



FAITHWAY – January 2017

The Church of the Holy Faith

welcomes all people into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and the Authority of Scripture.

We honor our Anglican heritage and praise God with Solemn liturgy, traditional Prayer Book worship, and music to exalt the spirit.

We strive to live as a community with compassion for one another and the world around us.

We worship together in peace to praise and thank God, to transcend division, and to celebrate the mystery of faith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

In my first letter to you just after my institution as your Rector, I said my first priority was to get to know you because ministry is all about relationships. I have enjoyed doing just that – getting to know you – in our liturgies, through Bible studies and small-group discussions, and at social occasions. How glorious our Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany services were! My thanks to the acolytes, the altar guild, the flower guild, and the musicians who made the worship of our God Incarnate so joyful. How stimulating our book discussions and Bible studies have been! My thanks to all who have contributed so much to our understanding together of God and God's will for us. What fun we have had at our parties! This is a parish that knows how to have a good time. My thanks to all who have hosted and organized an event, especially our tireless Hospitality crew, and to all who have attended so we can share fellowship in Christ's name.



While we will continue to get to know one another better, my next focus is supporting and strengthening the ministries of The Church of the Holy Faith. As your profile to help you search for a new Rector stated, "There are more than fifty [emphasis mine!] ministry groups [in the parish] seeking to meet the needs of parishioners and others, all made possible by robust lay

participation throughout the parish." My job as your new Rector in getting to know you is to discern your individual gifts for ministry and connect you with various expressions for those gifts so that you are inspired to ever-greater faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and ever-greater service to God through the Holy Spirit.

*"...my next focus is supporting and strengthening the ministries of
The Church of the Holy Faith."*

You may remember that in my sermon for the Feast of our Lord's Baptism, I stressed that baptism empowers us for ministry. Just as Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin his public ministry when he came up out of the water of the Jordan River at his baptism, so we are ordained by the Holy Spirit for ministry through the water of our baptism. According to the Catechism, an Outline of the Faith, ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church (Book of Common Prayer p. 855).

You always have opportunities to take your place in the life and worship of The Church of the Holy Faith, and you have been doing so! Your commitment to this parish church has been astounding, as evidenced this year by a record number of pledging households at 225 and a record amount pledged of just shy of one million dollars. You also have a special opportunity to take your place in the governance of the parish at its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and concluding with a pot-luck fellowship meal. Come and hear about all the vibrant ministries that go on at Holy Faith and prayerfully consider which ones can benefit from your gifts for ministry. Come also to elect your new Vestry, the governing board of the parish, and our Deanery Delegates. Parishioners Mitzi Barker, Penni Chambers, and Mike Ward have discerned a call to stand for election to the Vestry and exercise their fine gifts for ministry, as have Charles Chambers and Chris Frenk for the Deanery. Our thanks go to retiring Vestry members Sue Kropschot, Doug Whitehurst, and Senior Warden Ray Wallace for their gifts of leadership these past three years, and our prayers go out for them as they discern how they will next carry out their gifts for ministry.

Prayer of St. Benedict of Nursia

Oh Lord, I place myself in your hands and dedicate myself to you. I pledge myself to do your will in all things: To love the Lord God with all my heart, all my soul, all my strength....To prefer nothing to the love of Christ....To do no injury: yea, even to bear patiently any injury done to me...To put my trust in God. To refer the good I see in myself to God. To refer any evil in myself to myself....To fulfill the commandments of God by good works....Never to despair of your mercy, O God of Mercy.
Amen

In this season of Epiphany, when we hear of the manifestation of Christ to the whole world and celebrate the “green season” of growth in the Church, may we all grow in the knowledge and likeness of Christ and radiate his love to the world. May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Robin D. Dodge
Rector

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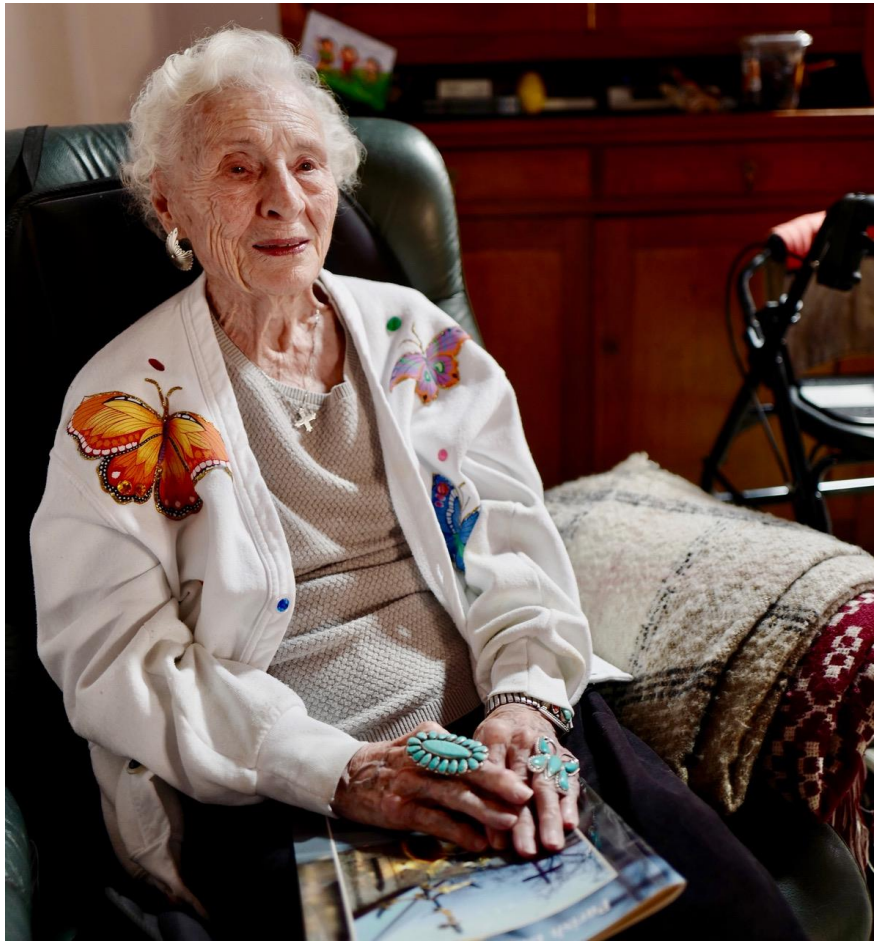
**THE ETERNAL VOLUNTEER:
MARY LOUISE GRAW**
STORY BY JAMES AND JULIE ANNE
OVERTON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES OVERTON
AND JERRY SWETLAND

“Somebody, Please Make Me Say NO!”

It’s one thing to follow the timeline of history. Quite another, to hear history from someone who’s lived it. That’s what a morning of memories and anecdotes is like with parishioner Mary Louise Graw.

Having recently celebrated a still-young-at-heart 102nd birthday, our venerable Holy Faith worshiper – 11 a.m. service, thank you – is a cheerful icon of our life and times.

To those who know her, Mary Louise is “the eternal volunteer.” She’s seen it all. But to sit down for a conversation, it took an intercession from Fr. Jim Gordon. Thus, this sweet recollection: “I feel great humility. I haven’t done anything to deserve this kind of attention,” she said, during a recent Saturday morning visit flanked by her current knitting project for the prayer shawl ministry and the Holy Faith Directory on the table next to her chair. “But with this, I can tell the congregation how grateful I am and how wonderful they’ve been to me – with the loss of my daughter and then the accident which pretty much incapacitated me.”



Mary Louise’s daughter, Kathleen McGraw, a career New Mexico journalist, died in 2015 after a battle with cancer. Then, on a frigid Christmas Eve 2105, Mary Louise at age 101 took a tumble in the walkway between Palen Hall and the Nave, breaking a femur. Months later after strenuous rehabilitation therapy, she’s back with the assistance of a walker and her son, Stuart, as driver. But she’s been curtailed in many of her volunteer activities, a passion for three decades after “retirement.”

That said, she’s as feisty and undeterred as she was in 1943, arriving in New Mexico as a freshly minted 2nd Lieutenant recruiter for the Women’s Army Corps. She was stationed at the Army Air Corps base in Clovis, but visited Santa Fe on both business and weekend passes. Even more so than now, Santa Fe was a remote capital in the high mountain desert, an insular community wed to its Hispanic and Pueblo traditions. “It was so very different. We used to say we should get foreign duty pay because Santa Fe was like living in a foreign country,” she said, reflecting on those days as a 20-something just graduated from the University of Arkansas who volunteered to serve her country. “If you wanted to hear English, you had to go to La Fonda because that’s where Anglos and the few tourists would go,” she said. “On the streets, you mostly heard Spanish or Indian.”

When she came to Santa Fe, she would often stay with her commanding officer, a WAC captain who had an apartment in La Posada, rather than a hotel. Using her officer’s per diem, “I’d buy her a bottle of Scotch and dinner and she’d let me stay with her. And, she was okay with that.” Her first visit to Holy Faith in 1943 required no more than a walk across the street from La Posada.

But it was in the lobby of the St. Francis Hotel (then the DeVargas Hotel) that she spotted John Graw, the man who would become her husband. “We had met before in Clovis, but he was in a group of people. He made no particular impression on me,” she recalled.

That weekend, she was in Santa Fe to see a mandatory Army training film on the perils of venereal disease. She had to turn down a dinner date because of the training, but the next day her girlfriend invited her to join her beau and his friend John for lunch at the Plaza Café. Mary Louise asked John if he’d ever been to Santa Fe, and when he said no, she offered to give him a tour. The rest, as they say, is history.

Graw, a veteran of Guadalcanal, had come to New Mexico to train pilots after a year of being a bombardier on a B-17. “We liked to talk and enjoyed each other’s company,” she recalled. “Getting married was the last thing on my mind.” As their relationship grew, she eventually told her mother that she had broken off an engagement to another man and decided to marry her Army captain. Her mother’s response was not atypical for a southerner of that time. “My mother said, ‘He’s not only a Roman Catholic, but he’s a damn Yankee.’ To her, that was the worst thing. But he won her over the first time they met, and she loved him.” Mary Louise and John were married in the chapel on the Army Air Corps base in Clovis, which “was doing a wedding every 30 minutes,” often with newlyweds handing off their flowers to the next couple in line.

Despite the war, devastating flight training accidents and the specter of an uncertain future, the Graws lived life to the fullest. “Someone asked me not long ago, if I had to look back over my long life what was the happiest time of my life. Now, this sounds terrible, but it was during the war,” she recalled wistfully. “We all lived with the sense that today is the day. Make the most of this day because you never knew what tomorrow would bring.”

Nearly a half-century later, Mary Louise returned to Santa Fe after raising her family and retiring from her career as a college English professor, teacher and speech therapist in her native Arkansas and Lubbock, TX. The year was 1989, and she found her second calling as a community volunteer. She has been a docent at the Wheelwright Museum, where she also helped organize a museum book club and worked at the Case Trading Post. She also spent three days a week at the Santa Fe Children’s Museum for 20 years because she loves working with children.

And, of course, she became an active member of The Church of the Holy Faith, where she has taught Sunday school, served on the Altar Guild, worked the St. Nicholas Bazaar, joined the Order of the Daughters of the King, and knitted for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. As a member of the Holy Faith Library Board at age 99, she worked on the massive



reorganization and conversion of the 6,000-volume collection to the Dewey Decimal System.

Eventually, somebody gave her a T-shirt that said, “Please Make Me Say NO!”

“The greatest blessing of my time in Santa Fe is the fact that I belong to Holy Faith,” Mary Louise said. “All the love I’ve received from Holy Faith has been great for me.” Until her Christmas Eve accident, Mary Louise still drove herself to Sunday service, parking in the space outside Conkey House designated just for her by the late Fr. Ken Semon. Lest anyone ever be tempted to take the space, a discreet sign says simply, “Reserved For Mary Louise.” “I think they did that because somebody caught me parking where I shouldn’t have been,” she said.

At first, being singled out for special attention embarrassed her, especially when a parishioner gently ribbed her about favored status. She’s over it now. “Now, all I say when somebody asks how I rate my own personal parking spot, I just tell them all you have to do is be at least a hundred years old!”

She is an inspiration to many. “I feel great humility. It’s been an interesting life. A blessed life.

NOMINEES TO THE VESTRY



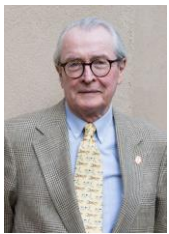
MITZI BARKER

A lifelong Episcopalian, I grew up in Paris, Texas, where my mother was the first female Senior Warden at Holy Cross Episcopal Church and where I spent many hours drinking “milk coffee” in the parish hall, turning pages for the organist, and happily participating in EYC (a mighty band of five). My husband Tom and I have lived in Austin, TX, Birmingham, AL, and Houston; we moved to Santa Fe in 2004. We have four children and eleven grandchildren. At Holy Faith, I have been involved as a past Vestry member and chair of an “Every Member Canvass” and a stewardship campaign; chair of Art & Acquisitions Committee (including commissioning and installation of Stations of the Cross); participant in remodel of several spaces at church; greeter; usher; lay reader; Missions & Outreach committee; Search Committee.



PENNI CHAMBERS

I was born in St. Mary’s, PA, where I lived until the age of 12 and was baptized and confirmed in the United Methodist Church. In 1998, I met Charles and began attending St. John’s Episcopal Church in Odessa, TX. I was confirmed at St. John’s in May 1999 and Charles and I married there in July 1999. Charles and I purchased our home here in Santa Fe in 2010 and were Santa Fe “part-timers” from 2010 to the summer of 2014 and visited The Church of the Holy Faith during our time here. After moving here permanently we became involved in the acolyte ministry, the Bible and book studies and the lay Eucharistic ministry at El Castillo. I have also had the privilege of serving on the finance committee for the past two years.



MIKE WARD

My early childhood was in the East, and my family moved to California in the mid-fifties, where we lived in Pasadena and Santa Barbara. It was in London that I was received at age 27 in the Church of England with its rich historical and liturgical traditions. The Reverend C.E. Leighton Thompson guided me in this personal journey in faith, which happily ended in confirmation “for those of riper years.” Alexandra and I joined Holy Faith upon our arrival in Santa Fe back in December of 1994. Over the years we’ve been so impressed by the variety of opportunities to try and contribute to the life of our parish. I’ve been fortunate enough to be a member of two Vestries as well as to serve as a lay Eucharistic minister, lector, usher, enthusiastic greeter, and as part of the Search committee.

DEANERY DELEGATE NOMINEES



CHARLES CHAMBERS

I am a native West Texan (born in Lubbock and raised in Odessa), where I lived the majority of my life before retiring and moving to Santa Fe, permanently, in 2014. I was brought up in the Southern Baptist church as a child and adolescent. I discovered the Episcopal Church in 1966 while attending the University of Texas, Austin. I was confirmed at All Saint’s, Austin, in April 1968. Penni and I bought our home in Santa Fe in 2010. Upon our permanent relocation here, we immediately became involved in church activities and ministries, including Bible and book studies, acolyte corps, and lay Eucharistic ministers to residents at El Castillo. I was honored to serve as a member of the Search Committee for our new rector.



CHRIS FRENK

The Church of the Holy Faith was an important part of our lives before Skipp and I moved permanently to Santa Fe from California in September 2015. Our time at Holy Faith has been a blessing to us. We love to attend Morning Prayer. Our faith has been nurtured through Bible study, spiritual books and women’s spirituality classes. I was also part of the wonderful pilgrimage to Assisi. We are uplifted by the beautiful music. Joining the growing Grief Ministry seemed like a logical fit since after teaching I earned a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology and worked with Visiting Nurse Services as a Medicare Hospice counselor and social worker. I continue as a children’s chaplain and recently became a docent so that I could share my love of Holy Faith.

Photographs by Alexandra Ward.

RYAN AND MALLORY JORDAN - AT HOME AT NASHOTAH HOUSE

STORY BY JANET SANDERS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA WARD AND RYAN JORDAN



One term into seminary, Ryan and Mallory Jordan are experiencing – and mostly relishing – 24/7 immersion into intensive study and practice of our faith. Ryan is part of a large incoming class of primarily young but not exclusively American seminarians, most of whom live on the Wisconsin campus and study, worship, eat, work and spend what leisure they have together. Mallory works part-time as Financial Aid Coordinator and Assistant to the Deans, and enjoys auditing classes and participating in the campus music program. At the December 18 Forum the Jordans presented an overview of their seminary life to date. In a later interview, they added detail.

Campus life is ordered and organized. Twice-a-day chapel, shared meals (since she works on Campus, Mallory can partake of some), chapter meetings, weekly work details, four classes per term, and practicum experiences on- and off-campus fill Ryan's week. Seminarians attend, and in later terms seek internships and practicums in, off-campus churches in the area.

But they also experience life wholly, as well as holy life. The wooded, lakeside campus provides many recreational activities and teems with wildlife. While their socializing wouldn't be called "wild life," students do relax together in an on-campus pub, and pranks are not unknown. Ryan says one favorite is putting small ball-bearings into faculty hymnals during chapel. Over the holidays, Christmas lights appeared on the chapel's rood screen (to the head Dean's dismay), and a statue of the Infant of Prague became mobile, visiting varied unexpected locations.



With the spiritual and financial support of the Holy Faith congregation, the Jordan's have completed one step in their three-year formation journey. In Ryan's closing Forum remarks, "Through your giving you are supporting God's plan for the future of his Church. Thank you! We entrust ourselves to your continued generosity and support... Please continue to pray for us and for Nashotah House."

ADVENT QUIET MORNING

STORY BY JAMES VAUGHAN

Fr. Robin Dodge introduced about 50 Holy Faith parishioners to a new tradition – Advent Quiet Morning – on December 17. The half-day event included a gathering time, Morning Prayer, three meditations and Holy Eucharist – but mostly silence for individual prayer, reflection and study.

Billed as an "opportunity to slow down in the hectic run-up to Christmas," Fr. Robin's instructions were to "hear God's word, reflect on God's word and act on God's word." The Quiet Morning was also a time to study the beautiful architecture of Holy Faith's 19th-century nave, contemplate the stained-glass windows, especially those on the west wall of the sanctuary, and imagine the secret places found in the historic space.

Parishioners were faithful in keeping quiet throughout the morning with the stillness interrupted only by an occasional automobile speeding down Palace or from a mobile phone buzzing while on silence. Welcome sounds were the Soleri bells and the creaking floors and pews as people walked in or out in silence.

The meditations were based on how Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist heard and acted on God's call. These were their calls, not our calls, but Fr. Robin suggested that God may be calling us for other important roles or tasks.

PICTURES FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR, LAS POSADAS, CHURCH GREENING,
CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER
PHOTOS BY JAMES OVERTON, JAMES VAUGHAN, JANET MCCROSKEY, ALEXANDRA WARD & DORA HORN













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For more information, please visit our new website at www.holymfaithchurchsf.org.

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