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## FAITHWAY – Epiphany 2019

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### *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,

At the Annual Parish Meeting, I had the pleasure of announcing that the search for filling the vacant clergy position was over and introducing the Rev'd Pamela Graham as Associate Rector and the newest addition to Holy Faith's clergy team.

Mother Pam comes to us from the Diocese of Texas as Vicar of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Rockdale, where she served for the last eight years. She was sponsored for ordination by St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin after an impressive career in education of all ages and director of children's and youth ministries and religious education. Mother Pam holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Education from Texas State University in San Marcos and graduated from the Iona School of Ministry. She will join Fr. Jim, Deacon Pat, Fr. Murphy, and me in all aspects of ministry here at Holy Faith, with a



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*"... joy is palpable in our worship."*

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special focus on children's, youth, and family ministries, and women's spirituality. After my initial meeting with her, Mother Pam wrote, "[Holy Faith] is a vibrant and holy space. There was such a yearning in my heart as you spoke of the position that needs to be filled." Please introduce yourself to Mother Pam and welcome her to Holy Faith.

The Annual Meeting saw the election of Dan Green, Leslea McCabe, and Charles Rountree as members of the Vestry, as we thanked the retiring members of the Vestry: Van Horn, Lynne Rauch, and Jacki Walker. The new Vestry members join continuing Vestry members: Guy Gronquist, Senior Warden; Paul D'Arcy, Junior Warden; Penni Chambers, Treasurer; Mitzi Barker, Clerk; Heidi Hahn, Mike Ward, and myself. We also give thanks for Donna Bailey, continuing as the Vestry's Recording Secretary. The Vestry presented a balanced budget for 2019 with expected operating income of \$1,295,603 surpassing expected operating expenses of \$1,293,058, based on record pledge levels for the fourth year in a row!

As part of my annual charge to the parish, I followed up on my last Faithway letter and Bishop Michael Hunn's message in the latest issue of Together, the diocesan newsletter, suggesting ways to move along the stages of one's life in Christ from 1) exploring the faith, to 2) growing in the faith, to 3) deepening one's faith, to 4) centering one's life on Jesus Christ. Because Holy Faith's mission is to welcome all persons into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, we provide the drivers to move people along the spectrum. We provide opportunities for engagement with Holy Scripture through the various Bible studies, book groups, and Christian formation classes. We provide opportunities for a richer prayer life through daily Morning and Evening Prayer, prayer groups such as the Rosary Society and Daughters of the King, and informal prayer chains. We provide opportunities for the regular participation in the Holy Eucharist by offering three Eucharists each Sunday, as well as the Tuesday Taizé Eucharists and the Wednesday and Thursday noon Eucharists.

I also charged the parish to continue its exemplary job of welcoming newcomers to Holy Faith. I am often reminded after Sunday services by visitors how warm and friendly Holy Faith is. Our greeters, ushers, docents, Newcomers Committee, and Hospitality Team all do a fabulous job of welcoming newcomers and extending hospitality, but it is up to all of us to make people feel welcome at Holy Faith. So, be sure to greet people around you each time you are in church, introduce yourselves, get to know them, invite them for coffee hour and, most importantly, invite them to return.

My final charge to the parish was to be joyful. I believe one of the reasons why Holy Faith is perceived as a warm and welcoming parish is that joy is palpable in our worship. There is joy in our singing of the hymns, there is joy in our participation in the prayers, and there is joy in our receiving the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. One of the criticisms lobbed against Christians is that we are not a joyful people. Well, that's not true of Holy Faith! Recalling the words of the morning's lesson from Nehemiah and from Fr. Jim's sermon, we heard, "The joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8.10d). Yes! The joy of the LORD is our strength, and may we go from strength to strength with God's help! (For my full charge to the parish, go to <https://holyfaithchurchsf.org/wp-content/uploads/Rectors-Charge-2019.pdf>.)

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always!

Robin D. Dodge  
Rector



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## **"DEEP ROOTS, BROAD REACH"**

### **INTRODUCING BISHOP MICHAEL HUNN: SHARING A MESSAGE OF HOPE THROUGH CHRIST**

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES OVERTON

The bishop favors cowboy boots as manly footwear and drives a pickup truck. He's a good guy who wears a black hat. But the Rt. Rev. Michael Buerkel Hunn is also a native son of New Mexico, and his roots in the Southwest run deep. "I grew up around cowboy boots. I didn't wear them much in the East because when you wear cowboy boots there, they think you're up to something," he said with a wink, referring to his childhood and adolescence in Los Alamos, NM, and Austin, TX, respectively. "So, it's nice to be back in a place where I can wear my boots and people don't even pay attention."

Nearly two decades since he left New Mexico, he's happy to be back. "The blessing of being called back to serve the people who raised me up, both here and in Texas, has been just overwhelming," he said during a recent interview in his diocesan office in Albuquerque. "I love the people. I love the place. I love the food. It feels so good to be home."

Hunn was consecrated as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande on Nov. 3, 2018, after serving three years as Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church under the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church. He succeeds Bishop Michael Vono, who retired from the Diocese in 2018.

Settling into his new job as chief pastor for 15,000 Episcopalians, he now has a broad reach and a lot of territory to cover. The Diocese of the Rio Grande covers 154,000 square miles of New Mexico and Far West Texas from the Pecos River to the border with Mexico along the Rio Grande. "Part of the reason I'm so excited to be here is that we, in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of the Rio Grande, have this tremendously fertile field to work in, multicultural, lots of different people, lots of opportunity to tell the story of Jesus Christ's love in a way that a lot of people haven't heard before."

He cites a verse from the Book of Psalms — "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water..." (Psalm 1:3) — when he talks about his pastoral goals. "As I was praying for the diocese, I kept seeing a particular image and I kept hearing a particular verse of scripture. The image I saw was the Rio Grande cutting through the canyon and the cottonwood trees in the Bosque. Those trees should not exist out here in this desert. The only reason they survive is their roots are deep. That's how we've come up with this theme of 'deep roots, broad reach.' I feel like we as a diocese are called first to deepen our roots."

Bishop Michael recognizes the impact social and cultural changes have had on congregations across the diocese. "Young people and young families are so busy with so many demands on their time that the Episcopal Church is not competing primarily with other denominations. The church is competing with the soccer program and music lessons and scouting and all the other extracurricular activities our young people are involved in today. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the same as it always was. But we have to learn how to speak the gospel into this culture."

To the new bishop, that means focusing "congregation by congregation on deepening the faith of the people who are already here" in the church and then opening the doors to others who are seeking a more spiritual life. "There are a lot of young people who are not being raised with a cultural expectation that they should go to church, but they still have a spiritual yearning. We need to ask them to help us understand how the church needs to change going forward. How do





we as this generation of the Episcopal Church proclaim the gospel of our loving, liberating and life-giving God into a world that hasn't heard that story yet?"

This task may be made easier by the historical and cultural legacy of New Mexico. "I think this is a very spiritual place. This is what the Celts would call a 'thin place,' where the holiness of the divine is visible in the landscape and visible in the people." To Bishop Michael, this pre-existing spiritual vocabulary makes it easier to reach the younger generation that represents the future of the diocese.

A longstanding tenet of the Anglican tradition is not to provide all the answers but rather to encourage the questions. "In the Anglican tradition, 'no one will remove from you the responsibility to wrestle out your salvation with God.' Our churches do not exist to tell you what to do or what to think. Our churches exist as a community of people who are asking those questions and wrestling together," Bishop Michael said.

And that togetherness is a theme of his bishopric. "One of the beautiful things about Anglicanism is that we proclaim that what binds us together is our life in prayer. We are not bound by a confession like other Protestant denominations, and we're not a hierarchical church that tells us what our morality is. Instead, it is our liturgy, it is in our common prayer where we find our unity."

Bishop Michael finds comfort in the fact that today's polarized political environment stops at the door of the Episcopal Church. "We worship every Sunday, literally shoulder to shoulder and knee to knee, with people who disagree on politics and everything else." Referencing Galatians 3:28, Bishop Michael continued, "In Christ there is no Jew or Greek. In Christ there is no male or female. In Christ there is no Republican or Democrat. In Christ we are called to be a new creation. That message is a message of hope."

Confirmed at Trinity on the Hill in Los Alamos at age 12, some of his earliest memories are literally in the church. "The first thing I can remember is crawling around under the pews at Trinity on the Hill. I remember vividly, as I was learning how to read, being able to recognize certain words in the prayer book. I always felt comfortable and at peace around the altar." His family moved to Austin, TX, when he was 13. The teenage transition could have been potentially disruptive, but he found solace and acceptance in the middle school youth group at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. "The youth group was focused on telling the young kids that God actually loved them. And you could feel that love in that room. It was so unlike anything that I experienced at school or on baseball teams or in the scout troops or anything else. It was a powerful experience," he said.



Still, becoming a priest was not yet part of his plan. Baseball was his first passion. He played catcher in high school and at Middlebury College and signed with a semi-professional baseball league for three years during college. At a tryout for the Cape Cod League, one of the scouts bluntly told him that at age 22 with catcher's knees he was unlikely to make it to the pros. "That's when I hung up my cleats, and the call to the priesthood started coming to the fore," he said, hastened by his first college course on the New Testament, which he confesses he signed up for thinking it would be an easy A. Instead, the professor, also an ordained Methodist minister, introduced him to biblical criticism and challenged him in his faith. "He said, 'Michael, maybe you can decide that God is bigger than you are and you can devote your life to figuring out what that means.' My whole life ever since has been in pursuit of God. God is manifest in our lives all the time if we can only learn to see it. That's why I get up in the morning."

In some 20 years of ordained ministry, Bishop Michael has been a prep school chaplain (and varsity baseball coach), parish priest, college chaplain and Canon to the Ordinary. When he received a telephone call from Bishop Curry about becoming the Canon, Hunn literally thought the Bishop had him confused with someone else. "And he said, 'Michael, I've been telling people I'm serious about young people in leadership and they're going to believe me now.'"

Grateful for all he learned working with Bishop Curry, Hunn is now assimilating back into the kinder, gentler lifestyle of New Mexico. His greatest joy is spending time with his wife, Meg, who is also an ordained Episcopal priest, and daughter Dosie. In addition to family time, he hikes, rides both mountain and road bikes, and considers himself a pretty good bicycle mechanic. A permaculture gardener, he and Meg are planning the garden, to include a fruit orchard, at their new home.

As he settles in to what he hopes will be a long and fruitful tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, Bishop Michael Hunn embraces the Anglican stance of humility. "I'm aware that I'm a human being and God's vision is bigger than I am, so I better ask you what you think, too." He begins this new journey with a deeply held belief that the message of love and welcome in the liturgical traditions of the Episcopal Church will inspire future generations to carry it forward into the future. "If we can tell people there is a way to bring your questions and your yearning and your searching to create a community of people who are on the same path and that's what it means to be a part of a church, I know there are a lot of people who would sign up for that."

### GRIEF: TRANSFORMING THE INNER LANDSCAPE

STORY AND  
PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES  
OVERTON

Loss is a part of the human condition. If it has not already done so, sorrow will inevitably touch your life. The loss of a parent, spouse, sibling, child or dear friend takes hold deep in the soul.



But parishioners at Holy Faith do not need to go through the grieving process alone. With the support of lay volunteers and facilitators, the Grief Ministry provides invaluable support to the bereaved, helping them process unfinished business, regret and even guilt. "To be a facilitator requires the skills of compassion and listening," said parishioner Steven Hecht. "You don't have to be specially trained to listen. It's just being a good human being."

Hecht and parishioner Randall Hayden have volunteered to assume co-leadership of the Grief Ministry for 2019, replacing Dr. Camille Barnett, who retired, and Janet Schreiber, who started the ministry more than seven years ago. The Grief Ministry holds periodic retreats to help people find a path through the grieving process by providing a caring space. While the ministry serves Holy Faith and the parish, it welcomes anyone from Santa Fe, Albuquerque and beyond to attend. "We have people come from all over New Mexico," Hecht said in a recent interview. "It reflects well on our parish."

The retreats frequently begin on a Friday and conclude on Saturday. Generally, six to 10 facilitators work with attendees who are grappling with the loss of a loved one. "What the retreats do is try and make a space for everybody. We don't force you to do anything in particular, and we don't try to prescribe a routine," Hecht said. "When losing a loved one, you go to a different space and get out of your normal 24/7 mind-set. You reframe where you are."

Loss expands or shrinks you according to your own nature. Comfort is one of the keys to helping those in mourning or who are feeling diminished. "Food preparation and dining are a big part of each retreat. Comfort comes from food," Hecht said. "So, having a nice meal is really an important part."



But for most participants, the most valuable part of the retreats is the opportunity to share and articulate their feelings. “I had no particular background in this but said I’d give it a try,” Hecht said. “When I facilitate, I always say that I get more than I give to people. I’m there to listen and not say anything stupid. I’m meant to be an ear for someone trying to process their grief. I’m a silent partner.”

Hecht, who moved to Santa Fe with his wife some four years ago after he retired from his chiropractic practice outside Boston, MA, said the Grief Ministry is looking for volunteers who are willing to commit time and energy to helping others through their grief. “Most of what we do is ask how can I help you. What can I give to you?”

Editor’s Note: Anyone interested in joining the Grief Ministry can reach Steven Hecht at [Stevehecht21@gmail.com](mailto:Stevehecht21@gmail.com) or Randall Hayden at [distafman@gmail.com](mailto:distafman@gmail.com). You may also call the parish office at 505-982-4447 for more information.

## WHAT SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO, NOW – CHRISTMAS 2018 IN PICTURES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES OVERTON











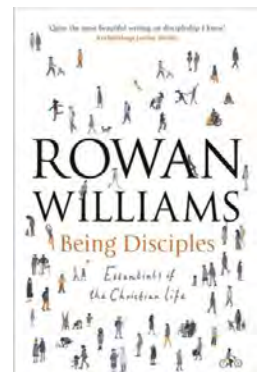




## SOUP AND SALVATION: THE LENTEN SOUP SUPPER BOOK REVEALED!

STORY BY CATHY GRONQUIST

The Lenten Soup suppers begin on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Not only will there be soup and fellowship but a discussion of *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* by Rowan Williams, 104<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury and current Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. The Goodreads review says the following of the book: "The aim of this little book is simple: to help readers to see more clearly, love more dearly and follow more nearly the way of Jesus Christ. This is a fresh, inspiring look at the meaning of Christian discipleship by one of the world's greatest theologians, perfect for anyone exploring what it means to follow Christ today or wanting to be refreshed and reinvigorated in the Christian life."



## BIBLE AND BOOK STUDY AIDS NOW DOWNLOADABLE FROM THE WEBSITE

By popular demand, study aids and updates for both the Bible studies and the class on *The Jewish Gospels* by Daniel Boyarin are now available on the Holy Faith website. To access both of these, click on the Adults tab on the right-hand side at the very top of the front page of the website: <https://holyfaithchurchsf.org>.





2019 ANNUAL MEETING IN PICTURES  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES VAUGHAN AND CATHY GRONQUIST





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For more information, please visit our new website at [www.holyfaithchurchsf.org](http://www.holyfaithchurchsf.org).

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