Golf tournament

8th Annual Bishop Iker Challenge promotes fun, fellowship

by George Wrapp, tournament organizer

The Bishop Iker Challenge continues to be one of the favorite golf tournaments in the DFW metroplex. Golfers from parishes all over the diocese teed off Saturday, Sept. 20, at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose for a great cause: to fund improvements at Camp Crucis and to provide 40 scholarships for young people to attend Summer Camp there.

The team of Dave Regier, Mac Wood, Jeb Stuart and Rick Caplan (pictured below, right) from St. Anne’s, Fort Worth, finished in first place overall with a score of 57.

Drawing Ticket winners are as follows:

1. Southwest Airlines tickets (2)—Sean Moore
2. Gaylord Texan $200 Gift Certificate—Wilma Curtis
3. Tony’s Wine Class for 40 Certificate—Susan Steele
4. Tony’s Wine Class for 40 Certificate—Tim Gauntt

The on-site Drawing Ticket winner for a set of Custom Golf Clubs—Bryan Holland

Photos taken during the tournament are on the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth Web site, fwepiscopal.org. You can print any copies you’d like.

This year’s tournament was a huge success. As it does every year, it provided an opportunity for members and friends of the diocese to come together for a great day of missional purpose, golf and fellowship. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our parish coordinators, sponsors, participants, volunteers and those who gave financial donations. Because of you, our youth reap the benefits when they attend Camp Crucis.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 9th Annual Bishop Iker Challenge Golf Tournament, to be held Friday, June 5, 2009.
From the Bishop

We are contending for the Faith
by the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, Bishop of Fort Worth

“Contending for the Faith” is the theme of this year’s Diocesan Convention, and it aptly describes what lies at the heart of the controversy that surrounds us. Others have argued that it is a matter of contending for property, or contending for the authority of The Episcopal Church over us, or contending for homosexual rights in the church. But these are simply some of the side issues confronting us. The real issue is the faith. We are taking a stand for the historic faith and practice of the Bible, as we have received them, and against the continuing erosion of that faith by TEC. This Diocese stands for orthodox Christianity. TEC stands for a revisionist and compromised version of what the Church has always taught.

In introducing the proposed changes to our Constitution and Canons for last year’s Convention, the Standing Committee wrote: “To submit to and comply with the current direction of the General Convention would mean for us to embrace a distortion of the Christian faith that our forebears would not recognize as a continuation of ‘the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship.’... We cannot act against our conscience and in violation of the faith once delivered to the saints.”

One year later, after much debate and discussion, our resolve remains the same: to fearlessly contend for the faith.

The Remain Episcopal group that has urged the Diocese to continue in TEC as the “faithful remnant” claims, “It is not important what we believe. We value diverse beliefs in this church. What is important is that we remain together and worship together as Episcopalians.” However, this same group is now urging that, beginning the day after our Convention vote, “loyal” Episcopalians must find some place else to meet and worship with a “loyal” TEC priest. Their message is, ‘Don’t worship with those people who have aligned themselves with the Province of the Southern Cone! Let’s take them to court and seize their buildings and assets!’ Such is the cost of taking a stand for the truth and contending for the faith.

I am told that there are still some people in the pews who wonder what this is all about - what are the real issues that separate us from TEC? Allow me to provide a brief summary of just a few of them:

✦ Our Diocese believes in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. TEC believes there are many ways to salvation and that all religions lead to God.

✦ Our Diocese believes in the authority of Holy Scripture in all matters of faith and morals. TEC believes the Bible needs to be revised and adapted to meet the changing culture and that it may mean different things in different social contexts.

✦ Our Diocese believes that the essentials of the Christian Faith have been revealed once and for all in the teachings of Jesus Christ and are not subject to change. TEC believes in a revisionist approach that says only the votes of successive General Conventions can determine doctrinal and faith issues for Episcopalians as times change.

✦ Our Diocese believes that all ordained clergy are under the obligation to model in their own lives the received teaching of the Church that all its members are to abstain from sexual relations outside Holy Matrimony. TEC believes that active homosexuals and bisexuals...

cont. on page 6

Forward In Mission – Pentecost III 2008
In their own words
What Episcopal Church leadership says about the Faith

The role of the Presiding Bishop, as set out in the Canons of the church, is to be “the representative of this Church and its episcopate in its corporate capacity.”

Does the Presiding Bishop represent you?

In the following remark, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori comments on the words of Jesus in John 14:6, “No one comes unto the Father except through me.”

“In its narrow construction, it tends to eliminate other possibilities. In its broader construction, yes, human beings come to relationship with God largely through their experience of holiness in other human beings. Through seeing God at work in other people’s lives. In that sense, yes, I will affirm that statement. But not in the narrow sense, that people can only come to relationship with God through consciously believing in Jesus” (Arkansas Democrat Gazette, January 2007).

The Presiding Bishop on the uniqueness of Christ

“We who practice the Christian tradition understand him [Jesus] as our vehicle to the divine. But for us to assume that God could not act in other ways is, I think, to put God in an awfully small box.” (Time Magazine, July 2006)

“Human communities have always searched for relationship with that which is beyond them... with the ultimate... with the divine. For Christians, we say that our route to God is through Jesus. That doesn't mean that a Hindu doesn't experience God except through Jesus. It says that Hindus and people of other faith traditions approach God through their... own cultural contexts” (National Public Radio interview, October 2006)

“You don’t all have to profess exactly the same understandings of the central tenets of the faith ... What’s important is to worship together.” (San Diego Union-Tribune, April 2008)

The Presiding Bishop on Salvation

“The question is always how can we get beyond our own narrow self-interest and see that our salvation lies in attending to the needs of other people.” (Parabola, Spring 2007).

”The human journey is about encouraging our own selves to move up into higher consciousness.” (ibid.)

The Presiding Bishop on Life After Death

Question: So what happens after I die?

“What happens after you die? I would ask you that question. But what’s important about your life, what is it that has made you a unique individual? What is the passion that has kept you getting up every morning and engaging the world? There are hints within that about what it is that continues after you die.”(Interview with CNN’s Kyra Phillips, 2006)

The Presiding Bishop on the crisis in TEC

From a news report published Oct. 8, 2008, in the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch: Days after the Pittsburgh Diocese voted to leave the Episcopal Church over its teachings on homosexuality and salvation, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said she thinks the worst of the crisis in the denomination is over.

She also predicted that openly gay bishops will be elected in the future, despite an agreement among bishops not to consent to such elections for the time being.
Around the Diocese

St. Barnabas dedicates church building

The congregation of St. Barnabas in north Fort Worth threw open the doors of its new church building to welcome Bishop Iker, Canon Hough, and dozens of guests on the very first morning of worship in their new home. Above, Fr. Louis Tobola thanks the lay leaders who made the mission congregation’s dream come true: (from left) Paula Obermueller, Erin Morris, Jeff Funkhouser, Gary Carlisle, and Jerry Brett.

Scrapbooking with a Godly intent

Vacations, sporting achievements, and club activities are popular subjects for scrapbooks. As much as we enjoy preserving these memories, we may be missing some of the most important milestones of all: the significant moments in our journey of faith. “Faithbooking” is a way of capturing these moments as a reminder to ourselves and a testament to others.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, Georgette Lopez-Aguado and Kristy Leaseburg will offer a workshop on Faithbooking to anyone who wants to document a walk in faith; begin your own faithbook, or start one for a child or grandchild. Georgette, whose work has been featured in the Fort Worth Star-

Telegram, calls her hobby “one method to ensure that we will not forget the amazing feats God has performed in our lives ... They are there for generations to see and remember.” The workshop begins at 10 a.m. at St. John’s, Fort Worth. RSVP to 817-771-4305 or 817-922-9551. You may also call either number to schedule a workshop for your church group.

Hat, and cattle, too

The church of Ascension/St. Mark counts a number of ranch families in its congregation. So when it came time to raise funds for an addition to the church, Fr. DeWayne Adams agreed to accept pledge payments on the hoof. Above, Fr. Adams is appropriately attired in Stetson for the July 27 blessing of five head of cattle on their way to market. Now that’s a stewardship drive!

New rector installed at St. Martin’s

On Saturday, Sept. 27, Fr. James Reynolds was installed and instituted as the second rector of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller/Southlake. Fr. Reynolds has served as curate and interim at St. Martin’s since his ordination in 2002. As part of the service, he was presented with keys to the church, water for baptism, oil for healing, and gifts of bread and wine.

photos by Gil Kleinwechter
Clergy work day on Habitat house

On a beautiful late-September morning several clergy turned out to work on a new Habitat for Humanity home in north Fort Worth. Fr. Fred Barber organized the work day, and the crew included five priests and two deacons, supported by lay volunteers. They began with a “photo op” and blessing from Bishop Iker. Lunch was grilled on-site and eaten al fresco, of course! The new house will be home to a single mom and her two young children.

Camp Crucis is looking for a few good men and women

It is time to start thinking about Summer Camp 2009. We are looking for Christian men and women to staff the Camp Crucis Summer Camp program. We need counselors and program staff with a desire to work to create a Christian atmosphere for our children. Program positions include: Arts & Crafts, Life Guarding, Music, Sports, Nature, Boys & Girls Head Counselors, Audio Visual aide, and overall Summer Camp Director. We are looking for a mixture of ages to help challenge and counsel our campers. Any age over 18 is welcome on our staff. We are looking for energetic people with a heart for youth ministry. So if you are a teacher, youth minister, or student this may be the summer job for you.

Program positions will be salaried for the summer and require your participation June through August. This includes some planning and training sessions weekends prior to camp starting. Counselor positions are more flexible. They are paid by the week, and you will have a choice of the weeks you would like to work.

Come and be a part of a life-changing ministry. For applications and more information you can visit www.campcrucis.org or call Kitty Blackwell at 817-573-3343.

Intelligent Design and the Existence of God

Four renowned scientists

Dr. Denis Alexander • Dr. David Berlinski • Dr. Lawrence Krauss • Dr. Bradley Monton

Friday, Nov. 7, at Fort Worth’s Will Rogers Auditorium • 7 p.m. • $10 adults, $5 students
Saturday, Nov. 8, at St. Andrew’s, Downtown Fort Worth • 9:30 a.m. • free

full details at www.st-andrew.com • for tickets call 817-332-3191
should be ordained to the sacred ministry of bishops, priests and deacons.

Our Diocese believes that marriage is the exclusive physical and spiritual union of one man and one woman for life. TEC believes same sex relationships are good and holy and should be blessed and celebrated.

Our Diocese believes in the sacredness of human life from conception. TEC affirms abortion on demand.

Our Diocese has endorsed from the very beginning the position of Lambeth Resolution 1.10 (1998) on sexuality, the recommendations of the Windsor Report (2004) on how to keep us together as a Communion, and the need for an Anglican Covenant that will define the limits of diversity. TEC has repudiated the Lambeth resolution on human sexuality, acted in defiance of the Windsor Report, and will only accept a future Covenant if there are no consequences for breaking it!

Our Diocese believes that the theological issue of the ordination of women as priests and bishops is a matter of conscience and must not be forced on anyone. TEC believes this matter has been decided for Episcopalians and that acceptance of it is mandatory in every diocese.

Our Diocese has constitutional and canonical provisions that place all church property in the name of the Corporation of this Diocese, to be held in trust for the use of each local congregation. TEC claims that all church property belongs to them, a claim first made by General Convention in 1979.

Our Diocese believes that heretical teaching by the church causes separation and division, that unity and truth must go together. TEC believes we should tolerate heresies and false teaching for the sake of remaining together.

Our Diocese maintains that just as we voted to come into union with the General Convention in 1982, so we have the right to dissolve that union in 2008. TEC believes our affiliation with General Convention is irrevocable.

Our Diocese stands with the vast majority of Anglicans around the world. TEC is a declining body and very much out of the mainstream of orthodox Christianity, both here and abroad.

The list could go on and on, but I think these few examples should suffice. The choice before us is clear. Will we contend for the faith as we have received it? Or will we accept the ongoing innovations and revisions of General Convention religion?

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Hamilton celebrated its 140th anniversary on Aug. 17 with an open house for the community. Visitors to the white clapboard church on the corner of Main Street and S. College Avenue enjoyed gourmet refreshments and an extensive display of historic documents and memorabilia lovingly collected and preserved by generations of parishioners.

At left, longtime member Nora Katherine Teague lifts the 1904 lace frontal to reveal the detail on the main altar, which was built by the church's first vicar. At right, the original church keys are kept in a display case in the narthex, along with antique prayer books and other items.
Other TEC leaders speak out on the Bible and the Relevance of Christ today

The Presiding Bishop is a supporter of the teachings of Bishop John Spong. While she was Bishop of Nevada, she asked the retired Bishop of Newark, N.J., to lead a clergy day for her diocese. Here are some of Bishop Spong’s controversial beliefs:

• “The view of the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world is a barbarian idea based on primitive concepts of God and must be dismissed.

• “There is no external, objective, revealed standard writ in scripture or on tablets of stone that will govern our ethical behavior for all time.”

TEC bishops on the authority of Scripture


Bishop Stacy Sauls of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky.: “I believe the Bible is a book of poetry with a lot of history in it. I believe the Prayer Book has all that one needs for salvation. I believe that an all-loving God would never send anyone to hell for eternity. I believe he works it out in the end for everyone.” (quoted in the blog Still On Patrol, March 2008)

Bishop Charles Bennison of the Diocese of Pennsylvania: “The church wrote the Bible, and the church can re-write it.” (addressing the House of Bishops)

On orthodox beliefs in TEC

“Heresy implies orthodoxy, and we have no such thing in the Episcopal Church.” (The Very Rev. William Rankin, former President and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., in The Witness, 1995)

A busy season for ordinations

Three new priests and one deacon were ordained in August and September. Fr. Jonathan Duncan is now serving at St. Alban’s, Arlington. Fr. Chad Nushbaum is curate at St. Peter & St. Paul, Arlington. Fr. Joel Hampton is Rector at St. Andrew’s, Breckenridge. And Deacon Micah Snell (ordination photo not available) is assigned to St. Mark’s, Arlington, while he continues his graduate studies. All four graduated from theological programs at Nashotah House Seminary in May.

Bishop Ikeboki holds the hands of Fr. Duncan. “Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven. Whose sins you retain, they are retained.”

The Hamptons pose for a family picture following the ordination service on Sept. 8.

Fr. Nushbaum gives a blessing to his son, Gage, as Chris Nushbaum (right) and Fr. Tom Hightower look on.
| January | 11/1 | All Saints’ Day  
TRINITY, Fort Worth |
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_Boldface_ type indicates Bishop Iker’s visitations • Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held at the Diocesan Center for Ministry

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