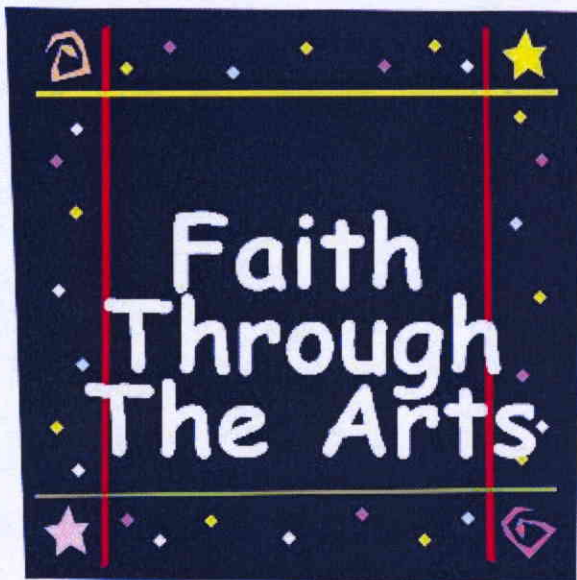


Letters From St. Nicholas'



**Vacation Bible School
August 10th — 13th
Parish Hall**

**Contact the Parish Office
to Register or to help**



Sunday, August 30th

**10:30 AM
Parish Hall**

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church

4000 W. Loop 250 N.
Midland, Texas 79707
Voice (432) 694-8856
Fax (432) 697-1734
Mobile (432) 260-6666
stnicks@stnicksmt.org
<http://www.stnicksmt.org>

The Bishop of Northwest Texas
The Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, Bishop
Web: <http://www.nwt.org>

Rector

The Rev. James E. Liggett, Jr.

Vestry

Mr. Jim Brown, Sr. Warden
Finance Committee Liaison
Mr. Nathan Williams, Jr. Warden
Physical Plant Committee Liaison
Emergency Preparedness Liaison
Dr. Michael Jordan, Clerk
Outreach Committee Liaison
Ms Beverly Alstrin
Ms Marilyn Bassinger
Worship Committee Liaison
Mr. Scot Marter
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Ms Mary Rogers
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Mr. Pool Webb
Publicity Committee Liaison
Ms Joan Whitt

Deacon

Deacon Tom Burns

Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr. Bob Bonnington
Pastoral Associate
Mr. Bob Poer
Parish Administrator
Mr. Darryl Knapp
Organist/Choirmaster
Lay Ministries Coordinator
Mr. Bobby J. Crues
Treasurer
Mr. Corby Considine
Chancellor
Ms Elvira Sebian
Sexton

Two Reflections on General Convention From our Bishop

(Bishop Mayer has written two reflection on General Convention, the first one is below, and the second is on the next page)

The 76th meeting of the General Convention has come to a close. As you know, this is my first trip to General Convention as your bishop, which I count a great privilege.

I cannot overstate the high level of care exercised within the House of Bishops at this convention: the deep listening, the self-offering, the respect, the affection, and the bond. Bishops came together from the different theological and cultural perspectives which are characteristic of our tradition, seeking to discern God's will.

The General Convention experience is more than legislation. It's a family reunion – gathering with long time friends. It's enjoying time with the deputies, volunteers, and ECW representatives of one's own diocese, and hearing one another's stories. It's celebrating rich and creative worship with thousands of Episcopalians. It's strolling through the Exhibit Hall and seeing the variety of expressions of our tradition. It's enduring the daily grind of long hours and hard work.

Having said that, significant legislation was passed at this convention, including:

- a denominational health plan, which will better serve smaller dioceses in particular;
- a mandatory lay pension plan for the dedicated lay employees of the Church;
- and a reduction of the overall general budget, as the Church both responds to current economic challenges, and shifts more mission initiatives to the local level.

Of course, the legislation most reported in the media concerns the two resolutions regarding human sexuality. Unfortunately, the headlines misrepresented what actually happened. It is my understanding – an understanding shared by our Presiding Bishop and most bishops – that the convention did nothing which goes beyond what is currently provided in our Constitution and Canons. We did not lift the moratoria adopted at the previous convention. We did not authorize the blessing of same-sex unions. The convention did craft resolutions which describe where we are. I will write more specifically about this in another article.

In the meantime, I return from this meeting of the 76th General Convention as hopeful as ever, and as grateful as ever to serve God in and through this beautiful tradition – especially in Northwest Texas – in the Name of the Holy Trinity, one God, in Whom we live and move and have our being.

With affection and gratitude,

+Scott