

CANTERBURY TALES

OUR NEW VICAR CONTINUES TO SHARE HIS FAITH JOURNEY

Fr. Tim Meets with his Bishop in the Diocese of West Texas

Back to Cali

"Come in, Tim," my bishop greeted me in the waiting area outside his office; "have a seat. I'm going to get my suffragan. Back in a minute."

I'd only ever met him once before, when he confirmed me. So I didn't yet know him or what he was like—his personality, his ministry point of focus, and so on. Turns out he was very intent on future generations. Youth and camping ministries were key for him. So was providing priests for the next generation.

A minute or two later he and David, his suffragan, joined me at the small meeting table in his office; and he began, "Tim, I took the liberty to share your letter with David here. Why don't you tell both of us your story, especially how you came to sense a call to the ministry?"

And so I did, much as I did for you in last month's newsletter. Until, "I mean," I admitted, "the idea of going off to seminary and completing the education part of my priestly formation is a wonderful one, don't get me

wrong; but I've always been the main bread winner in our home. I can't see how relocating a family of six for three years is even possible."

"Thank you for this, Tim," the bishop wrapped it up. "It is a very real concern. Let's stay in touch."



And that was that—for the time being anyway.

But a year later we revisited the conversation, this time with Holly joining. Baby #5 was about to join our family, so we decided to table the idea for one more year. And then, in early 2010, it was decided: we Trues would relocate to Sewanee, Tennessee for three years. Somehow, we were determined, it would work.

And somehow it did.

The three years in Sewanee were tremendous. It is the home of the University of the South, the only university still entirely owned by the Episcopal Church, which houses a liberal arts college and a seminary. We Trues jumped in with both feet, immersing ourselves in all we could.

The seminary community is just one facet of this diamond, a fairy-tale town perched atop the Cumberland Plateau. Our kids

went to school and played sports locally. Holly worked odd jobs around campus, including Wedding Hostess of the beautiful All Saints' Chapel. We dined regularly at university and town eateries. I taught two semesters of Latin to undergraduates; took elective courses through the college; learned the carillon and became Assistant University Carillonneur; and worked as an organist at local churches. Sewanee became a real home. (Indeed, our oldest daughter, who graduated from the University in 2016, had spent a full third of her life there by that time!) Perhaps more than anything else, my time at Sewanee taught me to see the Episcopal Church truly as a nation-wide organization.

Ordination to the diaconate came for me on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28, in 2012—back in Texas, over Christmas break. The Episcopal Church requires every priest to serve as a deacon for at least six months prior to priestly ordination. My bishop thought it would be a good idea to spend my last semester in seminary already ordained, to gain some working knowledge as I finished my time of focusing on the theoretical. A good idea, I agree, having experienced it! Priestly ordination followed on July 7, 2013.

Graduation took place in May and I began serving as a curate in mid-June at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, one of the largest parishes of the Diocese of West Texas.

The position of curate is designed to get one's feet wet, so to speak. Curacies generally last a couple of

years, equipping new priests with tools to carry into future positions. With my previous life experience in religious education leadership, not to mention some twenty years of following the call into ordained ministry, I was eager for these two years to pass and get on with serving Christ as a rector.

So, eighteen months into it, happy for my time in San Antonio and forever grateful to the Diocese of West Texas for confirming outwardly my longtime sense of internal call, I began looking westward, where I could still be a part of the nation-wide Episcopal Church and also be nearer to where my aging parents live and to the home of my own childhood. That new call soon materialized: St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yuma, Arizona, in the Diocese of San Diego.

Now, some two years hence, I can say that challenges and rewards at St. Paul's have been many—some anticipated, others unlooked for. Working knowledge and the experience that comes with it have been, and will continue to be, invaluable.

And so here I am, facing another move, ready to dive into the new challenges and rewards that will come in Temecula, more prepared than ever before but knowing that we can never be fully prepared, looking forward to doing great things together for Christ in the Temecula Valley.

The Rev. Timothy True

See Part One in the June Issue of Canterbury Tales



A mission of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, St. Thomas is a "pet-friendly" church that cares deeply for our beloved pets. We work with local senior citizens to provide food for their pets and support the Animal Friends of the Valleys. We also hold a blessing for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, and welcome well-behaved pets to attend worship with us.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN OF ST. THOMAS (MoST) – Saturday, July 8 at 8:00 am

MoST is an informal fellowship that meets each second Saturday of the month at 8:00am for a potluck breakfast, brief Bible Study, and assisting afterwards with maintenance and property projects at the church. All are welcome including friends and neighbors. The emphasis is on fellowship. Come join the fun!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP -- Monday, July 3 at Noon

The Book Discussion Group meets in the St. Benedict Conference room from 12 noon to 1 PM. The group has been reading *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion. This is a classic book of essays published in 1968 by one of America's greatest contemporary writers. Even if you have not been reading the book, please come and share your ideas for our next selection. This is an informal group that meets on the first Monday of the month and is open to anyone interested in lively discussions on diverse subjects. Please call or email Bill Liesman for more info.

DINNERS ALL AROUND—Saturday, July 22 from 6:15-9:30 pm

At the home of Joel and Virginia Patton—See the details on page 7 of this issue.

CAMP STEVENS—Ongoing throughout July

Camp Stevens offers a variety of programs to build community while providing challenge and refreshment for our participants. Camp Stevens in beautiful Julian is a unique facility belonging to the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. See the brochures and newsletters in the Narthex for more information.

LAKE ELSINORE STORM BASEBALL—Thursday August 3 at 7 pm

Plan on attending this always fun outing to the local Class A minor league team of the Padres. St. Thomas members will meet at 6:30 PM in the parking lot of the The Diamond to get tickets together. This is the special "Thirsty Thursday" promotion. See the sign-up sheet and all other details in the Narthex

What Do We Do While We Wait for Our New Vicar?

See Peter Mandery!

In accordance with the canons of the Episcopal Church, the Bishop's Warden (Peter Mandery) will either handle each individual matter himself or direct it to Canon Alyson Thomas to be handled by the Diocese. The duty of our supply priest (Fr. Schuneman) is to be here for Saturday night and Sunday services only. Any other needs for a priest beyond that, including pastoral care requests, should be directed to Peter Mandery at (760) 535-14889.

Let's pray that this will be a smooth time in our parish journey!

Wednesday Night Holy Eucharist with Healing

The Wednesday night Holy Eucharist with Healing will be replaced with Evening Prayer until Father Tim arrives in August. The Wednesday Evening Prayer service will remain at the same time at 7:00pm.

Member Spotlight

PATRICK GRANNAN

In His Own Words

I am St. Thomas' "crazy dog guy". You can see me at church with one or more of my dogs at any given service. My dogs may be more recognized at St. Thomas than I am.

I am a widower with two sons by marriage, two lovely daughters in law, and three and ½ grandchildren (one due in September). I live in Lake Elsinore with six dogs.

I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. My family was traditional Irish Catholic on my Father's side and a bit of an ecumenical council (Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian) on my Mother's side. I went to Roman Catholic grade school and high school - my high school had even been considered a pre-seminary until a few years before I attended.

In an ironic prequel to my current attendance at St. Thomas of Canterbury, my high school put on a production of T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" in our lower chapel while my older brother attended. (In case you are unfamiliar with the play it tells the story of the murder of Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the Cathedral of Canterbury.

My first real exposure to non-Roman Catholic Christianity came in college when I attended a Quaker College in suburban Philadelphia where I majored in Personality Psychology. From there it was on to law school in New York City for three years.

I moved to Los Angeles in July 1984, took the bar exam, and then went to the Olympics. After that I started a thirty year career as a trial lawyer which took me from Los Angeles to Orange County. Currently I no longer practice law and work as a Wedding and Portrait Photographer for people and animals.

I was not active with organized Religion for quite some time after moving to the Southern California area. When my wife took ill and died unexpectedly and far too young in 2014, I decided to reconnect with organized religion. My first step was to go back to the familiar Roman Catholic Church of my youth and my schooling.

However, when I was told I would have to remove photographs from same sex weddings from my website before my church bulletin advertisement would be accepted, I decided to look for a more tolerant - or, in my view, more Christian - church. My search led me to the Episcopal Church and to St Thomas.



My faith journey is guided by my analytical training and I generally approach most questions from this point of view. I do believe, however, that logic and analysis can only take you so far and at some point simple faith must take over.

I believe our greatest stewardship is through our actions and in the way we treat those in our community as well as those who are not in our community. There is an old story about a man who was in an accident and refused assistance offered by witnesses, from EMS and finally from a doctor. He told them all he was praying and was sure God would provide. When he died and went to the pearly gates he asked God why He had forsaken him. God answered that he had sent him witnesses, EMS technicians and qualified doctors. I believe God has similarly sent us to do his work as his agents on earth. Our greatest prayer is to show up and try to do the tasks that God has left for us to do.



From the Standing Committee

The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

June 26, 2017
Bishop Transition #4

To All the Faithful of Our Diocese:

We are excited to announce the selection of the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori as our assisting bishop. Bishop Jefferts Schori will begin her tenure with us on August 13. She will serve three-quarters time performing episcopal functions such as visitations, confirmations, ordinations, and receptions. She will share with the standing committee the task of providing leadership and vision for the diocese and shall generally perform the functions of a diocesan bishop as delegated to her by the standing committee in its capacity as the ecclesiastical authority during the transition. She will work closely with the executive council as well.



Bishop Jefferts Schori served as the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church from 2006 until 2015. Prior to her role as primate, she was the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. She earned a biology degree from Stanford in 1974, followed by a master's in oceanography in 1977, and a doctorate, also in oceanography in 1983 from Oregon State University. In 1994 she earned a master's in divinity from Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She is married to Richard Schori, a retired topology professor. Their daughter, Katharine, served ten years in the US Air Force; she separated as a major. Bishop Jefferts Schori is an instrument-rated pilot and is fluent in Spanish.

We thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward with this transition.

Faithfully,

The Standing Committee

The Rev. Dr. [Simon Mainwaring](#), President

Mr. [Jim Stiven](#), President-Designate

The Rev. [Gwynn Lynch](#), Secretary

Brother [John Charles](#) Westaway

The Rev. [Kathleen Kelly](#)

Ms. [Helen Astleford](#)

The Rev. [Laura Sheridan-Campbell](#)

Mr. [Jose "Joe" Gamboa](#)

St. Thomas Episcopal Preschool (STEP)

Graduation Day / June 15



Health Update

Dr. Ed Rather

This month, I think it is pertinent to discuss briefly some of those odd things that can happen when we are at the beach, particularly in warmer waters of Mexico, Hawaii, the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, or on the Central America coast. People love underwater reefs, shipwrecks, and playing in warm saltwater. There are numerous exotic creatures to be seen both in the water and on the beach, but some of these need to be observed but not handled!

Dermatologists see sun exposure and its problems the most. But, there are a host of seaborne/aquatic organisms that attack us and our skin. Some are very serious and most are quite painful. Most these are caused by invertebrate animals such as jellyfish, Portuguese man-of-war, corals of the true and fire types, and sea anemones or sea urchins. All of them have nematocysts, which are tightly coiled spear-like microtubes which inject their venom! Sounds awful and can be! The tentacles of the man of war type can be 20 to 30 feet long, have a bag that floats, and these can be in large groups of 1000 or more; they are considered the worst of the group. Acute symptoms are a burning pain, anxiety, shock-like events, weakness, etc.

Treatment is mainly supportive, using salt water only to rinse (not tap water, which releases the nematocysts), vinegar, and manual removal of the tentacle with tweezers. Cold compresses with ice will help with the pain. The adage of using urine is not the best way to go, but alcohol (that would be EXTERNALLY) can help as well. I personally have seen some patients with these injuries, particularly caused by men-of-war, jelly fish, and sea urchins and each has its own misery involved. Do not forget that the dead creature washed up on the beach can still fire off their venom... so look at their innate beauty, but do not touch! Enjoy sea and sand, and as always, I remind you to USE SUNSCREEN!

Your friendly, but retired, Dermatologist.

Ed

Dinners All Around Productions presents an evening

Chez Patton

**in Temecula Wine Country at the home of
Joel and Virginia Patton
July 22, 6:15 to 9:30 p.m.**

Come to beautiful Temecula Wine Country for an outdoor cookout and some great fellowship with all of your St. Thomas of Canterbury friends! See Virginia's library building and collection of early California and Western art. And, check out Joel's old cars while you are there.



Joel and Virginia will be providing barbecue tri-tip roast and barbecue chicken along with iced tea, lemonade and water.

BYOB for any adult beverages or other drinks you may wish to enjoy. If you can, bring along a side, a salad or a dessert.



**Sign up sheet in
the Narthex
See you there for
some real summer
fun!**

Address will be provided nearer the time

Service, Fellowship and Fun Keeps Our Church Family Busy

MEMBERS IN ACTION

As June heated up in Temecula, church members kept busy throughout the month. Activities included community engagement projects such as providing food for Temecula Pantry, outings in San Diego as well as attending church services and enjoying each other's hospitality.



Our supply priest, Father Steve kept the congregation galvanized with his continuing series of fascinating sermons – a wonderful “winding road” that always ends up in the right place! A big thank-you to Father Steve for stepping in during this transitional time.



Throughout the month Bishop's Committee members continued their revolving introductions during announcements at all three services. This has given the congregation an insight into their work and roles as well as giving our Head Warden Peter Mandery, a welcome break from making the announcements.



June 23, a group from St. Thomas joined fellow diocesans at the annual Episcopal Night at the Padres.



Bishop Mathes, dressed in a flowing Padres shirt with his name emblazoned on the back, threw out the first ball to the roar of the crowd. A scintillating well-played game ensued between the Padres and the Detroit Tigers under overcast skies. The home team won 1-0 and a good time was had by all.



Plenty of activities are coming up in July including a Dinners All Around at "Chez Patton" so check all these things out in the Narthex and sign up!





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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Children's
Chapel/Sunday School

Wednesday

7:00pm Evening Prayer