
On the Cover: Veterans’ dedication, St. Luke’s (pg. 8); St. Andre’s Parish & School (pg. 6); All Saints’ 125th anniversary (pg. 11).

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Dear Friends,

Aelred of Rievaulx, a Cistercian monk in the 13th century wrote a book called *Spiritual Friendship*. The first line is this: “You and I are here, and I hope that Christ is between us as a third.”

In the Diocese of El Camino Real we encourage partnerships between our congregations and other community organizations in our neighborhoods. It is a key component of our Strategic Plan Remix and a most basic aspect of our Christian faith. Partnerships express the vision of what we believe is a most basic call of Christ: to love our neighbor. Deepening our relationships with our neighbors is where we find the grit, the creative tension, from which the Spirit will bear fruit. It is often in the partnering between difference that something new can be born.

This is a step beyond the practice of hospitality most common in our congregations: allowing various groups to use our buildings for important gatherings that support their organization’s purposes. Like us, groups such as 12-step gatherings, Scouts, and other non-profit organizations build up social cohesion in our neighborhoods. Like us, they are critical to the well-being of our communities. Often, however, our church organization and members do not intermingle significantly with the activity and people meeting in our spaces. While hospitality is happening within our space, it is not necessarily happening within our hearts.

Partnerships, where we till the common ground of friendship and activity between us, move us into deeper relationship with the shared values of our organizations and the people who support them. We offer our vulnerability, making our hearts and minds supple to the possibility of collegial friendship. Partnerships invite us to discover and develop a common life for the common good. Partnerships multiply our efforts to help our neighbors experience love and the creative action of God in the world. Partnerships help us to reach beyond ourselves and our own survival connecting with the work of Christ in the world.

“Christ between us,” I think, is a way of expressing that when we let go of our agenda for relationships, often self-serving, we discover the expanse of eternity and all the never-ending gifts it holds. We discover love, grace, and service beyond our imagining. As we risk making ourselves vulnerable, we find fruitfulness far greater than we could ever have produced on our own. To love one’s neighbor is not “the golden rule” only because it is good or right, or because Jesus or Torah said so, it is because love multiplies the essence of God in the world. Why do we exist as people of faith, if not to multiply the image of God as it has been embedded within our hearts and minds?

In this issue of *Real Episcopal* you will read stories of partnerships in our diocese. Enjoy reading about the fruitfulness of relationship between congregations and other community organizations. Enjoy considering the possibilities of partnering in your life and church. May God make us fruitful beyond measure! May we multiply God’s love and action in the world!

Love and grace,

+ Mary
“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

From Cupertino to San Luis Obispo, from jails to universities, congregations across the Diocese of El Camino Real are reaching beyond their churches to make a difference in the lives of their communities. And they’re demonstrating the power of partnerships, working with local nonprofits, police departments, neighboring churches, and even a school 3,000 miles away. The following stories are the result of a “call for partnerships,” and like last issue’s story on homelessness efforts, these are only a sampling of what’s taking place across El Camino Real.

As Bishop Mary notes in her message (page three), partnerships are “a key component of our Strategic Plan Remix and a most basic aspect of our Christian faith. Partnerships express the vision of what we believe is a most basic call of Christ: to love our neighbor.” We hope these examples of love will provide inspiration and encouragement.

St. Andrew’s EfM Jail Ministry

"Has anyone ever thought about bringing a college-level class in theology to jail?" asked Katy Dickinson of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Saratoga three years ago. An accredited administrative mentor of Education for Ministry (EfM)—a four-year distance-learning certificate program in theological education based on small-group study and practice—Katy envisioned a four-year college-level certification course designed for lay people to engage incarcerated persons at Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas. Her vision was realized: now in the third year of a thriving partnership between St. Andrew’s, the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy of Santa Clara County, and University of the South’s School of Theology (home to EfM), the program is the first jail-based EfM class in the country.

Co-mentored by St. Andrew’s members Diane Lovelace and Joel Martinez, the EfM jail program is not only expanding inside Elmwood, but now, upon reentry, formerly incarcerated EfM students continue their studies at a weekly class hosted by St. Andrew’s. Led by Dickinson and co-mentor Karen Carlson of St. Jude’s Episcopal Church in Cupertino, the class includes students from St. Andrew’s and from St. Jude’s and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Sunnyvale.

SJSU Living Space Program

As the Episcopal Chaplain at San Jose State University, The Rev. Kathey Crowe is working to change the lives of homeless and hungry students. For the last two years, Crowe has been a member of two committees on campus, one to help alleviate student hunger and a second organized by Student Affairs to assist students in crisis. She learned that among the 33,000 students that attend SJSU, approximately 300 live in their cars or “couch-surf” with friends. The actual count may be even greater because many students don’t come forward and reveal their situation.

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Crowe investigated partnerships with other communities of faith near the campus that might be interested in providing an intentional student living space. Grace Baptist Church, across from the university, agreed and rented out two large rooms upstairs in the main church building.

With contributions from private donors, the Canterbury Board of Trustees at SJSU, Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church Women, St. Jude’s Cupertino, Trinity Cathedral in San Jose, and the Diocese of El Camino Real, Crowe was able to raise enough program funds to create a living space that now houses seven students at no charge. More referrals come in weekly from the university counseling center and from SJSU Student Affairs.

The spiraling cost of housing – both on and off campus – is out of reach for these students who have been willing to make significant sacrifices such as living in their cars, staying as long as possible at Martin Luther King Library, and using shower facilities on the campus. Every student now in residence has noted that the common living space has relieved stress and made it possible for them to concentrate on academic goals. The program’s success is due to the partnership of the donor community, Canterbury Bridge Board of Trustees, Grace Baptist Church, and committed staff at the university who believe that investing in young people is an investment in the future.

Regional Youth Ministry: A Team Effort

Since September, a team of Episcopal churches in Santa Cruz County – Calvary Santa Cruz, St. Philip’s Scotts Valley, St. John’s Aptos, All Saints’ in Watsonville, and St. Andrew’s Ben Lomond – have steadily worked together to create a regional youth ministry program. They kicked off the program with a pool party and barbecue in Scotts Valley in September (pictured below), followed by a faith formation meeting at St. John’s on October 1.

“The impetus behind this project is the small number of teens and tweens in our individual parishes, which makes gathering a critical mass of youth difficult, but which is necessary for the success and long-term viability of a youth group,” explains The Rev. Dr. Austin Leininger, priest-in-charge at Calvary Santa Cruz. “By combining our resources, we have more funds, more volunteers, and more participants to help make this ministry possible.”
The alliance’s long-range hope is to host weekly youth group meetings, periodic events and retreats, outreach to at-risk and homeless youth, and excitement among the group that inspires kids to invite their friends. By doing so the potential exists to broaden the mission field to roughly 14,000 teens and tweens in Santa Cruz County who are religiously unaffiliated.

The churches are rolling out the program with a monthly “Fun Night” gathering for food, fun, and socializing, which is planned to be interfaith on a quarterly basis -- as well as hosting faith formation meetings on the first and third Sundays of the month. While meeting times stay consistent at 4 pm on Sunday afternoons, the meeting places rotate between partner parishes.

For those seeking confirmation, the faith formation program will be preparation, and for those who have either already been confirmed or are not seeking confirmation, it is an opportunity to engage with their faith in community; for all, it is an opportunity to look at faith practically and meaningfully as it relates to real lives in the real world.

As the ministry expands, the churches have received a $15,000 Mission Opportunity Grant from the diocese, plus $20,000 from the Episcopal Church’s Mission Enterprise Zone program, both earmarked for hiring a regional youth ministries coordinator. “We hope to have them start in January,” adds Leininger, “and help build the program into a more robust and evolving ministry.”

**St. Dunstan’s Haiti Partnership**

More than 30 years ago, St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church in Carmel Valley took the first steps toward what would become a remarkable relationship with St. Andre’s Parish and School in Hinche, Haiti. In 1985 and 1986 students from All Saints’ Episcopal Day School, who were also members of St. Dunstan’s Church, traveled to Hinche, a city of 30,000 in the Central Region of Haiti, and established a relationship with St. Andre’s. The relationships that were established, the observations that were made and the needs that were identified became the seeds of a ministry that flourishes today.

Parish members travel to Hinche on a regular basis to show our love and support for the struggles of St. Andre’s students and parish members. Major efforts began in 1992 to support continuous improvements to the school and to grow the school’s student population. The church also works with the nonprofit Rise Against Hunger to supply daily hot meals for students.

Over the decades St. Dunstan’s has expanded St. Andre’s School from 37 children in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades to a school that spans all 16 years of education, from preschool toddlers through 13th grade. The school feeds its students a hot meal each day, and employs a school nurse who tends to their health needs, explains George Lockwood, a member of the St. Dunstan’s Haiti team. The church has purchased land for expansions and built modern reinforced concrete buildings, including a sanitation system. St. Dunstan’s also provides electrical power from solar panels and a diesel standby generator, as well as a clean water well and a modern kitchen with refrigeration.
**Epiphany Church & the Marina Police Department**

Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church in Marina enjoys a strong, diverse, and expanding partnership with the city’s police department, highlighted by the following efforts:

The church stocks an emergency closet with clean tents, sleeping bags, clothing, hygiene products—and teddy bears—available 24/7 to Marina police officers to meet the needs of homeless persons and families. During the rainy season, the church hands out about 15 tents/sleeping bags per month.

Epiphany also partners with the police department and locally based Interim, Inc. (which provides services and housing to those with mental illness) to visit the Fort Ord homeless community with food and water to listen and try to respond to their needs.

The Rev. Jon Perez is listed as a police department chaplain in the Marina PD directory, and was recently asked by the city’s new chief of police to respond to emergencies in the community by ministering to the needs of both victims and responding officers.

This year, Epiphany is formally partnering with Marina PD for its Christmas Eve distribution. Officers will bring the proceeds from their toy drive to Epiphany to add to the food, warm clothing, and other items traditionally distributed at the end of the church’s Christmas Eve service. Officers will hand out the toys and carry Christmas boxes to cars; the church expects the combined effort to nearly double the number of supported families, reaching as high as 70. Police officers will provide a similar service at the Thanksgiving food distribution, where up to 190 families will be served dinners.

**Neighbors, Partners, Friends in San Luis Obispo**

The Access Support Network (ASN) is a community based nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide support to neighbors and loved ones living with HIV or Hepatitis C, improving the independence of its clients. ASN is also a neighbor of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in San Luis Obispo. With December 1, 2016 being World AIDS Day, this led to collaboration on a special service that included music and drama as well as scripture and prayers.

While the crowd numbered about the same as an average Sunday, both The Rev. Ian Delinger, rector of St. Stephen’s, and David Kilburn, executive director of ASN, noticed that only a few of their clients or parishioners were in attendance. “The only explanation is that through our cross-promoting of this deeply meaningful opportunity, we reached beyond our own supporters and into the wider community of San Luis Obispo,” said Delinger.

The Access Support Network booth at St. Stephen’s 150th anniversary event in September.

The process of putting together the World AIDS Day service was followed by 11 months of seeking support from one another for various projects, bouncing ideas off each other, and working to enhance ways that both can better serve the community together. Highlights of the ongoing partnership include:

- St. Stephen’s provided Thanksgiving dinner kits to Access Support’s clients last year.
- St Stephen’s and ASN are working with a mobile shower unit to offer this basic need in the downtown area where the homeless spend much of their time.
- ASN was a participant in the non-profit fair during St. Stephen’s Jubilee 150th Celebration in July. The agency also manned a tent as part of the church’s 150th birthday celebration & block party in September, promoting the organization’s annual “Walk For Life.”

Delinger says it’s a “no-brainer” that St Stephen’s will be supporting ASN clients this Thanksgiving, while planning meetings continue for the World AIDs Day Service, “to bring the secular and the sacred together to honor the wider community of San Luis Obispo, all of whom are children of God.”

**St John’s Chapel & San Pablo Apostol**

For the last four years, two unique congregations have combined their resources and children for the summer Vacation Bible School program – and in doing so, they’ve shared in teachings, renewal, and blessings.

Every July, St. John’s Chapel in Monterey – a traditional congregation that worships with the 1928 Book of Common Prayer – hosts the students of San Pablo Apostol in Seaside, a primarily Latino congregation. While St. John’s has plenty of indoor and outdoor space for VBS, its volume of children had sharply dropped. The Rev. Bob Ott, St. John’s rector, reached out to The Rev. Martin Juarez, San Pablo’s vicar, with an idea.
“We have few kids here, but we have a nice facility,” says Ott. “On the other hand, Fr. Martin has a small facility but a lot of kids. I said to him, ‘Why don’t we be partners,’ and God bless him, he said yes!”

This July the program was in full swing, with around 20 kids gathering for morning songs and prayer, then splitting into groups for different segments – arts and crafts, outdoor games, a science-filled “imagination station,” a “Bible Discovery” segment that begins with an outdoor skit and ends in a darkened chapel with candle “torches”, and more – before regathering as a single group for the Funshop Finale, with music and lunch. There is no cost for kids to participate.

“We’re excited to do this together and we learn a lot,” said Juarez, of San Pablo. “This community helps us to have contact with other people, with other faith communities, and see how they worship and how they fellowship.”

The Revs. Ott and Juarez made a fine team during the “Bible Discovery” segment, complementing each other’s talents. With a goal of 50 kids, they are working to expand the program by reaching out to the wider community, with a particular focus on incoming military families. For now, the congregations are sharing the benefits of partnership.

“We realize we’re the same brothers and sisters in Christ,” says Juarez. “We have different gifts, but we are on a journey together ... we are here to support each other.”

**St Luke’s Jolon & Fort Hunter Liggett**

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Jolon, a gathering place for residents since 1883, occupies a small enclave within the boundary of Fort Hunter Liggett and has partnered with the fort for 75 years to provide spiritual support to Army soldiers, civilians, and their families. Since the base’s founding, soldiers living and training at Fort Hunter Liggett have worshipped at St. Luke’s Church over the years and the church family has welcomed them. Since 1958 St. Luke’s Church has held their annual barbeque on the first Sunday in May and soldiers have joined in the festivities.

In the 1990s it was discovered that part of St. Luke’s cemetery was on Army property; so the Army transferred two acres to St. Luke’s Church. In May of 2014, Chaplain (Colonel) Kenneth Lawson, the Fort Hunter Liggett chaplain, spearheaded a special service in conjunction with the vicar of St. Luke’s, the Rev. Robert Seifert, and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars to recognize the veterans buried at St. Luke’s. The keynote speaker for this memorable event was The Rt. Rev. James B. Magness, Episcopal Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces, from Washington, D.C. During the ceremony Bishop Magness, along with Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, blessed the Veterans Memorial Cross and flagpole in the cemetery’s northwest corner (left).

While the current partnership is not as active as in years past, Vicar Seifert “is an active member in the Fort Hunter Liggett community relations working group,” said Amy Phillips, public affairs officer for the base, “and as a veteran, is a great supporter to our mission and troops.”
Camp St. Andrew’s & Uplift Family Services

Celebrating its 40th year, Camp St. Andrew’s is a life-changing experience for the kids who attend, but it’s even more special for low-income students who receive “campership” funding to attend. Since the first summer camp in 1978, 1,500 low-income kids have been helped at a total cost of $700,000. This year saw 102 campers travel to St. Andrew’s facility near Pinecrest Lake in California; half of that number were low-income kids funded by camperships, and nearly 20 were from foster families referred by partner Uplift Family Services.

The church originally worked with an organization called “Camp 4 Kids,” a partnership with Estrella Family Services to connect kids who may not otherwise have the chance to experience a week of camp in the mountains. That program ended several years ago, leading to a talk between Drew Mayen, Uplift Family Services’ HR Coordinator and a member of St Andrew’s, and Sue Ramar, a camp co-founder and member of Uplift’s board of directors. The Campbell-based organization had referred a few kids in 2011, said Mayen, and it was a hit – “so we began publicizing the opportunity to more of our foster families and they were so excited for the opportunity.

Two years ago, we expanded the opportunity to our Modesto-Stockton office and almost doubled the number of kids going to camp from Uplift. This year was our largest, with 19 kids attending from Campbell and Modesto-Stockton.”

Each year, Mayan and Cara Pham of Camp St. Andrews send information about registration and camperships to families who have attended in the past, and coordinate with Uplift Family Services, Santa Maria Urban Mission, and LifeMoves to fill the 50 campership spots available. Campership families contribute what they can and Camp St. Andrew’s fills in the remaining registration costs through community donations and support.

El Camino Real’s Partnership Commission

The Partnership Commission was created to facilitate “connecting our common life with the wider Church and the world” (from our diocesan mission statement) by creating a network of communities that work together to overcome physical and spiritual pain and suffering in the world. The commission works to nurture missional partnerships and to expand our Episcopal presence in areas of social justice.

Founded on the core diocesan values of Christ-centeredness, Passion, and Innovation and Creativity, the commission works with parishes to help them strengthen their missional and social justice partnerships. Members have worked with All Saints’ Palo Alto as they established their partnership with La Joya in the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. The group has been active in a number of parishes as they work to help the homeless, and is beginning to address immigration and environmental issues; they also hosted a diocesan workshop on Living Room Conversations and continue to promote this technique as a healing tool.

Communications is a key element of the Partnership Commission’s work; as seen on pages 4-9, many wonderful parish partnerships exist but are largely unknown across the diocese. The commission intends to help publicize these activities as examples and to inspire new partnerships in mission and social justice action. Watch for the launch of the Partnership Commission website in early 2018.

The Commission is working with the other five dioceses in California to form an Episcopal Public Policy Network in California. The six bishops have agreed that the network is needed to fulfill the Gospel mandate to engage public policy, as too much political activity lacks a strong moral basis.

Finally, the commission aims to extend the work of several parishes with Cristosal in their work to advance human rights in Central America. The group hopes to sponsor a week-long global school seminar on April 22-29, 2018, to help understand the causes of injustice in El Salvador and learn how to promote social justice in our local context. Visit www.cristosal.org/global-school for details.

For more information on the Partnership Commission or to join, contact Bill Shreve at wrshreve@gmail.com.
St. Stephen’s, San Luis Obispo

St. Stephen’s celebrated its 150th birthday on Sunday, September 10 with a commemorative ribbon-cutting and block party following the morning worship with Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves. The day included Taiko drummers and a local band, food, speeches, tours, and of course a birthday cake.

During the afternoon, parishioner Lee Hollister chauffeured Bishop Mary and The Rev. Ian Delinger, St. Stephen’s rector, in his vintage Model A. The entourage visited a local Methodist church across town, whose congregation was also celebrating their 150th anniversary!

The first Protestant church in San Luis Obispo County, St. Stephen’s has come a long way since a lot was purchased at the corner of Pismo and Nipomo Streets for the sum of $10. The original 20-foot by 60-foot church was built at a total cost of about $3,000. Expansion quickly followed; despite a devastating fire in 1970, the congregation has endured and continues its mission to “share Christ’s unconditional love with the world.”
All Saints’, Palo Alto

“Happy Birthday, All Saints! You are living to a ripe old age.”

So began Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves’ sermon at an afternoon Evensong service on Sunday, October 29, celebrating the 125th year of All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Palo Alto. Her remarks called back to All Saints’ rich legacy and an equally exciting future, with legacies yet to be forged in what she called these “interesting times.”

She led worship with The Rev. Terry Gleeson, rector of All Saints’, joined by several former rectors of the parish, a glorious choir, and a packed house of joyous parishioners. The moving service was followed by a grand party in the parish hall, with speeches by Gleeson and others accompanied by state and county proclamations and of course, food and drink.

"As at every stage in our past, we are still striving to create households where integrity and justice and honesty and generosity and fidelity are nurtured and protected for another generation," said Gleeson in his remarks. "Curiously, who we are striving to become is what we have always been. And in that lies our hope."

_CLOCKWISE from top:_ The Rev. Terry Gleeson, Bishop Mary, and the congregation gathers for a group photo; Bishop Mary’s sermon; banners announce the milestone.
Identity, faith and reconciliation

Spiritual identity, hope, and relational power were key themes of Bishop’s Mary Gray Reeves’ annual address at the 37th Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real on Friday, November 3, and Saturday, November 4. While conventions are primarily held to manage the business of the church, this year’s event served also to inspire, challenge, and celebrate the community of delegates, clergy, and friends from across the diocese who gathered at Sherwood Hall in Salinas.

Bishop Mary’s address, “Identity,” drew inspiration from the birth of Moses and the role of several midwives – and a girl, his sister Miriam – who kept him alive. “The scene gives birth to the journey the Israelites would take in becoming a nation,” she explained. “This is a story of trusting that God’s desire for God’s people is freedom,” she added. “This is a story of discovering one’s identity in the calling of God. This is a story of those who appear to have no power, but oh, how they do.”

She noted that some congregations struggle with articulating their identity, typically when searching for a new rector, priest-in-charge or vicar. “Articulating who you are is more challenging than articulating what you do,” she said. “To say we know we are called to something, but we don’t know what, is to name a starting place. It is to conceive of hope that God wants more for us than unknowing and an uncertain identity.”

“Faith is the centerpiece of our identity. It is the operating system, if you will, as her address introduced the need for reconciliation. “If faith is the centerpiece of our identity, reconciliation is the centerpiece of our activity ... it is the church’s mission.”

“There are more areas of brokenness in our world than we could possibly name here,” she noted. “But part of why they rage is that we do not do the reconciliation work required for healing ... how many stories in our neighborhoods need to be heard? How many stories in our pews? From the person now sitting next to you? Hearing them might inspire faith and bring reconciliation.”

Read Bishop Mary’s complete convention address at www.realepiscopal.org.
Convention awards recognize leaders, service, ministries

Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves presented three Bishop’s Cross Awards to the following persons during the Friday evening awards banquet, in honor of their contributions to the diocese:

- The Rev. Matt Conrad, rector of St. Luke’s Atascadero for his 34 years of service and his work on the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, and more (upper left).

- Joe Head, for his leadership as vice president of the Board of Trustees, and service to his parish of St. Francis Willow Glen in San Jose (upper right).

- Charles Greenleaf, for his service on the Stewardship Commission, The Bishop’s Council of Advice, Cursillo, and more, plus contributing to St. John’s Aptos, his home parish (above).

Simple Servant awards were also presented to parishioners at San Pablo Apostol in Seaside, for their work in a newly established English tutoring program (right). Awardees included Star Arias Lopez, Ilary Ruiz, Angelica Cornejo, Jessica Cornejo, Oscar Corres, Kimberley Cruz, Frida Vasquez, Evelyn Rodriquez, Kelly Aquino Lopez, Leslie Ramirez Lopez, Zitlaly Rodriguez Perez, Leslie Oseguera, Linette Romero, Madeley Vasquez, and program leaders Esther Hernandez & Jaime Mendez.

Katy Dickinson (above right) received a Simple Servant Award for her mentoring work with Education for Ministry, a program for lay ministry development that she not only leads in the diocese, but which she also brought to Elmwood Jail in Milpitas.

Bishop Mary introduced a new award – the Bishop’s Purple Heart – and presented it to the following individuals for their tireless volunteer service across the diocese:

- Convention tech team members The Rev. Stephenie Cooper, John Plocher, and Patrick Waddell (above left, with Bishop Mary).

- Search consultants Matt Cameron, Joe Chouinard, Steve Pearson, Joanna Shreve, and Jeff Diehl (top, with Bishop Mary).

Bishop Mary also recognized Nancy Cohen, diocesan chancellor since 2004, who will retire this year (see her profile last issue).

For a listing of convention resolutions and other highlights, visit the diocesan website at www.realepiscopal.org.
In this issue, we’re recognizing the “super-loyal” donors: people who have given at least four gifts to the Diocese of El Camino Real over time. We’re grateful for their loyalty as multi-year donors!

Our spring 2018 issue will feature a list of all who have donated during 2017. If by chance you haven’t yet given in 2017, please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift. Your support for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal means that your diocese can award more Mission Opportunity Grants, support educational and partnership efforts, and provide communications and development advice to congregations. Thank you!

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Lee Adinolfi
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Donors’ Profile

Rowland and Pat Rebele

Rowland Rebele was born and raised in San Francisco. Pat, the daughter of a Navy officer, grew up along the west coast and in Brooklyn. She first met Rowland in eighth grade in San Francisco; they attended different high schools, but stayed in touch through school dances and other social events.

Pat had a childhood friend whose mother was married to the rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Burlingame and attended church with them. While they lived in Seattle, Pat was baptized at an Episcopal church and “was eventually confirmed – along with my mother – by none other than Bishop Block at Grace Cathedral.”

After graduating from Stanford, Rowland attended Harvard Business School. Pat, meanwhile, graduated from the Academy of Art in San Francisco. Rowland called Pat during his first summer of grad school and asked her to the symphony. It was time to get serious: they got engaged, and were married by an Episcopalian Navy chaplain on Treasure Island in 1954.

After their marriage, Rowland and Pat were based in Arlington, VA, where she worked at the Washington Post. After his Navy years, Rowland completed business school while Pat worked in advertising for a Boston department store.

Rowland and Pat’s first business venture was to buy a weekly newspaper in Coalinga, CA, which they ran for several years as a team effort. “I couldn’t have done it without Pat,” says Rowland. They sold the paper and, with a business partner, bought three semi-weekly newspapers in the San Diego area where they started their family.

In the 1970s, they sold the papers and spent a year living in England, renting a country place owned by Louise Astor. They greatly enjoyed their year abroad, which included some time in France. When they returned to find a home in California, they settled in Aptos and still live in the original house they purchased. Initially they joined the Lutheran Church in Aptos, but eventually discovered St. John’s Episcopal Church where they are still parishioners.

Rowland and Pat have varied philanthropic interests, ranging from higher education to homelessness. “We knew from the beginning that helping the homeless is the right thing, the Christian thing, to do,” says Rowland. He got involved at the county level, and in 2000 they decided that a true homeless center was needed. By 2005 they’d raised $5 million and built the Rebele Family Shelter in Santa Cruz.

Rowland and Pat support the Diocese of El Camino Real because “The parishes need a coordinator so they can learn from each other. Also, the Diocese provides critical resources to help parishes move forward ... it’s just part of being Episcopal.”

Easy Ways to Give at Year’s End

Below are two convenient ways to give to support the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real (EDECR). Both options could help painlessly expand your giving:

**IRA Charitable Rollover:** If you’re 70 and one-half years or older and have a traditional or rollover (not a Roth) IRA, you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. But you are liable for income taxes on that RMD, and it may catapult you into a higher tax bracket.

Why not give to the diocese directly from that account? Then you can avoid the income tax that would otherwise be due. Just call your account advisor and instruct him or her to transfer any amount (up to $100,000) to EDECR. The diocese is a qualified charity (in case your IRA account manager needs our IRS tax ID, it is 94-2673950). It’s an easy way to save taxes and make a generous annual gift, too!

**Beneficiary Designation:** This allows you to give a generous gift following your death. You can do it through your will or trust, but there is an even easier way: if you have a retirement account or life-insurance policy, and your heirs are already taken care of, you can designate the diocese as the beneficiary of that account. All it takes is a phone call to your advisor or a visit to your retirement account or life insurance company website.

Whether it’s by joining fellow donors who give frequently or by using the ideas above, we appreciate your support – in whatever form!

*Edited by Sue Ramar*
All Aboard the Bishop’s Appeal!

Thanks to you and your support for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, your diocese:

- awards more Mission Opportunity Grants
- supports educational and partnership efforts
- provides communications and development support to congregations
- will soon begin to explore and develop new ways of “being church”

This magazine itself, and the stories inside, are a direct result of your generous giving. But there’s so much more ahead ... the train has left the station and is building momentum across the diocese!

Help us continue our vital ministries to congregations and communities. If you haven’t yet given in 2017, please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today. Thank you!

Follow the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real via Along the King’s Highway, our weekly e-newsletter, and on Facebook and Twitter.