



JOHN HARVEY TAYLOR

Task force strategizes to achieve housing justice

Engaging best practices to help ease the Southland's current housing crisis, members of the 55-member diocesan Housing Justice Task Force met Sept. 18 to continuing framing regional and local responses. Those options include ways of leveraging church real property for construction of affordable housing with supportive services, said Bishop John Harvey Taylor, who convened the meeting and later offered his perspective on Facebook. He also encouraged members to share information widely, including the use of these social media hashtags, #feedinghungryhearts, #housingjusticeEDLA, #comehomeEDLA. Above: Brenda Wiewel, a clinical social worker who directs USC's Initiative to Eliminate Homelessness, talked at the task force meeting about narrative and relationship as means of destigmatizing those suffering on the streets. For Bishop Taylor's thoughts on the meeting, visit bit.ly/2xqgbhl.

'Versed' to return with study of LGBTQ issues

The Autumn 2018 sessions of "Versed," a study program for young adults sponsored by the diocese's Program Group on Youth & Young Adult Ministries, will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 2, with the topic "Beyond Inclusion: Queering the Church" at St. John's Cathedral, 514 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 90007. Each program will begin with dinner at 7 p.m. and continue with presentations and discussion until 10 p.m.

"This season of Versed will move past defensive theology (just arguing for a space for LGBTQ people in Christianity), and dive into how Queer perspectives enrich the church's understandings of acceptance, gender, sexuality, bodies, Scripture, identity, and community," according to the course description.

"We're striving to make this a safer space for brave questions and conversations that lead us beyond inclusion in our churches, inviting us to see Queerness — not on the margins — but in the heart of the Gospel message."

Topics are:

- ◆ Tuesday, Oct. 2: Self-Acceptance and the Search For Inclusivity
- ◆ Tuesday, Oct. 9: Queer Sex: Taboo and Re-awakening
- ◆ Tuesday, Oct. 16: Queer Eye For The Good Book: Scripture and Queer Theology
- ◆ Tuesday, Oct. 23: Beyond Binary: Mixed Identities and God.

For more information and to register for Versed, visit the PGYM web page at bit.ly/2MNEESJ. †

Hotel reservations open for Diocesan Convention 2018

Hotel room reservations are now being accepted for the 2018 Diocesan Convention, to be held Nov. 30–Dec. 1 at the Ontario Convention Center.

Reservations for any of the participating hotels may be made at bit.ly/2QKBDWz. Hotels offering convention rates are: Doubletree by Hilton Ontario; Azure Hotel & Suites; and the Holiday Inn at Ontario Airport. All reservations must be made from the link above to get the special convention rates.

Convention activities will begin on Friday morning with a mini-Ministry Fair, at which several workshops will be offered in two sessions. Topics and presenters will be announced in coming weeks.

The Friday night convention dinner will return to the schedule, with a program to be announced. A reception in the Exhibit Hall will begin at the end of the Friday afternoon session, at about 5:30; dinner will follow.

The theme for the convention, "Come Home, EDLA," will be carried out in several aspects of convention, including morning, noonday and evening prayer, and the closing Eucharist. Bishop John Harvey Taylor has established several aspects of "home," including diocesan unity and rich diversity; places of deep sacramental meaning and belonging; and prophetic social justice action.

Watch the Episcopal News Update and Weekly, and www.diocesanconvention.com for further information. †

General Convention, young adults featured in Episcopal News

A report from the 2018 General Convention and stories about young adult ministries are featured in the Autumn 2018 issue of The Episcopal News. Visit www.episcopalnews.org to download copies. †



— TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 —

7 p.m. **Taizé Service of Healing & Wholeness**
 St. Francis Episcopal Church
 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes Estates
 Information: www.stfrancispalosverdes.org

— SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 —

2 p.m. – 6 p.m. **All Nations Celebration**
 (Native American culture)
 Cathedral of St. John
 514 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
 Information: mcristusa@gmail.com

— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 —

5 p.m. **Recital: Stephen Manes, piano**
 All Saints' Episcopal Church
 504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210
 Information: www.allsaintsbh.org

— MONDAY, OCTOBER 3 —

6 p.m. **Nuns on the Bus: Tax Justice Truth Tour**
 All Saints Church
 132 N. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena 91101
 Information: info@allsaints-pas.org

— FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 —

5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Friday Night Farming**
 Cathedral Center of St. Paul
 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles 90026
 Information: seedsofhope.ladiocese.org

— SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 —

4 p.m. **An Afternoon of Concert Greats**
 St. George's Episcopal Church
 23802 Avenida de la Carlota, Laguna Hills
 Information: stgeorgesparish.org

5 p.m. **Choral Evensong**
 All Saints' Episcopal Church
 504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210
 Information: www.allsaintsbh.org

For more listings and program details, visit www.diocesela.org. Note that the URL of the diocesan website is changed: in most cases ladiocese.org will also reach the new site.

THE VOLUME 7, NUMBER 32

Episcopal News Weekly

Editor: Canon Janet Kawamoto, editor@ladiocese.org
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The power of being last

By Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Whenever I come to this passage in the Gospel according to Mark I'm always struck by how words spoken over 2,000 years ago are still fresh today. We continue to live in a world in which self-importance and self-protection are more important than caring for others. Jesus knew that his power came not from himself, but from God the Creator. He knew that humility and caring for others is at the heart of what it takes to be a leader.

The root of this need to be first, or to "have it all," is anxiety and fear. When we think someone is going to get ahead of us or that someone has more, we become anxious. Many fear being without whatever they think they need. To fill that void, some try to push their way to the front of the line instead of understanding that the real power comes from being in the back — allowing others to move ahead of us — especially when the

"other" is someone in need.

The collect for today is one of my favorites, and ties beautifully into the Gospel message: *Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure ...*

May we keep our eyes and hearts pointed to what is truly important — our relationship with God. May we be less anxious about what we don't have and celebrate what we do have. May we walk humbly with our God by caring for the poor and needy. May we share out of the abundance God has given us — knowing that everything we have, everything we are, everything we do is a gift from God and it is a gift that is meant to be shared. Then and only then can we take our place in line — at the back — where Jesus is waiting to walk with us. †



UTO coordinators invited to garden party

Congregational coordinators for United Thank Offering in the Diocese of Los Angeles are cordially invited for a Garden Party Tea at the home of Bishop John Harvey Taylor and Canon Kathy O'Connor, 3435 E. California Blvd., Pasadena 91107 at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Each congregation is invited to send a representative to learn more about UTO and the work it has done and continues to do throughout the world. United Thank Offering collects contributions from Episcopalians who drop coins in the organization's signa-

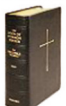
ture blue mite boxes as offerings of gratitude.

In 2018, the offerings — gathered together by each diocese and contributed to UTO — have totaled \$1,257,778, and funded 34 grants, which have supported a wide variety of ministries throughout the United States and the world. For more about UTO, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering.

To make a reservation for the Garden Party Tea, contact Diane Askren, UTO coordinator for the Diocese of Los Angeles, at jdaskren55@gmail.com. Reservations are requested by Sept. 30. †

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