INSIDE: Meet the new Curator of Emerging Communities
Bishop’s Appeal ▪ Immigrant Advocacy ▪ Bishop Search Update
On the Cover:
Saturday, June 2 was a happy day of ordination at Trinity Cathedral in downtown San Jose. Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves ordained new deacons Lisa Bennett (left), Andrea Mackenzie and Bertram Nagarajah in an afternoon service. Deacon Jo Weber, Deacon Council, is at right.

Canon Jesus Reyes speaks to children on Easter Sunday at St. Mary’s by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove.
A Message from Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves

“The Future Shows Up As We Gather”
Peter Block, Community: The Structure of Belonging

In my first placement as a parish priest, I was blessed to be part of a team that coordinated the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children’s spiritual formation program for our church (the better known Godly Play emerged from Catechesis). Everyone in the congregation took a part in its development: from training to be a Catechist, to making the pieces the children would use for their work in the atrium, to offering money, prayers and celebration throughout the establishment of the program, and of course, the children who engaged deep formation as Christians in those rooms. The process by which we implemented the program intentionally invited everyone to deeper belonging as we each took a share in the Spirit’s work among us.

After Catechesis was into its second year, a ten-year-old girl who was a faithful member of our church and for whom Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was an integral part of her spiritual formation, randomly called out as we were leaving the atrium one day: “Yea, we own this place!” as her arms swept the campus. She meant the kids owned the church. The whole church. It was a delightfully prideful thing to hear coming from a child who experienced her sense of belonging so strongly she could not contain herself. It was a “queen of the hill” moment! The adults who heard knew what she meant. We all knew that the design of implementing Catechesis was not done for our kids, but rather with them. Along with everyone else, this young member had been invited to “own it,” and she did. I’m pleased to say that Catechesis of the Good Shepherd remains in that congregation today, 23 years later.

In Community: The Structure of Belonging, author Peter Block offers the reader some wonderful questions. One that I am enjoying at the moment is “How valuable an experience do you plan to have in this event?” It is a more focused question than what one wants or hopes for, but rather prompts consideration of the ownership to which one is willing to commit. In this event of Episcopal transition, in this event of welcoming Kelsey Davis to the new position of Curator for Emerging Communities — a place in our structure that makes intentional our desire to broaden the space of belonging through increased engagement — and in this event of national consideration of immigration, what sort of experience do you plan to have? To what are you willing to commit?

It is with pleasure that we offer our diocese and beyond our summer edition of Real Episcopal magazine. Enjoy, ponder, and commit to this important season of growth and change in our midst!

Blessings,

+ Mary
Learning Communities

Diocesan leaders met in January at St. Paul’s Salinas for a leadership summit (top photo) that focused on diversity, equity, recognizing and embracing cultural differences and building a roadmap for multicultural change.

In May, those attending the diocesan Spring Conference learned about the power of sharing stories, how that differs from storytelling, and how stories can be used to make connections, build community and share God’s love (above and left). Read stories about each conference at www.realepiscopal.org.
Sharing in God’s Blessings

Clergy gathered at St. Paul’s in Salinas for a March “Blessing of the Oils” service to renew vows and prepare for Holy Week (top and above left). Creativity, playfulness and community were themes of the annual Clergy Conference in February, held in San Juan Bautista (right).
Meet Kelsey Davis

El Camino Real’s new Curator of Emerging Communities

In early May, Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves announced the calling of Kelsey Davis to be the Curator for Emerging Communities for the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real. She will begin her ministry August 1 in this newly-created role.

Davis recently completed her Master of Divinity at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; she previously earned an undergraduate degree in Theology from the University of Portland, Oregon. She gained vital skills for the Curator position during her time at Vanderbilt Divinity School, serving as the Chaplain Assistant for Young Adult Ministry at St. Augustine’s Chapel and School Chapel Intern at Episcopal School of Nashville. She also brings extensive experience as a professional athlete – she was the goalkeeper coach for the US Soccer Youth National Teams and for the Tennessee Soccer Club, among other coaching roles – and has served in various ministry contexts with youth and young adults.

“Kelsey comes with exceptional relational skills, deep theological formation and great passion for creating community grounded in Christ,” said Bishop Mary. “We have explored, wondered and prepared for God’s call of our next steps in living the vision set before us. May our prayers and openness continue as new life among us unfolds!”

“Throughout my journey I have been drawn to various forms of emerging communities, particularly working with youth and young adults,” said Davis. “My experience as a lifelong athlete and coach has equipped me with skills for ministry that include building life-giving and collaborative relationships, leadership development, facilitating culture, managing interpersonal dynamics, recruitment and coaching youth."

“I’ve learned that youth and young adults are not simply the ‘future of the church,’ but they are the church,” she added. “Youth and young adults are full of God’s wisdom, truth, and beauty. The voices and lives of our young siblings are to be centralized and deeply respected in shaping the church’s identity and mission.”

Davis and her wife Heather will arrive in California in July. Please join us in prayers of joy and anticipation as she begins her diocesan ministry. Communications Director Elrond Lawrence spoke with Davis about her exciting role.
What excites you most about coming to the Diocese of El Camino Real?

When I visited and went through the interview process, what really struck me was the engagement of the congregations, the partnerships and each of the individuals I met. I’m excited to be a member of the culture of diversity, creativity and compassion that is thick through El Camino Real. I’m eager to join in the faithfulness and the collective courage that you all have to dream with God and open our minds to a church that’s yet to come. There’s an innovative spirit in the diocese where people are willing to risk and to dream, and to enact and to try new ideas ... it’s really awesome.

What excites you most about this new role?

What’s already emerging in the diocese is clearly and profoundly the work of the Spirit. Because of that I’m excited for the unknown and the mystery of what the work will become, and to experience new friendships and cultures across El Camino Real ... to hear stories, hopes and dreams, particularly of the youth and young adults. I believe the role is pioneering and needs the communal effort of everyone in the diocese. I don’t just see this as my role and my responsibility, it’s really our role and our responsibility.

Forming emerging communities is an artistic process ... I’m excited to wonder and pray and sweat and heal and cry and laugh and grieve and celebrate together as we live into a new era of doing church, an era of following the way of Jesus and making room for the Spirit.

Your career so far has been quite diverse, with a large emphasis on coaching and community building. How will that help you in working with our congregations?

For the record, there won’t be any sprints or pushups! [laughter] Maybe a hike in the woods or along the coast.

I think congregations are teams ... we’re individuals that are showing up in community trying to share our gifts that are oriented toward a similar goal and identity. After listening to Bishop Curry’s royal wedding sermon, it became even more clear that the church trains our hands to receive and give the gifts of God ... our roles all flow from love. A team’s success depends on the heath of its culture. Teams that have healthy culture are usually those that exude gratitude and travel well together. Love, authenticity and resiliency are key components of healthy team culture and congregations are really similar. God loves us when we’re able to love ourselves ... and when we love one another and stay together. Learning to gather together well takes time and proximity and intention.

Like a team we’re always in the process of becoming, and learning to be the gifts we receive from God. A process mentality creates space for imperfection and failure to be welcome as long as we keep seeking to learn together. Working with congregations & coaching has taught me the value of patience and resiliency and ultimately that the ethos we generate is vital in offering a sense of belonging and community.

Being able to struggle well together is also important. It’s easy to do community when things are going well, when everything is peachy keen and we’re experiencing the joyful moments of our life together. It’s in the moments that are tough: when there’s disagreement, maybe even pain caused, to choose to opt in and stay together, that to me is the essence of grittiness in a community. It’s to say, “Stay at the table and we’ll go through this storm together with the hope that we work towards healing and we come out

“So much of good coaching is about loving people where they are in their life, while simultaneously imagining what their capacities can be and bringing forward the gifts they’ve already been given.”

Real Episcopal Magazine  Summer 2018
the other side bonded and stronger.”

So much of good coaching is about loving people where they are in their life, while simultaneously imagining what their capacities can be and bringing forward the gifts they have already been given. It’s a process of formation that’s beautiful and sacred to accompany people in their spiritual and life journeys, to walk alongside them, whether that happens on the soccer field or inside the church.

**How do you plan to spend the first few months in El Camino Real?**

The priority for me really comes in my posture and ethics to do this work, rooted in deep listening, to learn the questions that we need to be asking … to familiarize myself with the good and beautiful work that is already happening in the diocese, getting to hear stories and to know the different deaneries, parishes, partnerships and people that make up our church. So my first priority is listening and learning the stories of our people in the diocese. I feel we need more improvisation, more creativity and more playfulness, because being uncomfortable in the right ways is what helps us develop relationships and vulnerability and trust and really bonds us as a community.

**How would you describe your working style? What can congregations expect from Kelsey Davis?**

I love that you chose the word “expect” because we are in a beautiful season of expectancy. My sense is that we’re already standing shoulder to shoulder and keeping watch together, and eager to see what new life the spirit of God is bringing forth in our communities. I’m very relational, collaborative, innovative, organized and hopefully pastoral!

Congregations can expect to be the visionaries and drivers of what we’ll create together. I see this work as like painting a community mural together. We show up and paint together from our hearts and experiences and collectively we co-create a dynamic piece of art to impact the world around us. At this moment, I see my role as one who helps discern, structure, articulate and resource emerging communities so they can be flourishing spaces of belonging and belovedness.

This work is such a practice in faithfulness because we are standing shoulder to shoulder, expectant and waiting to see. While driving today, the words “come and see” kept coming to me. In so much of this work we’re going to have to experience and encounter before we start to set up the structures and the programs and the bullet points. And it might be a little uncomfortable for a while … but I’m OK with that. I’m OK with being patient and discerning and listening so that whatever we put in place is co-created with the work of God.

There’s no program or playbook so we have to be patient. Do I have ideas? Do I have books, resources and my own collection of experiences that I embody and bring to this role? Absolutely. But so much of the method and ethic of this work is to do it together. When it’s time to make a decision we’ll do it, but we have to discern these things in community together. So it takes a little longer and it’s a different method than coming in and telling everyone what’s going to happen. It’s so much more … we already have some seeds planted, so it’s the slow work of tending the garden and ultimately it’s God’s work. It’s abstract, and I can only talk about it in parable and metaphor because it feels like the Kingdom of God, and when you talk about his kingdom it’s beyond articulation. That’s what so exciting … I feel like this is the Kingdom of God and this is what we’re being called to do as his people. To step into this is exciting, it’s scary, it’s abstract and it will become clear and more defined as we do the work together.

I’m deeply grateful to be called into this position … I feel absolute joy to be joining the work that’s being done in the Diocese of El Camino Real.

“We need more improvisation, more creativity and more playfulness.”
Bishop’s Appeal Update

The arrival of Kelsey Davis as our new Curator of Emerging Communities is the culmination of a dream made possible by your support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Since the launch of the Appeal, we could never have imagined the blessings that have poured into our diocese. Thanks to your gifts, the Diocese of El Camino Real has enhanced support to congregations that need:

- Clergy transitions
- Strategic and financial planning
- Leadership training
- Congregational development
- Communications & website consulting
- Development and planned giving advice
- Educational assistance

With your help, we continue to focus on our diocesan values through programs that serve our congregations and their communities:

**Your Gift Supports Mission Opportunity Grants**

The Mission Commission oversees this grant program to support innovative ministries that require extra assistance. Recipients have included San Pablo Apostol, Seaside, St. George’s, Salinas, and St. Philip’s, San Jose. The focus for each of these grants was to launch or expand outreach into their surrounding communities. Grants are provided annually and may be repeated for programs that merit ongoing assistance. This fund also pays for continued training and consulting services by the Kaleidoscope Institute for parishes and missions, especially those in the process of merging. This prepares future trainers who will support all parishes facing cross-cultural, inter-generational, and socio-economic issues.

**Your Generosity Supports Formation for Reconciliation and Evangelism**

The diocesan team on Formation for Reconciliation and Evangelism (FRE) is charged with supporting the educational needs of the diocese. Historically, FRE’s actions have focused on supporting diocesan conferences related to emerging trends in the church and providing educational resources to comply with canonical requirements -- e.g., Safeguarding programs and licensure for lay ministries. Funding from the Bishop’s Appeal is helping our diocese build leadership for the future by bringing speakers, exploring and adapting programs and developing Christian education materials.

**Your Philanthropy Helps Fund the Partnership Commission**

This commission helps congregations and individuals build mission-based partnerships that bring hope, healing and reconciliation to their local communities. The commission’s work builds on the core Christian values of Christ-centeredness, passion, and discipleship. The Partnership Commission works to be a diocesan network of support, education and communication for ministries of social justice and outreach in our congregations. This network is essential to our learning process as we become a resilient and dynamic gospel presence, developing a strong ethic of apostleship and building up the Kingdom of God at home and in the world.

We’ve already embarked on the next step in the evolution of our diocese, changing the DNA of El Camino Real into a learning, collaborative and dynamic community. We’re raising the commitment and the skill level of congregations, providing avenues through which they can communicate and helping them inspire leadership in one another. Many congregations now actively minister in their local communities, which is how they and our diocese will thrive – and not merely survive.

Join our commitment to bringing God’s healing and hope to a chaotic world! Please consider making a tax-deductible gift today by visiting [www.realepiscopal.org](http://www.realepiscopal.org) or by using the attached envelope.
In April, clergy from Latino congregations in the Diocese of El Camino Real gathered at the diocesan offices at Sargent House in Salinas for a meeting about immigration issues, actions and responses.

The meeting was led by Rick and Margaret Baldwin, members of St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Pacific Grove and co-founders of the Immigration Task Force of Monterey County. Issues discussed include recent practices of ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement), how to reduce fear and protect the rights of immigrants, “Know Your Rights” cards, resources and more.

A key emphasis was family emergency training, said Rick Baldwin, to help prepare families for a detention or deportation of one or both parents. The task force has developed legal paperwork in the event of a parents’ sudden detention so families can appoint a caregiver who will make sure children can be picked up from school and brought home.

The other need is reuniting children with their parents following a deportation. “If the parents are deported, in most cases their children are US citizens, who will need a passport to reach the parents,” says Baldwin. “You need to appoint somebody to take them across the border, and they also need paperwork to cross and come back.”

The task force is trying to engage the Latino community to help with such increasing cases of family crisis. “We’ve formed a coalition with churches, unions, school districts, Catholic charities and local community groups to reach as many people as possible and spread the word,” he added.

“Many organizations are doing similar work so we want to coordinate with them and not duplicate efforts.”

Clergy also learned about Project Red Card, created to help immigrants understand and assert their rights and to defend themselves against constitutional violations. Red cards provide critical information in Spanish on how to assert these Constitutional protections, along with an explanation to ICE agents in English that the individual is choosing to do so.

The Immigration Task Force dates back to early 2017, when several Monterey County residents expressed concern over the growing anti-immigrant climate. They spoke of undocumented friends who were afraid to go to work and whose children refused to go to school because they were terrified that their family would be torn apart by deportation.

Baldwin says the task force is focusing on holding trainings at schools and churches, where parents are more confident they can attend without fear of an immigration raid. Task force members will give attendees a stack of red cards to distribute to others, then set up training sessions and follow-up work.

To donate or for more information, contact Rick Baldwin at mjbaldwin2002@yahoo.com or visit the task force’s website at itfmontereycounty.org.

Above: Margaret and Rick Baldwin. Right: An Immigration Summit gathered local industry leaders in downtown Salinas in April.
On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, the “Walking Together” ministry of St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church and La Iglesia de San Pablo Apostol sponsored a “Gathering of Immigrants” event. One hundred parishioners from the two congregations, as well as guests from All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Carmel, met at St. Mary’s to have lunch and share some of their families’ immigration stories.

When speaking from the podium, attendees spoke in either English or Spanish. As was fitting on Pentecost, headsets and a professional interpreter made it possible for everyone to “hear the Word in their own language.” Tables included people from both congregations plus a bilingual person and a leader whose ensured that all had a chance to tell part of their story. Some shared stories of crossing the border in search of opportunity, others spoke of grandparents escaping persecution and many told of ancestors making their way out of poverty, coming to a land where hard work would pay off for future generations.

Canon Jesus Reyes put these stories into the context of the Judeo-Christian tradition: how are we to treat the stranger, the outsider? Katherine Herbig, a parishioner at St. Mary’s, placed the individual immigration stories into the context of American Immigration history. She demonstrated that immigration has been contentious throughout our history, with each successive wave of immigrants being resented by those who had previously arrived. She described an April gathering in downtown Salinas where representatives from the agriculture, construction and hospitality industries in Monterey County stressed that their businesses could not survive without the labor of recent immigrants. She stated flatly that Federal immigration policy is broken and no longer meets the needs of either employers or families.

St. Mary’s Walking Together ministry was a founding member of COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action), a non-partisan organization of 28 member institutions. Most of these institutions are religious congregations in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties who work to improve the lives of people in the region. Members of Walking Together and parishioners from San Pablo have engaged in conversations for over a year, developing the trust that served as the heart of the memorable gathering at St. Mary’s.

*Story & photos by Jack Herbig. To get involved, contact him at Jack@herbigassociates.com or visit copa.nationbuilder.com*
Searching for Our Next Bishop

In March, Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves called for the selection of a new bishop for the Diocese of El Camino Real. The journey towards a new bishop is an exciting new venture for our diocese. The Standing Committee is responsible for the overall direction, working closely with the Board of Trustees to ensure that the financial underpinnings are sound. To ensure a graceful and gracious search, we are supported in our work by Judy Stark, a consultant from the Presiding Bishop’s office, who has special training and experience in helping dioceses at this critical juncture.

The actual process is quite similar to what happens when a parish seeks a new rector. First the Standing Committee calls a Search Committee of people who are spiritually grounded and have skills and expertise in interviewing, listening and discernment. They listen carefully in order to hear the Holy Spirit’s voice speaking through the diocese in order to develop a profile of the person who will be our next bishop. Forty-five people volunteered to join the Search Committee, with 17 selected (see “Bishop’s Search” at realepiscopal.org).

In addition to a profile of the next bishop, the Search Committee develops a profile of the diocese to share with potential candidates. Once the profiles are ready, the position is posted as available and applications will be accepted. A large number of applications is expected and each will be prayerfully and confidentially considered by the Search Committee. Several steps make up the selection process, culminating in a discernment retreat when the semi-finalist candidates will be invited to El Camino Real for several days of prayer, liturgy and interviews. From this group the Search Committee will present the Standing Committee with a final slate of three to five candidates.

Then follows a short period for nominations by petition – this takes the place of nominations from the floor – and allows for the possibility that someone is moved by the Holy Spirit and supported by his/her peers but for some reason was overlooked in the main selection process.

At this point the Transitions Committee (which has not yet been selected) steps in. Their responsibility is to welcome the final candidates and their families to the diocese and to introduce them to the diocese so we can continue the process of discernment. The Electing Convention will be held on June 1, 2019 at St. Andrew’s church in Saratoga. The delegates will be those diocesan delegates elected from each congregation at their annual meeting, plus clergy. Once the new bishop is elected and has accepted the call, the Transitions Committee will work with the bishop-elect and their family to assist them in moving to El Camino Real.

When the bishop-elect moves will depend on many things, but we anticipate an overlap between Bishop Mary and the bishop-elect so the new bishop can get acclimated to the diocese, their new home and their new role before they are consecrated and become the fourth Bishop of El Camino Real on January 11, 2020. For regular updates, follow the Bishop’s Search page under “Our Diocese” at realepiscopal.org.

- The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, President of the Standing Committee
The Episcopal Asset Map, a national website that shows the location and ministries of Episcopal churches, schools and other communities, has been revamped with more information and easier navigation – it’s easier than ever to update and share what makes your congregation special.

Virtually the entire Episcopal Church can be found on the revamped website, from the largest cathedral to the smallest house church. A joint project of the Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief & Development, it shows the location and the array of ministries and programs offered by Episcopal congregations, schools and institutions throughout the church. Nearly every diocese is represented plus networks such as Jubilee Ministries, the United Thank Offering, Ethnic Ministries and Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers.

“With the Asset Map, you have the opportunity to tell the church and the world about how your congregation is being called to serve God and neighbor,” explains Tamara Plummer, Asset Map Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development. “It also helps us assess the gifts of our church when we respond to the needs of vulnerable neighbors after a disaster.”

On the map (below), Episcopal Church institutions appear as pins, linked to a profile page with additional information about location, hours, facilities, programs, and any photos or videos that have been shared and approved. Because the map is grassroots-populated, local congregations can post the most relevant and current information such as summer worship schedules or special programs that respond to needs in their communities.

The Asset Map revamp was a highly collaborative process, involving the feedback and contributions of over 30 dioceses. Diocesan Map administrators from every province in the church also participated in the site redesign. Visit the El Camino Real Asset Map at episcopalassetmap.org/dioceses/diocese-el-camino-real. For questions or more information contact Elrond Lawrence, diocesan communications, at elrond@realepiscopal.org.

Be Part of the New Episcopal Asset Map

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Thank You, Donors!

In this issue, we’re recognizing all who have given to the Diocese of El Camino Real since January 1, 2017. Please forgive any errors or omissions and email corrections to marybeth@realepiscopal.org or to lisa@realepiscopal.org. Thank you for your gifts!

John Aderhold
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Mary and Robert McCorkle
Deborah McFarland
Meet the Bishop’s Council of Advice

This diocesan council supports the Bishop’s Appeal by serving as a campaign “think tank” for Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves. Members provide guidance and expertise and serve as a sounding board for Strategic Plan initiatives, most recently hosting a series of conversations across the diocese.

Members’ responsibilities include:

- Help develop and implement fundraising strategies
- Make fund development policy recommendations to bishop, staff, and trustees
- Financially support the diocese
- Review donor prospect lists
- Arrange introductions for the bishop with potential new donors
- Host or participate in events
- Identify and recruit key volunteers with help from the bishop’s office
- Solicit prospective donors as appropriate
- Pass along positive stories to diocesan staff to support campaign publicity
- Offer feedback to diocesan communications as needed
- Monitor progress of philanthropy

Current Council Members

Terry Krivan, Chair
The Rev. Roger Barney, Immediate Past Chair
Susan Britton
Martha Dexter
Jeff Diehl
Diane Frankle
Charles Greenleaf
The Rev. Maly Hughes
Brian Nordwick
Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves

If you’re interested in supporting the Bishop’s Council of Advice, please contact Terry Krivan, chair, at terrykrivan@gmail.com.
Tour the 2018 Sargent House Art Exhibition

Members of the diocese, plus friends, family and local communities, are invited to an open house and art exhibition on Sunday, June 24 at the historic Sargent House in Salinas. The free exhibit will be open from 3-6 pm, showcasing the works of artists in the Central Coast and South Bay Area. A special highlight is a selection of paintings by homeless individuals provided by First United Methodist Church in Salinas.

The Sargent House is an 1896-built landmark home that now serves as the offices for Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves and her staff. It’s located at 154 Central Avenue, one block from John Steinbeck’s boyhood house.

The exhibit represents a variety of art forms: oils, watercolors, photographs, weavings, sculptures and mixed media. The June 24 event is produced by the Diocesan Arts Commission, whose mission is to display the work of leading artists from the communities of our diocese.

Above image by Judith Maxfield; lower works by homeless artists.

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