

ANNUAL COUNCIL BY ROSE DAMON

106th Annual Council Diocese of West Texas

By Rose F Damon

February 18-20, 2010, the 106th Annual Diocesan Council convened in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Council theme, “Bear one another’s burdens...and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)”, supported one of the major issues discussed—that of hunger. Spiritual, physical and mental hunger. The second issue was the Anglican Covenant.

Bishop Lillibridge started Council by saying, “I wonder what our world, our churches, and our individual lives would look like if we were bearing one another’s burdens in such obvious ways that God’s will was reflected through our lives so that earth might look a little more like heaven.”

It was Bishop’s hope that “at this council we [would] consider bearing one another’s burdens as daily companions; as disciples in a world wide fellowship (Anglican Community); and as servants who reach out to others in compassion (needs such as poverty, disaster, grief, daily hardship).”

To this end, the agenda supported three small group discussion sessions: Covenant and Companions (Philippians 2.1-16) as it related to “bearing one another’s burdens,” Covenant and Communion (I Corinthians 12.12-31) and Covenant and Compassion (Mark 6.30-37 and Matthew 25.34-40).

Friday morning, Bishop Lillibridge’s annual address centered on the proposed Anglican Covenant. “God has put us together for mission and ministry...The purpose of our common life is to help one another...,” said Bishop Lillibridge early in his address. Bishop noted that the Anglican Covenant was reviewed in the Diocesan newspaper, *The Church News*, January-February 2010. (The entire Covenant can be accessed through the diocesan website, www.dwtx.org.) He further stated that the Anglican Covenant would come up for a vote at the National Council in 2012. He urged that we all become conversant with what the Covenant proposes.

Special Luncheons

Thursday the Holy Spirit delegation attended the Christian Faith in Action Luncheon where we learned about “Going Solar”. Concerned for both the environment and the rising cost of power, congregations are looking to integrating solar power into their energy systems. On-site solar generation reduces air pollution, grows the green energy economy, and protects the creation. With a new church plant about to be planned, this gave us food for thought.

Dr. Ruby K. Payne delivered an impassioned speech on “What Can the Faith Community Do to Address Poverty?” at the Friday luncheon. In succinct language she talked about mental models for poverty, middle class, and wealth, the various language differences among the classes, the lack of resource and support systems available to the poor, and how we might begin to bridge those differences.

Representing Holy Spirit were Fr. Jason, Vicar, and delegates Larry Thorp, Linda Hadley, and Rose Damon. Alternates Jack Hadley and Diana Thorp and visitor Craig Damon rounded out the delegation. Nine of our Holy Spirit youth accompanied by Karen Callihan, Todd Klein and Jackie McCarthy participated in the Youth in Action Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21, 2010.
