well into the life of the church? The diaconate is both the heart and hands of the church, witnessing to the needs of the world. I envision AED speaking to the church to develop the ministry of diakonia and developing ways that deacons may speak both to the church and to the world.

## ELECTING ONE BISHOP / Presenting 2 candidates

### Bishop Candidate

**The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner** is the Bishop of the Diocese of Northern California. Bishop Beisner is currently serving on the Church Divinity School of the Pacific Board, TEC Board for Transitional Ministry. He has also served on the boards of the Anglican Theological Review, St. Dorothy Rest Camp and Conference Center, The Belfry (Campus Ministry) and Davis Community Meals.

### Question #1 Response

I envision contributing to the Board primarily by being faithful to the Directors' Covenant. I would bring to the Board a profound appreciation of and commitment to the diaconate. Long and varied experience in the governance of the Church has helped make me organizationally astute, and positioned me to help bear witness, advocate, and educate. As a trained and experienced spiritual director, I know something about discernment and healthy decision-making. I have good leadership skills, and a collaborative style. I have a good grasp of our history and tradition, and also an openness to change. I am reasonably adept at financial and personnel matters. The focus of my own life and ministry is on being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and a partner with him in God's mission. I would seek to keep the work of the Board similarly focused.

### Question #2 Response

I envision the Association for Episcopal Deacons fully living into

its mission. I want to see it continue to grow as a well-recognized, respected, and authoritative witness to the diaconate in the life of the Church. I hope to see AED present in every diocese and at every suitable venue, advocating participation and involvement of all baptized persons in Christ's diaconal ministry. I want the AED to be a voice to which our Church pays close attention.

As the ministry of its deacons helps the Church to touch the wounds of Christ, so I hope that AED would help to assure that our Church becomes and remains more fully conscious of and responsive to the poor in our midst. Efforts such as B008 and new ventures such as "The Seven" should abound. The current good work of supporting diaconal formation, vocational development and continuing education should be strengthened and extended. And always, AED needs to be listening closely to those who actually serve as deacons, seeking to be attentive to their needs and concerns, supporting them in every way possible and helping the Church to hear the story of their vital ministries.

To help accomplish these things I hope that all of us in AED will join with our Board of Directors to make our organization ever-more mission-focused, better-resourced and available to Christ for the building of his Church.

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#### **Bishop Candidate**

**The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel** is Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Olympia. Bishop Rickel currently serves on the Seminary of the Southwest Board, Board of Directors of the Church Investment Group, National Cursillo Board and Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church. He speaks some Spanish.

#### **Question #1 Response**

I believe I bring organization, communication and systems skills which can be helpful in moving an organization such as AED forward not only in its specific asks but also in relation to the wider church and making itself known and positioning it as a change agent for those it serves and those we would like to have know more about the diaconate.

#### **Question #2 Response**

I am a huge supporter of the diaconate. I find it to be the most underutilized and most misunderstood order in the Episcopal Church right now. I was on the initial developing committee for the diaconate in the Diocese of Arkansas and also participated in the development in the Diocese of Texas. As Bishop of Olympia I have been a huge supporter and I feel the AED is the advocating body which has the potential and is most well equipped to bring cohesion to the church's use of, understanding of, and growth of the diaconate. I am willing to offer my time and energy to try to make that more of a reality and to add to the already tremendous work done by this body.

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### **ELECTING ONE VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT Presenting 2 candidates**

#### **Vice President/President Elect Candidate**

**The Rev. Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen** is the Formation co-Director, Academy for Formation and Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. Her ministries include Community Organizing, Village Support

Network, Lifelong Christian Formation, and Spiritual Direction. She serves as deacon at St. Luke the Physician. She has a D. Min. (Ministry Development and Christian Formation [anticipated 2015]), ABD (International Relations), MIA (International Political Economy; Middle East). Maureen-Elizabeth is competent in French, Spanish and Arabic. Maureen-Elizabeth is currently serving her first term on the AED Board serving with the Triennial Design Team and Vocational Development and Lifelong Learning Council. She also serves on the Commission on Poverty & Homelessness Board.

#### **Question #1 Response**

I share AED's passion for promoting the diaconate and engaging the diakonia of all believers. Specific ways I would contribute include:

- Passion for deacon formation and ministry development. I attended six deacon formation conferences, direct the deacon formation program in my diocese, serve on AED's Vocational Development and Lifelong Learning committee, and am finishing my D. Min. thesis on cross-order local formation at CDSP (visiting programs in 7 dioceses).
- Deep understanding of politics and global concerns and cultures. I studied and taught political science/international relations, lived abroad, and have worked to promote global awareness and reconciliation. I have been involved in interfaith advocacy and working with those on the margins.
- Significant experience in strategic visioning, budgeting, social media, grant writing and board development.

#### **Question #2 Response**

AED/NAAD has been a beacon for me in the 14 years since I began the process. The friends I made through anglodeacons provided guidance, direction, inspiration and support throughout formation and my early years as a deacon. For the past seven years, I have been attending AED conferences; I feel humbled to know such exemplary women and men of God.

In the years ahead, I would like to see AED build on its strong foundations and

- help dioceses recruit and nurture deacons who reflect the diversity of our Body, especially those who are Latino, racially diverse, less privileged and younger;
- partner with Episcopal Peace Fellowship and Forma (Christian Formation leaders) to find synergetic ways to work together that build on our common interests;
- explore ways to provide high-quality formation and post-formation programs for our deacons, encouraging a pooling of resources;
- support the work of the Domestic Poverty Task Force and The Seven;
- promote Province-level dialogue;
- equip all for advocacy (including a global dimension);
- focus on diakonia, the foundation of who we are.

Much of this work has already begun; we need hopeful voices to encourage this important work.

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#### **Vice President/President Elect Candidate**

**The Rev. Janet L. MacNally**, Episcopal Church in Minnesota, serves on the Commission for the Diaconate in charge of Formation (Formation Chaplain) and Commission on Ministry. Janet oversees the Mission Opportunities and feeding ministries at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Roseville, MN. She is currently serving on the

AED Board and is serving as the local chair for the 2016 Triennial Meeting. Janet is employed as a Speech/congressional debate Coach at Benilde St. Margaret's High School. She has a B.S. Degree in Speech, Communication and Theatre Arts/English Education and M.A. Degree in Christian Liturgy. Janet is competent in Spanish and French.

### Question #1 Response

I have a deep and abiding passion for the Church, her mission and her people. I am energetic, organized, driven when necessary, and yet possess the skills needed to "be calm and carry on," if the need arises. A coach and mentor, I have learned the art of listening to what is being communicated behind what is being said and to act appropriately. Having a degree in Speech and Theatre, I am at ease with public speaking, able to not only deliver prepared texts but to also speak extemporaneously when the need arises. I envision using these skills augmented with my passion for the missional church and my commitment to AED to continue to facilitate our Spirit-led journey into the 21st Century.

### Question #2 Response

Firmly believing that the deacon's role is pivotal to the missional church, I hear a strong and persistent call to be not only a significant

presence in the formation of deacons but also to be a strong advocate for the office of deacon as a full and equal order within the church. We have the opportunity at this moment in time to make certain that we are forming deacons who will stand at our altars as a sacramental icon of servant ministry and who will then empower our faith communities to live into their baptismal covenant beyond the doors of our churches. As I have become involved in the work of the Association for Episcopal Deacons, attended conferences for archdeacons and those involved in vocational learning and lifelong development, I have been privileged to observe how the Church has indeed emerged toward a missional identity and how a renewed and strengthened diaconate is essential in that effort. AED stands at the epicenter of the Church's transformation as we form, equip and advocate for our sister and brother deacons as they engage in God's mission by empowering the diakonia of all believers. I envision and would hope to lead a strong and active AED that engages in active and abundant dialogue with all orders of ministry, bishops, priests and laity. I envision and would hope to lead AED as we continue to follow the Spirit's lead into the 21st Century and the missional church we are called into through our baptisms.

## NEWS FROM AED'S BOARD

# Review & Look Ahead

BY DEACON TINA CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT

The AED Board held its quarterly meeting by phone on Monday, June 9. We welcomed Tom Lutes, a layman from the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. He was appointed by the President and approved by the Board to serve out the unexpired term of Rachel Heath who resigned in March. Tom is an alumnus of *The Seven* and an educator. He brings the perspective of young adults and a passion for servant leadership.

VP/President-Elect Lauren Welch reported on the work of the Nominations Committee. News about our upcoming Board elections is included in this edition of *Diakoneo*.

Treasurer Michael Kitt reviewed the budget. In general, our deficit is decreasing and we were pleased to learn that we had not lost money on the recent Archdeacons/Deacon Directors conference. In his first year as treasurer, Michael and the Executive Director are still working on where to place particular items of expense and income, but as we make progress on budgeting more accurately our financial

health should continue to improve. In a related note, Executive Director Lori Mills-Curran has also received funding to attend a well respected four day workshop on religious fundraising through the Lake Institute's program of the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising in July.

The Board heard an update on *The Seven* program. In the final year of its grant, the leadership is meeting by phone to discuss curriculum and a design for a diocesan-based program for engaging young adults in diaconal ministry and discernment.

Pam Nesbit reported on new developments in the Fund for the Diaconate. She noted that the Fund board of directors met for a two-day retreat in May to re-examine its mission. The Fund was created originally as a retiring fund for deaconesses and then became a source of financial aid for deacons in need. It is now expanding its mission to include the well-being of the diaconate in the Episcopal Church.

Pam, Lori Mills-Curran and Lou Thibodaux

are on the Fund board.

Kate Harrigan reported on the ongoing work of the Vocational Development & Lifelong Learning task force. The group is continuing to look at diaconal formation and the designated competencies.

Lauren Welch and Geri Swanson are co-chairs of the Design Team for the 2016 Triennial in Minnesota. The various committees are beginning to take shape and the Co-Chairs and the Executive Director will make a site-visit to the Oak Ridge Conference center in September. There they will meet with the Bishop and Minnesota deacons, tour the site, and begin to plan in earnest.

The Board also received updates from Anne Pillot, our communications director, from Jo Weber on the current state of our individual and diocesan memberships, and Geri Swanson on her research for our Archives.

The next Board conference call will be Monday, September 8.

The fictional Diocese of St. Ives is a recurring column in *Diakoneo*, dedicated to exploring solutions to “problem moments” in diaconal ministry. The situations are true, but the names have been changed to protect the innocent and guilty. Each issue features responses to the prior chapter situation, plus a new “case study” with an opportunity for comment.

**Chapter XX** - response from May 2014 *Diakoneo*

## The Two Deacons of Kilkenny

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

Chapter XX was a follow-up to Chapter I, published back in 2006, which featured a new rector complaining to the archdeacon about her stuck-in-his-ways deacon. Time has not mellowed the relationship between Mother Huffer and Deacon Toowhit, and I thought it would be good to bring them back in a new story.

Back at the start, Ed had a routine, and Helen, newly arrived, couldn't budge him from it. There was also some not-subtle-enough politicking on the deacon's part regarding an initiative from the rector. This, and more, led to the story of the priest meeting the new archdeacon, and asking that someone rid her of this meddlesome deacon.

It's hard to dislodge a fixture, as hard as changing an old habit. Ed has become both. But, those are not the only problems; Ed has been treated as an “other” by his priest, and not as part of a team. Thus, the last eight years have been about accommodation, not communication. The clergy have two separate lives at St. John's, and one has to wonder: what is the impact on the congregation?

This story prompted several responses. Chris Wible of New Jersey pointed out that communication has been lacking all along; moreover, neither party has recognized that fact, so they are about to exacerbate the situation by adding another deacon.

Geoff Smith of Massachusetts noted that, in some dioceses, deacons are regularly moved, which solves the problem of the deacon as alternative power center, but creates other issues for the entire church to deal with. Ultimately, he said, deacons are ordained for the whole church, not to a particular church. And, Geoff was critical of Huffer's “two-minute ambush” of her deacon.

Teddy Knight of California called out the priest as arrogant, and needing of a new vision for ministry. She also recommended that the two deacons make the effort to come together, rather than rely on the priest to make it happen.

The parallel tracks of ministry need to stop, for the good of everyone. Because some behavioral norms weren't enforced originally (i.e., cooperate, communicate), the situation now has the potential for becoming a lot worse.

Adding a third person to a bad relationship could break the truce that Huffer and Toowhit have settled into, and create all-out war. That will ripple through the congregation, and the downhill slide will begin.

This impending train wreck can also be an opportunity. As Knight suggested, Rowboat could act as a go-between, and get these two to act like adults. Or, she could model a new relationship: letters of agreement, regular clergy meetings, and so forth. A new arrangement will have to be developed, and this can be the chance for the other two to back away from their previous behaviors. The second deacon will need to avoid taking sides, and point out bad behavior whenever either party exhibits it. Not an enviable position, but it could create a healthier working relationship.

Deacons and priests need to be a team. One can't ignore or disrespect the other. In those cases where such behavior occurs, someone else needs to step in, point it out, and demand that it stop. When it doesn't, then someone may need to leave.

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**Chapter XXI**

## El roble y la bellota

BY DEACON KEITH MCCOY

It was another successful dinner at Wednesday's Café. The weekly meal in the Parish House at All Angels Church in New Canterbury had grown in popularity and need since Deacon Frank Rodriguez started it about six years ago. As with the other nights, the guests had left well-fed, the volunteers had mainly cleaned up, and those who were left to turn out the lights were the deacon, checking his inventory, and faithful Nelson Quiroga, scrubbing one last stubborn pot.

“Nelson – time to go home. All the angels have been satisfied,” said Frank as he locked the pantry. It was his traditional closing remark.

The young assistant put the pot away, tossed the dishtowels into the laundry bag, and followed the deacon out of the kitchen. But instead of heading towards the exit, he pulled out a chair and sat down.

“Señor, before we leave – can I ask you something?”

Frank turned, immediately concerned. “Is something wrong, son?” And he came over and sat on the table near Nelson.

“No, I was just curious about something. How did you come be a deacon, and here, in this place? There's not a lot of “us” in this church.”

The deacon gazed off into the rafters for a long moment. “When I was young, like you, I had a wife, and a baby on the way – like you. My abuelita had a nice little café in the neighborhood, and I had become her cook. I also liked a good time (winking at Nelson); too much of a good time. I was handsome, I had money in my pocket, I thought the world was *mi ostion*.”

The young man was paying close attention to the man he admired. “So, what happened?”

“One baby led to two, then to three. I hung out with *mi amigos* more, I drank more. I cracked up the car a few times, so I took money out of the register to pay for it.” Frank shrugged. “The oyster went bad.”

The deacon related the rest of the descent: his wife took the kids and left, his grandmother closed the restaurant. He borrowed money from a usurer, and was savagely beaten

*Continued on page 15*

# Kairos leads deacon to listen & love

BY DEACON EDWARD T. RICHARDS

I first became involved in prison ministry in 1995, when I was in Greenville, AL, and had recently come back to the Episcopal Church after being unchurched for 23 years. A member of the congregation told me I needed to become involved in Kairos. He was a part of a Kairos team servicing at Fountain Correctional Facility in Atmore, AL. I very reluctantly agreed and he immediately placed me as a member of the outside team for an upcoming weekend. During the weekend, he arranged for me to bring one of the meals into the prison. That was not bad, as we came to a side entrance and were allowed in with the food. I really did not have a chance to interact with the prisoners.

## LOOKING FORWARD

The next weekend, I was asked to be part of the Instruction Reunion team to go inside. We met in the reception area, gave our names, driver's license and car keys to a correctional officer who checked us off a list. Then a large metal door opened, we went through the opening and the door slid closed behind us with a loud thud which seemed to reverberate throughout my bones. Then a second, barred gate slid open, we walked through it, it slid shut, and I asked myself, "What the h--- have you got yourself into this time?" However, the prisoners turned out to be nice people who listened to us and, most importantly, we listened to them. We ate lunch with them in their mess hall and I experienced runny peanut butter, which I originally thought was some kind of soup. About mid-afternoon we reversed the process with the gates and I felt very much relieved when the big, heavy, solid gate banged shut behind us and we were on the outside and going home.

Shortly after that I moved from Alabama to Panama City, FL and although I quietly asked around there was no Kairos in the area and I really can't say I was upset. Around early 2004, a friend in a men's prayer group asked if I knew about Kairos and when I responded affirmatively, he invited me to be part of a team that was just beginning Kairos in a nearby prison. I said yes to his invitation and have never looked back. In fact I feel that my participation in Kairos led to my call for ordained ministry as a Deacon.

## KAIROS BEGINNINGS

For those who don't know, Kairos is an adaptation of Cursillo, for people who are incarcerated. Many years ago an Episcopal priest in Southern Florida, who had a heart for the incarcerated, adapted the Cursillo program so that it would work with those who were behind bars. It is now an international and ecumenical ministry. The team that I currently serve with has Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Southern Baptists, Assembly of God folks and some non-denomination church goers thrown in for the good of the order. We leave all of our denominational dogma behind and go forth to show God's Love to men who in many cases have never been loved. The motto of Kairos is "Listen, Listen, Love, Love". So during Kairos time there are no baptisms, no altar calls, no communion, no confirmation, just a lot of Christian, spiritual based listening and lots of love.

But back to the actual ministry: we fish for men in Kairos with cookies, salty snacks, coffee and Kool Aid. The program starts out on Thursday afternoon with introductions. I have heard many men, on Thursday afternoon say that they are certain that there was no God and that they had come to Kairos only for the cookies and other goodies. However, in many cases, something happens to them during the weekend and before it is over, they have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior and new best friend. I remember one man in particular who was very adamant in his Thursday declaration. Six months later, not only was he a Christian, but he was the leader of the Kairos movement inside the walls. Many of the men to whom we minister will never see the outside of the prison. I don't know what they have done and never ask. In some cases they tell me and what their sentence is, but I promptly forget. Many of the men never get visits from their families and they call us the "men who come back" because we go back for a half day one weekend a month for a Reunion weekend. It's organized and run by the men inside, but a number of men from the outside team come to offer support. So we do come back, which is very different from many other forms of prison ministry which offer a special weekend revival-

type event, that's not repeated for several years, if ever.

Knowing I had a heart for this type of ministry, a friend asked me to become involved in Prison Visitation and Support (PVS). It is a national program which was started by the Quakers to visit conscientious objectors during World War II. It is the only group which is allowed to visit in all Federal and Military prisons, and it is really a ministry of presence. Twice a month I go to the Marianna Federal Correctional Institution in Marianna, FL, with three other people. We visit with one or two men for an hour and then with another one or two for a second hour. We then go to a Federal Women's Work Camp which is on the property and visit with small groups of the women prisoners. In the Florida prison system, if you live in South Florida and are incarcerated in Northwest Florida it is hard to have your family and friends visit. If you are in the Federal Prison in Marianna, FL, and your family lives in Maine or Michigan or California, it is almost impossible. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has realized that incarcerated people who get visits actually do better while they are inside and are statistically not as likely to come back once they get out. So we go and visit. If the inmate wants to talk about religion, then we can talk about it, however they must initiate the subject. Often we just listen while they talk about life inside or plans for when they get out. Again, it is the listening that counts.

Prisons, although they are very crowded places, are very lonely places where, for the most part, no one ever gets listened to. So both ministries are really about loving God's children by listening to them. To hear their pain, their small victories, their aspirations and their hopes for the future. People who are incarcerated are really just like all people everywhere, they have done things that were wrong but they are still God's perfect beings, created in His image, and they need to know that they are loved. Hopefully, if you have an opportunity to try prison ministry, you will. I guarantee that if you do, your life will be changed in a very positive way.

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*Edward Richards ministers at Northwest Florida Reception Center.*

# Compunction and Grace

BY BR. DENNIS GIBBS, CDL

In my ten years of ministry in the Los Angeles County jails I have seen a lot. I could tell a hundred stories, if not thousands, because each person is a story. But I will tell of just two powerful moments that represent well what I call the culture of compunction and grace that is life with the incarcerated people of God.

This is a place where different people co-exist and cultures clash and integrate. It's a place that is divided and yet a place where mutuality exists. It's a place where the lines are clearly drawn and then violated by both sides. It is a place that is segregated and isolated. It is a place where the fundamental sin of racism is evident. It can be dark and dangerous. It is a place of deep suffering. It is a house divided and yet one that is, in its own way, crying out for the unifying force of God's love. It's messy and real here. There is no hiding – from yourself or others.

And this is a holy place.

Amidst the struggle and despair, there is also a deep yearning for God. I know that in any given moment on any given day, there is more of a concentration of prayer happening inside the walls of this jail that most anywhere else I know of. The women and men here are gathering together for small group Bible studies, coming to spiritual formation classes, engaging in contemplative practices such as Centering Prayer, attending Sunday Eucharist, and meeting regularly with our chaplains for pastoral care and spiritual direction.

In many ways, this is my parish and surely it is a holy place, this culture of compunction and grace. This is a place where the awareness of one's need of God's grace is very real. It is also a place where the experience of God's grace is very real, and there are moments when that grace cuts through all of the complexities of life here and we are allowed to experience the stunning – the breathtaking – reality of God's love up close.

Compunction is the realization that one has done something harmful to the human soul, something that propels us into despair in fear that we may have crossed a line from which there is no return, and the deep knowing, even the agonizing awareness of our need of grace. When this place of compunction is met by God's grace and the sense of God's forgiveness and love, it is the place where God's tears mingle with those of humans and streams of living water flow through the soul and fall from our eyes. This grace – it is no wonder

they call it amazing. Yes, this is a holy place.

There's a place in the jail for those who suffer from not only physical ailments, but also fairly extreme psychological conditions. One such a person was Chavez. She was Korean and spoke only broken, fragmented English. Chavez was deeply fractured from the tragic and traumatic events that had landed her in jail. She would come to my little gathering for worship there in the psych unit with four or five others. Of those who would attend, Chavez was the one who, while never saying anything, always helped me set the table, spreading the frontal and fair linen. She loved placing the cross and she always sat across from me looking at that cross during Eucharist. Once, while taking a quiet moment of reflection, as we always did after sharing communion, I opened my eyes, and as I was gazing at the white fair linen, suddenly and quietly...her tear landed where I was gazing. I heard her whisper "Thank you Jesus." God's tears mingling with hers in that moment. God's grace – it's no wonder we call it amazing.

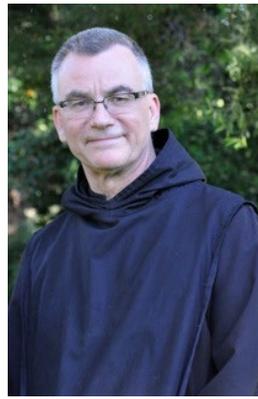
Last week we did a baptism in the jail. Ricky is a man who, when I first met him two years ago was about as tough as they come around here. But he has worked hard to change and he has taught me much as I have watched his heart of stone become one of flesh. I have watched him turn away from the violence that he knew so well, and now speak of Divine Love.

That day the altar was set in fair linen again. And once again the water flowed. It flowed from the silver lavabo over his head and it flowed from our eyes. Once again, the awareness of the need of healing for the soul was met by the Divine grace and love of God and streams of living flowed through our collective soul. I couldn't help but notice a tiny spot of water that had once again found its resting place on the linen.

No matter who you are, where you have been, or what you have done, absolutely no one is beyond the grace and love of God.

This is our song in this holy place of compunction and grace.

For more information on Prism Restorative Justice visit [www.prismjustice.com](http://www.prismjustice.com)



## Little Rascal

By Dennis Gibbs

*I sat by his bedside  
His head was shaved  
"Little Rascal" tattooed into the side  
I had passed by him before  
he gave me that "don't look at me" look*

*but this time as I passed by  
our eyes met  
in a moment of truth  
one pair of eyes in such despair  
the other in compassion*

*now so intimately involved  
with despair  
enclosed by God's grace  
he had so much fear, this little rascal.  
tears streaming down  
charcoal stained lips  
his wide eyes searched mine*

*"I didn't want it to be this way"  
he pleaded for me to believe him.  
I believe him  
such desperate groping  
in agony  
for a glimmer of God.  
reaching out  
"If I can only touch the fringe of his  
robe..."  
he reached out  
with his tears  
with his fear*

*Jesus turning  
who touched me?  
It's me  
Little Rascal  
I need you Jesus  
I'm in too deep*

*Jesus reaching  
touching  
praying  
blessing  
the Little Rascal*

*Br. Dennis Gibbs, CDL is a monk in the Community of Divine Love, an Episcopal religious order of men and women in the Benedictine tradition. He is the Director for Prism Restorative Justice, a ministry at work in the Los Angeles County jails and juvenile halls. An ordained deacon, he is the Sr. Episcopal Chaplain for the L.A. County Jail System.*

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*Diocese of St. Ives, from page 13*

when he didn't pay up. It was in the hospital that he met Marisol, who helped him become sober and, ultimately, became his second wife. Because AA met at All Angels, he started coming to church here, and then converted. Eventually, he reopened the café and made it a success. Feeling he owed God something for his recovered fortunes, Frank got involved at the church. After a while, the priest at the time asked him to become a deacon, so he agreed to study for it. Just before he was ordained, the city bought his property to build the new baseball stadium. Nelson knew the rest: Frank now worked just a few nights a week as the sous chef at Ratatouille, but spent the rest of his free time feeding the hungry.

"So, you didn't go to seminary to be a deacon. Did you go to college?" queried Quiroga.

"Only the college of hard knocks," smiled the deacon. "Nelson, why the interest in my life?"

The young man replied, "You seem so at peace, and you do such good works. I want to be like you. I want to be a deacon."

The older man shook his head. "Nelson, you have a young wife, soon there will be three of you. Becoming a deacon means a lot of study and work, and it is something you will be for the rest of your life. You have a lot of that ahead of you. Go and enjoy it before you dedicate all your days to something like this."

Nelson pondered that for a bit. "I grew up liking the church, Padrecito, and thought I wanted to be a priest. Then I got to like girls, and I stopped thinking about doing that. When my Mama wanted to remarry, the church treated her so poorly, my whole family left. It wasn't until I saw the story about your work on TV that I realized I was missing something. Now that I have been helping out here for the last year, I know that this church is different."

The deacon sighed, and stood up. "Nelson, it has been a good night. Let us continue this conversation another day, when we are rested and I can talk some sense into you."

They both chuckled, turned off the lights, and headed to their respective homes, Nelson dreaming about being a deacon, and Frank wondering if his young friend was crazy, or called.

**What would you do?** Please send responses with your take on rectifying the matter to [kmccoy1@optonline.net](mailto:kmccoy1@optonline.net) or 14 Second St., Edison, NJ 08837. Comments received within a month will be taken into consideration when writing the response.

*Deacon Keith McCoy has twenty plus years as a deacon and manager of public agencies.*

*(El roble y la bellota - "The acorn and the oak")*



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### NEWLY ORDAINED

## Recent Ordinations

We celebrate the following vocational Deacon ordinations that have been reported to AED. Ordination notices are published as we receive them, and may not be in chronological order. If you know of others, please contact our membership office at [membership@episcopaldeacons.org](mailto:membership@episcopaldeacons.org).

**May 3, 2014**

**Diocese of Toronto, Canada**

Evelyn Butler  
Christian Harvey

**May 14, 2014**

**Diocese of Toronto, Canada**

Pamela Alderson

**May 17, 2014**

**Diocese of Los Angeles**

William Doulos

**May 18, 2014**

**Diocese of Montana**

Constance Campbell  
Marcia Lauzon

**June 7, 2014**

**Diocese of Arizona**

Linda Hutson  
Chris Ledtar  
Deidre Moulinier  
Chuck Sowinski

**June 7, 2014**

**Diocese of Long Island**

Jason Edward Moskal  
Jennifer E. VanCooten-Webster

**Diocese of Southern Ohio**

Carolyn Cogar  
William Sangrey

**June 14, 2014**

**Diocese of California**

Phyllis Manoogian

**Diocese of Maryland**

Kirk DeVore  
Robert Frederick

**Diocese of Michigan**

Glenn Morrison  
Ken Rasnick  
Linda Jean Shafer

**Diocese of Northern California**

Kathryn McLaughlin Wallace

**June 14, 2014**

**Diocese of Pennsylvania**

Dennis Coleman  
Karen A. Kaminskas

**June 26, 2014**

**Diocese of Minnesota**

Cindy Hillger  
Jane Quesenberry-Nelson  
Margaret Thor  
Vant Washington

**June 28, 2014**

**Diocese of Chicago**

Judy Jackson  
Patricia Moser  
Trilby Murray

**Diocese of San Joachin**

Teri Hewitt Van Huss