SEND US OUT TO BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES

Exploring the First Mark of Mission:
To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
IN THIS ISSUE:
Send Us Out to Be Faithful Witnesses

About this issue: This is the second in a four part series on how we in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana are living out the First Mark of Mission—To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

In one of our post communion prayers (Book of Common Prayer, page 366) we pray, “And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.” Read and explore some of the ways our churches are proclaiming the Good News in their communities and connecting with their neighbors.

On the Cover
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The people of St Anna’s dance their way out of church to the music of the Storyville Stompers on Palm Sunday, March 20.

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One Sunday afternoon as I was driving over the Causeway, returning from a visitation on that side of the lake, I found my mind wandering from the congregation I had just visited to other work items on my plate. I enjoy letting my mind wander from one item to another, working out details in a controlled manner. Sometimes I quickly realize how bizarre my thinking is and other times I’m amazed that I think so clearly. Anyway, as I was making my way on the Causeway towards New Orleans, I became aware of the dark clouds hanging over me like a thick blanket. Although there was no rain or powerful wind, you could imagine the scene quickly changing any moment. In an odd sort of way, the scene was seductively calming. As I drove, I became aware of something I’ve never experienced. When my eyes followed the road all the way to the end, I saw a small, very bright light. At first, I laughed because it reminded me of the story often heard from people who see a bright light at the end of a tunnel during a near death experience. I was mesmerized. Dark versus light. As I drove closer to New Orleans the small spot of light became larger, like a curtain slowly opening. When I was about five miles away the light became larger until it revealed its truth. In New Orleans, the day was full of sunlight. The dark clouds were only over the water. Life behind the clouds was the truth.

In Dr. Minka Sprague’s book, Praying from the Free-Throw Line—for Now, she writes about a delightful conversation with her daughter: “My daughter was recounting a story from her ministry as bartender. ‘He asked me how he could be so lonely in the middle of so many people. When I answered,’ she said, ‘I sounded like you.’” What caught my attention was the usage of the phrase “ministry as bartender” and the question, “How could he be so lonely in the middle of so many people?”

Like the small dot of light that shined so brightly, Dr. Sprague’s sermons, teachings, and casual conversations equipped her daughter to recognize the loneliness of the man at the bar. Her preparation over her formative years of living with her mother sparked within her an awareness of the “other” in others. Like the small light at the end of the bridge, her light grew into conversation and from there the possibilities were unlimited.

In most cases, ministry does not take place at church but in the marketplace where we live and move and have our being. Each one of us is called to be a minister and do ministry. A small light becomes larger than we can ever imagine if we are willing to be the light God has imbedded within each of us. Baptism is not an act that gets us through the pearly gates at some mysterious time but the setting apart of each one of our gifts of ministry whether it is teacher, mechanic, or taxi cab driver. We are all called to notice, to listen to the small voices that ask, “Why am I so lonely in the midst of people?” When we practice this listening through listening, then we hear and see the other in the other. I believe this is evangelism at its best, seeing the other and recognizing ourselves.

Brave journey,

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of Louisiana
"To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom" in the Tremé and generally in a historically rich but underserved urban landscape calls for: prayer, tenacity, observing, listening and acting. In our case, those proclamations are cast out in violent environments where murder and assault are considered normal everyday events. In our mission field that proclamation needs to be seen as well as heard particularly in communities where, historically, “the Church” has been seen as an agent of exclusion and even spiritual violence.

When I first got to St. Anna’s we were a typical nice small church with nice people who all had great stories about when Fr. Bob Dodwell was Rector. Since then the church had been through some turmoil and wanted a little direction. So, we tried to build some mission-driven opportunities. But as we all know Katrina changed everything.

Over the next ten years St. Anna’s has grown to an average of about 130-140 in ASA during the winter and about 100-120 in the summer - a substantial difference from the 20-30 immediately following Katrina. So here we are in the Tremé part of New Orleans. The deepest poverty is located just behind the church. On either side are signs of rapid gentrification. Just a few blocks away part-time wealth and commerce thrive in the French Quarter, beyond that the Marigny and Bywater neighborhoods. Each is different and each presents to us opportunities.

Anna’s Place NOLA is the center of our missionary life. This mission has evolved from several distinct Katrina response missions and missions to curb urban violence. As a community, we decided that singular missions could become complimentary and so Anna’s Place NOLA seeks to break cycles of poverty, violence, ignorance, and chronic poor health. This may sound like a tall order but really it isn’t when you simply say, “I am not responsible for fixing all of it, but I am obligated to do something.”

Anna’s Place NOLA serves marginalized populations in various ways. We host a school that aggressively teaches from 3-7 p.m. on Spring and Winter weekdays. About 20 children ages 7-13 attend. On Saturdays, we host 60 children and the focus is on arts. On Sundays, we host 20 at risk kids for Sunday School. This is hard work but the benefits are deeply spiritual and actual. On most days I leave church and get a giant hug from as many as five little ones and a high five from a few big ones. Not a bad way to leave a day behind.

Education and arts are a key to shifting from a poverty perspective to an enrichment perspective and world view. But those are only
two keys. We are an incarnational faith and both our Lord and St. Paul teaches us to treat our bodies well.

In zip code 70116, “Place Matters”, a multi-year study on health in New Orleans, found that people in our zip code live 20 years less than the rest of the city. That is a scandal and one that we seek to address. Through the children, we are introducing a healthy diet program that is filtering up to the adults in their lives. To help relieve the emotional – physical stresses of poverty we are employing social workers for family therapy. The level of anxiety and anger is starting to become measurably less. We believe and pray that means one less murder, one less dead child or adult. It is that simple. We don’t want to see “our” kids or their adults on the Murder Board. That is why we are doing what we are doing.

With great joy, I guess our dues have been paid to some extent because we are now partnered with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra who in turn are directly funded by the Carnegie Hall Foundation. The original goal was simply to introduce at-risk African-American children to classical music. But, using the St. Anna’s model, Carnegie has taken notice that more can be done. While Anna’s Place NOLA receives no direct funding, we do get teachers and support from the LPO. Imagine, a child living in the ghetto knowing what “Allegro”, “Moderato”, and an F flat means! Imagine the kids you see playing in the streets playing the cello, attending an Opera. Then after the Opera discussing the libretto and who the characters were and the story line! Imagine all of that for a kid that might have pants hanging low, standing under a lamppost, and then imagine him or her at Anna’s Place NOLA.

These are our missions and our church facility is beaten up because of it. We need a paint job. The bathrooms are always under repair. But we have come to love our deferred maintenance. It’s home to neighborhood kids and their parents, a gathering of eccentric and varied adults. It’s home.

But we don’t just stay at home because Anna’s Place NOLA gives us a reason to be in the community. We partner with bars, restaurants, and social groups. We partner with other Episcopal Churches like Grace, St. Francisville, Christ Church Cathedral, and St. James, Baton Rouge. We experience our partnerships as transformative and part of our overall mission. Come and help us build or harvest a garden with the kids. Join us and paint some rooms or donate as a memorial gift a handicap accessible bathroom or building addition. Or, just as important, adopt a child by paying tuition for one or more of them. Perhaps a Memorial Chair of Choral Direction might be the subject of an endowment. So much to do and so much grace to be experienced. God is good.

Since 2003, the Very Rev. Bill Terry has served as rector of St. Anna’s in New Orleans.

St. Anna’s was founded in 1846, and has long been a center of community life in the historic downtown communities of New Orleans.
The easiest way to answer the question, “What does it mean to reach out in your community with the Gospel of Jesus?” would be to list the activities our church does that have an evangelistic or an obviously religious purpose or intent. We offer daily Morning Prayer, Holy Eucharist four times a week, Bible studies every Sunday morning throughout the year and on Wednesdays (morning and evening sessions) during the program year, Christian Preschool, Vacation Bible School every Summer, healthy youth groups and programs, a Holy Eucharist at St. John’s Chapel in Laurel Hill on the third Sunday of every month, services at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Wyanoke at least twice a year, etc...

This list would tell the world what we do, but it would not tell the whole story of who Grace is and what the clergy have been doing here since 1827. The clergy of Grace Church have always been “Country Parsons” as described in the famous book by George Herbert. I became aware from the very start of my job as rector that my congregation is much larger than the 360 persons who call Grace home. As Herbert describes the work of the Parson on Sundays, we spend a great deal of time, “Either in reconciling neighbors that are at variance, or in visiting the sick, or in exhortations to some of his flock by themselves, whom his Sermons cannot, or does not reach.” This work of reconciling often includes the task of pastoral counseling. As a clinical social worker in a town with very little mental health services, I often find myself counseling people from other denominations referred to us by their pastors or doctors. I do this pro-bono because I know my congregation extends beyond our walls. My associate and I also do invocations at the start of local parades, bless new businesses, present several awards at school graduations, judge local food competitions, participate in the community food bank fundraisers, go to community leadership meetings, attend Rotary regularly, guide tours of our cemetery during our Annual Pilgrimage, help people in need regardless of denomination by connecting them to available resources within our church and our community, etc...

Herbert describes the work of the Parson on Sunday evenings the following way, “At night he thinks it a very fit time, both suitable to the joy of the day, and without hinderance to public duties, either to entertain some of his neighbors, or to be entertained of them, where he takes occasion to discourse of such things as are both profitable, and pleasant, and to raise up their minds to apprehend God’s good blessing to our Church, and State.” It would not be an exaggeration to highlight the value of entertainment in a small community like...
ours. The Episcopal clergy are invited to everything and are expected to attend everything. These community engagements add a level of complexity to an already busy life, but I am always glad I attend these functions. Invariably, I hear about people in need of a pastoral visit, I learn about the latest political issue in town, I spend time with influential community leaders and advocate informally for those in need, I lend an ear and help people vent their frustrations or discern difficult decisions, and I share my own faith in a non-threatening way when given the opportunity to do so. Perhaps, the greatest benefit of these events is the opportunity to meet people in a social environment that allows for casual conversation and the beginning of relationships. I always feel honored when I see some of these people sitting on our church pews and when they choose to worship among us as new members. These are moments of great joy for me.

Grace Church reaches out in love to most community agencies in town. We have had a healthy prison ministry at Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola) for 25 years and allocate 20% of our associate’s time to work at the prison. We have had a ministry team at the local nursing home for 23 years and provide manpower to our food bank as needed. We participate in various fairs and community events sponsored by Women Service League, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Arts for All, Families in Need of Assistance (FINA) and many other agencies. Additionally, our Mission and Outreach Committee is blessed to be able to fund various agencies and programs in Honduras, Haiti, Mauritius (Indian Ocean), New Orleans, and St. Alban’s (LSU) every year. We proudly proclaim that we have been sharing Christ’s love in our community and beyond since 1827.

I am always amazed at the impact that a small church like ours can have in our diocese and the world.

When you visit Grace for the first time, it feels as though you have stepped back in time a bit. We have a church that is beautiful in its simplicity, nestled by live oaks that date to the mid-1800’s, and surrounded by one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the South. It would be easy to think of Grace as a memorial site that celebrates Louisiana’s Antebellum history and architectural sensibilities. This is only part of our story, however. The rest of the story is as important. We are a loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ. We are unapologetically traditional, believe in salvation by grace alone, preach from the Holy Scriptures, and seek to bring all within the reach of Christ’s saving embrace. We are also a vibrant congregation that takes seriously the mandate to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the infirm, and befriend the imprisoned. And we do these things both for Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians alike. All are welcome, but, please know in advance that if you stay longer than a day we will treat you like family and will expect to see you in church and at one of our parties.
Learning to Invite—Welcome—Connect in the Suburbs
by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark’s, Harvey & Canon Missioner

One of the great joys of my job is traveling around the diocese and meeting with congregations of all shapes and sizes. Although each of our churches possess unique gifts and face distinct challenges, one comment that I hear over and over again is the same: our congregation wants to grow.

A little over a year ago the diocese co-sponsored a newcomer ministry workshop with Christ Church, Covington, featuring celebrated congregational consultant/coach Mary Parmer and her INVITE-WELCOME-CONNECT program. Over one-hundred Episcopalians, representing two-thirds of our congregations, spent the day exploring practices and strategies that can lead to growth. The energy was incredible and the ideas were innovative. I was recently looking at my notes from this workshop and scribbled across the top of a page in bold print, I read this question: Is my church a welcoming community or is it really a community of people who are already friends? These words seemed prescient a year ago and they continue to speak to me today.

I decided to pose this question to the vestry of St. Mark’s in Harvey, where I serve as priest-in-charge, and over the past several months we have used it as a challenge to step outside of our comfort zones and better engage our surrounding community. One lesson we have learned is that existence is not a growth strategy. If your church is anything like ours, the pews do not magically fill each week just by virtue of the doors being unlocked. Instead, we have found that the process of inviting, welcoming and connecting new people into our community takes real work. This approach requires us to be active and not passive by trying new ideas (and being willing to fail at them). It also involves us taking a critical look at how we share our message with our neighbors.

Learning how to invite, welcome and connect with our community has taken a variety of shapes for us. The first new idea that we attempted to implement was a suburban version of “Ashes-To-Go.” One of St. Mark’s assets is its location in a commuter-heavy portion of the West Bank. Realizing that many people may not have time to stop and go to church on Ash Wednesday, we decided to offer ashes all day to anyone willing to drive up under our portico. I was a nervous wreck about trying something so unorthodox but the day went absolutely beautifully. By sundown, we had shared ashes with more than one hundred people, most of whom had never before set foot in our church, and three of these families have since joined our congregation.

Just a few days later we began selling gumbo on Friday’s during Lent with the dual purpose of fundraising and creating an opportunity to increase our community visibility. Members of
our congregation remarked that while it can feel intimidating to ask your neighbor to come to church on Sunday, it’s pretty simple to say, “Hey, I’m helping my church sell some great tasting gumbo on Fridays. Why don’t you swing by?” Not only was the fundraiser a hit but scores of new faces from our neighborhood stopped in for a meal and a visit and, I hope, a better sense of what we are about. At the end of April we celebrated St. Mark’s Day by hosting a service in our front parking lot. We inserted a “Welcome Liturgy” into the announcements and officially greeted all those who have joined our community over the past year. Because the idea behind this service was to be as visible as possible, we decided to wrap the day up with an outdoor picnic. We continued in May by taking part in a 12-Step Eucharist and invited members from our local recovery community to attend. Our goal for this summer is to search for a new way each month to open our doors as wide as we can. We are a long way from reaching our goals and still have many growing edges. But we have committed ourselves to stepping outside of our walls and sharing as much good news as we can with our surrounding community. The work of inviting, welcoming and connecting is not always easy but it is necessary in order for us to become the type of presence that we feel called to be.

Ideas for Connecting With Your Neighbors

*The Rev. Bill Terry, Rector, St. Anna’s*

When the Scouts meet at a church does someone regularly thank them and offer to help support what they are doing? Does a church ‘sponsor’ a soccer team, baseball club, or football team? If it does do members show up at games with the church t-shirt on to show support? Does the church offer to host a bar-b-que for their clients or sponsored clubs? Such things take time but they pay off in the long run. It’s about community trust building and consistency.

Engage neighborhood venues by giving them a chance to participate in mission. About four local taverns each have a food collection basket for St. Anna’s. So, we begin to develop neighborhood asset based partnerships. These same venues develop about $5,000 per year in cash donations to support the pantry and literally hundreds of food items. They have competitions for food items and fundraisers in support of what is now as much their mission as ours. That is a gift indeed.

*Since 2014, the Rev. Canon John Kellogg has served as Canon Missioner in the diocese and as priest-in-charge of St. Mark’s, Harvey.

St. Marks was founded in 1984, and is seeking new ways to reach out and proclaim the Good News to their suburban area neighbors.*
As the first Episcopal chapel located on the campus of a state university, St. Alban’s Chapel is ideally situated to proclaim the Good News to the staff, faculty, students, and tailgaters of Louisiana State University. With that mission in mind, we host a weekly “Lunch with C. S. Lewis” gathering that draws undergraduate and graduate, international and Louisiana-reared, black and white, Christian and non-Christian students from all over campus. For the past ten years, a dedicated team of hosts from this congregation has worked to earn the reputation of providing the best free lunch a student can find on this campus.

The format and presentations have changed over the years. What began as a small group of mostly Episcopal students already versed in the writings of Lewis has grown to a much larger and more diverse gathering. This past semester, our common hall was filled almost every Wednesday with a high water mark of 235 students served one week. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of international students attending. The presentations stick closely to what Lewis termed ‘mere Christianity,’ those basic elements of the faith which almost all Christians throughout history have believed. Though the chaplain normally gives the presentation, guest presenters this past year have included Dr. Ed Henderson (former chair of the LSU Religion and Philosophy Department), Charlie deGravelles, Sharon Alexander, and Dr. Herman Kelly (pastor at Bethel AME Church, Baton Rouge). The meal is provided by donations from both St. Alban’s Chapel and from individuals and churches from
around the diocese. We have also gratefully welcomed several teams of volunteer hosts from those supporting churches.

The goal of the ministry is to proclaim the Christian message in a winsome and engaging manner. The entrance music might be anything from the Beach Boys, to Ray Charles, to the Avett Brothers. Our student ministry interns welcome the crowd with humor and an unthreatening invitation to our worship services. This coming academic year, I will present a series titled “The Metaphors of C. S. Lewis”. Following the teaching style of Jesus, Lewis was adept at presenting truth through metaphor, story, and illustration. His word pictures (“Theology as a Map”, “Sanctification as God Working on a Living House”, “The Incarnation as an Invasion”, “Conversion as Toy Soldiers Come to Life”) often get through some of the understandable suspicion that some students bring to the table. A free copy of the book, The Business of Heaven, a collection of devotional readings taken from a wide range of Lewis’ work, is offered to everyone who attends. For many of these students, this is old news now heard in a new context, a new season of their lives. For others, this is really the first time that they have ever heard the Good News.

The winter edition of the LSU Alumni Magazine ran a story titled “Religion on Campus” which noted that four churches located on the LSU campus offer a free weekly meal to students, but only St. Alban’s Chapel includes teaching alongside the food. In our case, the free meal, the volunteer hosts, and the warm hospitality all work together to set the stage for the presentation of a message of God’s grace to sufferers like you and me.

Since 2004, the Rev. Drew Rollins has served as the chaplain of St. Alban’s in Baton Rouge.

St. Alban’s was founded in 1928 to serve the students of Louisiana State University. This congregation has provided countless meals and cared for the students of LSU in a wide variety of creative ways.
A Letter to the Episcopal Church Women on the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary’s, Morganza.

April 18, 2016

Dear ECW:

As you gather on the weekend of April 22-23 for your annual meeting, the people of St. Mary’s Church in Morganza will also be gathering for a special occasion that celebrates the legacy of the work of the women in our Church from prior generations. We want to share something of that legacy with you.

The seeds of faith which brought forth St. Mary’s Church were planted in Pointe Coupee Parish by women. We know a little bit about some of them. In the early 1900’s, Mrs. James Walter Campbell (Ellen Watson Turner) and her sister, Miss Evie Turner, began a Sunday School in Morganza. By 1911, this group of people had become identified as an ‘unorganized mission’ in Diocesan records. By 1914, the Woman’s Auxiliary of the Diocese of Louisiana had determined to build a chapel in Morganza for this mission congregation. With subscription pledges of $1 from women across the State of Louisiana, and from other donations, the women of the church quickly acquired sufficient funds to build the church. Mrs. Lydia Wickliffe Holmes was honored by Bishop Sessums for her coordination of this extraordinary campaign. Construction started in 1915 and St. Mary’s Church was consecrated on May 16, 1916. The name of “St. Mary’s” was chosen in honor of the women who had worked so hard to establish it.

Another woman was prominent in the minds and memories of the people in Pointe Coupee Parish at the time of this dedication. The name of Mrs. Sara Archer appears in historical records beginning prior to the Civil War. She is said to have driven her wagon to the mission at Williamsport (now called St. Stephen’s) every Sunday, picking up people along the way. She was never a member of St. Mary’s Church, but her efforts on behalf of the missions of Pointe Coupee Parish must have been significant. At the time of the consecration of St. Mary’s, a marble plaque in her memory was installed by the Woman’s Auxiliary. The plaque remains there today.

The women did more than deliver a building to the St. Mary congregation free and clear of any debt. They also provided a four-piece communion set. Mrs. Holmes, having retrieved melted silver from the ashes of a family home destroyed by fire, started a collection of silver and gold from other women; these metals were used in the crafting of the communion...
pieces. We still use this communion set at St. Mary’s today and it remains very beautiful!

And there were other women and certainly many men as well – some whose names history has recorded and others whose names may have now been forgotten – whose faith and love formed the church of St. Mary’s. As I reflect upon these people – the challenges which they faced, the determination and hope with which they labored, the gifts they shared which continue to be shared today – I am humbled and grateful for them. It seems to me that they knew a lot about following the way of Jesus with a Mary heart. They traveled long distances on barely passable roads and waterways to gather together. They studied Holy Scripture and prayed the prayers of common worship and celebrated the sacraments whenever they could obtain the services of a priest. They endured many hardships – isolation, yellow fever epidemics, wars, floods, fires, crop failures and economic disasters. They washed and buried the bodies of their children and their spouses and their friends. And yet they stood at those graves and sang Alleluia, and they picked up the pieces of their broken hearts and shared their love with others. What an inspiration these saints are to me! I hope that by recalling them on this day, they will be so to you as well.

On Saturday evening, April 23, 2016, we will be gathering at St. Mary’s Church in Morganza at 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the consecration of our church building. We will be remembering the work of the women who gave us a church building. But we will be celebrating much more than a building. We will be proclaiming in faith that regardless of whether history records our names, God does. And we will be proclaiming that the work that we do as the Church, the Body of Christ in this world, is endued with everlasting life – a life that will influence those whom we will never know who come after us. May we be faithful to this call, this life in the days ahead.

Thank you for the continued gifts of the Episcopal Church Women to the Church – for your presence and your work and your prayers. May God bless your gathering and each of you.

In the name of Christ,
The Reverend Peggy King Scott
Priest-in-Charge
St. Mary’s Church, Morganza

Photographs from the 100th Anniversary Celebration can be found on page 20.

Since 2010, the Rev. Peggy King Scott has served as priest-in-charge of St. Paul’s Holy Trinity, New Roads, and St. Mary’s, Morganza. She is also the coordinator for prison ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

St. Mary’s first began meeting c. 1913, and consecrated their church building in 1916. They have been proclaiming the Good News in Pointe Coupee Parish for over 100 years.
ECW Honored Women for 2016

Photograph by Laurel McCartney] Left to right: Carolyn Douglas accepts the award for Carol Woodard; 2016 Honored Woman Alna Abbott; 2016 Honored Woman Lynnette Frazer; and ECW Honored Women Committee Chair, Delores Jenkins.

The 20th Presentation of Honored Women by the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Louisiana. Recognized for their ministry and service in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Acknowledged at the 129th ECW Annual Gathering on April 23, 2016 at St. James Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Alna W. Abbott

Alna Abbott joined the Episcopal Church in 1954 and was confirmed at Church of the Ascension in Lafayette, Louisiana. She and her husband, Charles, moved their wedding to Lafayette so that Charles could finish college. Thereafter, they moved to Zachary, Louisiana.

In March 1957, Alna and her family were founding members and instrumental in the formation of St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, then located in the Band Room of Zachary High School. The Band Room had to be cleaned up after each school sports game to have it ready for Sunday worship services. At that time, the church’s altar traveled in the trunk of a parishioner’s car until it was time for Sunday worship.

As of this year, Alna Abbott is the last living charter member remaining at St. Patrick’s.

Alna has served as St. Patrick’s parish secretary, treasurer, and member of the vestry for more years than one can count, always eager to serve when called upon. In the years that the Episcopal Church Women’s organization was active at St. Patrick’s, she was very supportive. Alna also served as a Sunday school teacher for 22 years and is currently a member of the Choir and Altar Guild.

For a brief time Alna and her husband became members of St. Francis Episcopal Church, Denham Springs, Louisiana. While there, she served as church treasurer, a vestry member, Lay Eucharist Minister and was very active in ECW where she also served as Secretary and Treasurer for the group. She volunteered and enjoyed her involvement with St. Francis’ popular Pumpkin Patch.

Moreover, Alna and her husband encouraged their daughter to return to church, where she now serves faithfully in St. Francis’ church activities.

In 2010, after the passing of Alna’s husband, Charles, she transferred back to St. Patrick’s, which was nearer to her home.

Since 1954, Alna has been an active member of the Order of Eastern Star, a Christian organization for women, promoting religious leadership and community service. In this
organization, Alna served in several different positions as an officer on the local and state level.

Alna has a warm and kind spirit, she never meets anyone without a gentle smile and conversation. Alna continues to contribute her time and talent in various ministries at St. Patrick’s. She is a true and faithful servant in her church’s endeavors and in her love for her family and others.

**Lynnette Frazer**

Lynnette Frazer has been a member of St. James Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, for more than 45 years. She graduated from Broadmoor High School in Baton Rouge, received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Louisiana State University and is a graduate of the Education for Ministry program offered from the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

Lynnette has faithfully served at St. James as a Eucharistic Minister; Class I and II, a leader for the Stephen Ministry, a teacher for the Bethel Bible Series, Sunday school teacher and for three years served as Education Director for the Diocese of Louisiana.

Lynnette also taught Religion and served as Girl’s Coach at Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge. Moreover, Lynnette enthusiastically and devotedly served as diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW) President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and deanery chairperson of the ECW Baton Rouge Deanery. She remains an active member of the diocesan ECW Board.

In addition to her work in Louisiana, Lynnette also served as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer of the national ECW, served as a Province IV representative, and has attended many women’s conferences at Province IV’s Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina.

Lynnette has three sons and eight grandchildren. She was married for many years to her “soul mate” Thomas Frazer who was an active member of St. James before his untimely death.

Lynnette has continued faithfully and diligently to serve in many ministries demonstrating her love for God’s work.

**Carol Emilie Klein Woodard**

Carol Emilie Klein Woodard is a member of Grace Episcopal Church St. Francisville, Louisiana. Carol is the first of five children born to Rev’d J.A. and Ruth Klein, Minneapolis, Minnesota. After her marriage to Charles Woodard and living in several parts of the United States, Carol returned to Grace Episcopal Church where she has been faithfully serving for the past 25 years.

At a very early age, Carol taught Sunday school. She has volunteered in the Church office, sung in the choir, assisted with the nativity pageants, served as a delegate to Diocesan Conventions, and never missed an ECW meeting.

Carol’s service has reached out into the community for more than 11 years. She has served in the outreach Nursing Home Ministry and enjoys singing to the nursing home residents, praying at their bedsides and reading Scripture lessons and Psalms to them. She does this consistently with a wonderful smile of enjoyment and pleasure.

Carol continues to provide more delicious desserts to church gatherings than anyone can count.

Carol dutifully loves God, her church and the ministries she is involved in.

Carol remain dedicated and committed to carrying on God’s work in her church ministries and community service.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

The Clericus (February 16, 2016—July 1, 2016)

Transitions in the Diocese

The Rev. William Patrick Edwards was called as rector of St. John’s, South Hampton, NY. His last service as priest-in-charge of St. Margaret’s, Baton Rouge was March 27, 2016.

The Rev. C. Dana "Dan" Krutz is serving as supply priest at St. Michael and All Angels, Baton Rouge.

Deacon Priscilla Maumus retired from her position as Archdeacon on April 8, 2016.

Deacon Cindy Obier was appointed by Bishop Thompson as the new Archdeacon effective April 12, 2016.

Deacon Joyce Eskamire-Jackson retired from active service as deacon at St. Anna’s, New Orleans, effective May 8, 2016.

The Rev. John Sloan Miller was called to serve as priest-in-charge of St. Stephen’s, Innis effective May 15, 2016.

The Rev. LeBaron Taylor was called to serve as priest-in-charge of St. Matthew’s, Bogalusa effective May 15, 2016.

The Rev. J. Mark Holland resigned as rector from St. James, Baton Rouge, effective May 15, 2016.

The Rev. John Pitzer’s Holy Orders were received into the Episcopal Church on May 21, 2016 by Bishop Thompson at St. James. He will serve as associate rector at St. James.

The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson was named by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries on May 23, 2016. He remains canonically attached to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

The Rev. Henry Hudson retired as rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans effective May 29, 2016.

Deacon Camille C. Wood retired from active service as deacon at St. Patrick’s, Zachary, effective May 29, 2016. She was appointed by Bishop Thompson, to serve, subject to
renewal on an annual basis, as deacon at St. Alban’s Chapel, Baton Rouge.

The Rev. DeeDee Estes retired as chaplain at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, New Orleans, and assisting priest at St. Andrew’s, New Orleans, effective June 1, 2016.

The Rev. Duane Wiggin-Nettles has been called to serve as part-time priest-in-charge of Mount Olivet, New Orleans, effective June 5. He will continue to serve as rector of Annunciation, New Orleans.

The Rev. Seamus Doyle has been called to serve as part-time priest-in-charge of St. John’s, Kenner, effective August 1, 2016. He is a retired priest, licensed from the Diocese of Arkansas.

New Clergy of the Diocese

The Rev. Michael E. “Corky” Carlisle has been called to serve as interim rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans, effective July 15, 2016.

The Rev. Joe Reynolds has been called to serve as interim rector of St. James, Baton Rouge effective July 1, 2016.

Deaths

The Rev. Charles “Chuck” Wood, died March 12, 2016 in Baton Rouge. He was serving as supply priest at Holy Communion, Plaquemines. He formerly served as chaplain at St. Alban’s Chapel, Baton Rouge, for 27 years and chaplain at St. James Place.
Holy Week and Easter in the Diocese of Louisiana

[Photograph top row left by Karen Mackey] St. Anna’s Episcopal Church held a Palm Sunday Procession in the Treme Neighborhood of New Orleans, passing out palms along the way;  [Photograph top row middle from St. Mark’s Facebook Page] Easter Bunny visits the children during the Easter Fair;  [Photograph top row right from St. Martin’s Facebook Page] Palm Sunday Baptismal font;  [Photograph middle row far left by Jay Theriot] Bishop Thompson at the opening of the Southwest Deanery Easter Vigil service held at St. Matthew’s, Houma;  [Photograph middle row second from left by Karen Mackey] The clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana reaffirming their ordination vows during the Chrism Mass held at Christ Church Cathedral;  [Photograph middle row second from right from St. Paul’s Facebook Page] Palm Sunday at St. Paul’s, New Orleans;  [Photograph middle row far right from Trinity Facebook Page] Blessing the children during the Easter Sunday service;  [Photograph bottom row left from Annunciation Facebook Page] Easter altar at Annunciation, New Orleans;  [Photograph bottomrow middle from Grace Memorial Facebook Page] Good Friday sign at Grace Memorial;  [Photograph bottom row right from St. John’s Facebook Page] Palm Sunday at St. John’s, Kenner.
Racial Reconciliation Commission Visited Whitney Plantation (left)
[Photographs by Gillian Knowles] On Saturday, April 9, The Racial Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana organized a tour of the Whitney Plantation in Wallace, LA. The Whitney Plantation uses artwork and first-person slave narrative to offer a unique perspective on the lives of enslaved people. Pictured above: (left) the group is standing in front of the memorial to those who were enslaved at the Whitney Plantation; (right) the group in the chapel listening to a history of the Whitney Plantation. After the tour, the group had time to reflect on their experience.

Blessing of the Fleet on Bayou Dularge
[Photographs by Karen Mackey] Each year on the last Sunday of April, St. Andrew's Episcopal Mission in Theriot holds a "Blessing the Fleet." Prayers are said to ask God for a bountiful season, for safety for all fisherman and fisherwomen, and to remember all who lost their lives while working on these waters. This year, on April 24, Canon Shannon Manning, Canon to the Ordinary of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, was the celebrant. After a bayou-side prayer service, all boarded the Brother's Pride shrimp boat and paraded up Bayou Dularge. Canon Manning sprinkled holy water on boats and spectators along the way. We will keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in our daily prayers throughout the fishing season.
100th Anniversary of St. Mary’s, Morganza
[Photographs courtesy of St. Mary’s] On April 23, the people of St. Mary’s, Morganza, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the consecration of the church building. St. Mary’s, then a mission of St. Stephen’s, Innis, began holding worship services in 1913. The church building was dedicated in 1916. A history of St. Mary’s can be found on the diocesan website, www.edola.org, in the blog post “St. Mary’s Celebrates 100 years.”
Men’s Retreat
[Photograph by Mark Berry] Men from across the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center from June 3-5. The Rev. Bill Miller was the keynote speaker, presenting “Mountain Climbing in Louisiana: Where God may be leading you!”

Fleece for Police
[Photographs by Becky William, RN, St. Luke’s, Baton Rouge] The Shawl Ministry at St. Luke’s made 144 fleece shawls for the East Baton Rouge Parish Police to carry in their patrol cars. These shawls were blessed on Sunday, May 29th, then given to the police to share with those who are in need of God’s loving arms to be wrapped around them at a most difficult time.

Flooding in Louisiana
[Photograph from the Christ Episcopal School Facebook Page] In Covington, flood waters from the Bogue Falaya River surround Christ Episcopal Church and the Christ Episcopal School Early Education Center after the rainstorm on March 10 and 11. The river flooded the kindergarten building. The church, old chapel, and parish hall remained dry.

The March storms caused flooding throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In our diocese, the flooding occurred mainly in the Northshore Deanery. The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana received an Emergency Assistance grant from Episcopal Relief and Development; thus allowing the congregations of Grace Memorial, Hammond, Christ Church, Covington, and St. Matthew’s, Bogalusa, to reach out and provide assistance to their neighbors in need.
Memorial Service for the Mass Shooting Victims in Orlando

[Photographs by Karen Mackey] There was a large turnout on the evening of Monday, June 13 to mourn the 49 people murdered at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando on Sunday, June 12. Christian, Muslim, Sikh, and Jewish religious leaders, along with political leaders from across New Orleans gathered at St. Anna’s Episcopal Church for the candlelight vigil to stand with the LGBT community. The service was held in partnership with Forum for Equality and Human Rights Campaign.

Integrity New Orleans Marched in the New Orleans Pride Parade

[Photographs by Karen Mackey] Episcopalians showed the love of God during the New Orleans Pride Parade on Saturday, June 18. Integrity New Orleans and St. Anna's Episcopal Church organized the Krewe of Episcopalians to loudly proclaim, “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!”

Jericho Road Receives UTO Grant

[Photograph from the Jericho Road Facebook Page] The United Thank Offering is a ministry to promote thankfulness and mission in the whole Church. Known worldwide as UTO, the United Thank Offering grants are awarded for projects that address human needs and help alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally in The Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Louisiana received a UTO grant on behalf of Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative. From building affordable housing to partnering with neighborhood residents to create stronger communities, Jericho Road is doing God’s work within the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans. The grant in the amount of $24,300 will allow Jericho Road to provide healthy living to low-income families. The photograph to the left is a scene from the Cooking Matters class, offered in partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank.
Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

[Photographs by Caroline Carson] From June 2 - 14, a group of pilgrims from the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana traveled to the Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and read the Fifth Gospel ("... Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books and one you will find in the land they call holy. Read the fifth gospel and the world of the four will open to you." -Bargil Pixner). The trip was organized by the Rev. Rob Courtney, Rector, St. Paul’s. The next diocesan organized pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be in 2018.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Backyard Concert Raised Money for CEEP (left)
[Photograph courtesy of Christ Church, Covington] Over 100 parishioners of Christ Church, Covington, gathered in the Rev. Bill Miller’s backyard on Memorial Day for a free concert featuring Don Vappie and Joe Manuel. The church raised over $3,300 for CEEP (Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program), their primary outreach ministry.

Tour of All Saints During the Strawberry Festival (right)
[Photograph by Jay Theriot] All Saint’s, Ponchatoula, is located in the middle of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival that was held April 8-10. The church opened up to offer tours and taught festival goers about the history of All Saints.

St. John’s ECW English Tea (left)
[Photograph by the Rev. Travers Koerner] Julia Green and Gloria Hunter enjoy tea at the annual ECW English Tea held at St. John’s, Thibodaux, on Saturday, April 23.

Diocesan Altar Guild Spring Workshop (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Diocesan Altar Guild held a spring workshop at St. Michael's, Mandeville on Saturday, May 14. The speaker was JoAnn Ziller who spoke about the history of vestments.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Feast of Corpus Christi (left)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] On Thursday, May 26, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi with a solemn high mass at St. George’s, New Orleans, and procession on St. Charles Ave. The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament is a community of clergy and lay folk within the Episcopal Church that strives to promote reverence for our Lord in the Holy Eucharist through the witness of its members' lives and words, through prayer and teaching.

Milenburg Joys at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Chapel of the Comforter hosted an afternoon of music and dancing on Sunday, June 26. Featuring the New Leviathan Oriental Fox-Trot Orchestra, the event is named for the music that filled the Milenburg neighborhood of New Orleans (along Lake Ponchartrain) in the early part of the 20th Century.

In the SOFAB Kitchen with the Rev. William Miller (left)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] On Saturday, June 18 at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum in New Orleans, the Rev. William Miller and Chef Greg Reggio shared stories about God, beer, and life - stories to inspire and stories to make us laugh. Fr. Bill is the rector of Christ Church in Covington and author of the "Beer Drinkers Guide to God" and the "Gospel According to Sam". Chef Greg Reggio is the co-owner / chef of Taste Buds Management (restaurants include Zea and Semolina).

Saying Goodbye to Marvin McLennon (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Bishop's Staff said farewell to Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Marvin McLennon (far left) during staff meeting on June 28. To Marvin: Thank you for your dedication to the youth in our diocese. We wish you all the best in your new job in Arkansas!
February 24: I had an early meeting with the staff at the Solomon Center to talk about change. There is so much potential out there. After our meeting, I drove to Baton Rouge to have lunch with the clergy of St. James. Another meeting followed the lunch meeting with a parishioner, then back to New Orleans.

February 25: I got up early to drive to Christ Episcopal School in Covington where I participated in their two chapel services. The first was with the lower school where I talked about the duties and symbols of a Bishop. I invited several students to demonstrate the correct way to wear the ring, pectoral cross, hold the crosier and put on the miter. That always gets them energized. The second chapel service was with the middle and upper school. At this service the students present me with a list of questions they want me to respond to. The questions ranged from, how do we know God exists, to did you (I) go to bishop school. It is an energizing day at Christ School. Following the services, I drove to Baton Rouge for a lunch meeting with the Secretary of the Diocese, Marsha Wade. I stayed the night in Baton Rouge.

February 26: I arrived early in the morning at Episcopal High in Baton Rouge for Launch Day. Launch Day is when the senior students in the Honors Program display their research projects for the all the high school students. I am in awe of the honor students’ maturity, intelligence and passion for their subjects. Students today are light years ahead of my generation. I stay until noon and need to get back to New Orleans to lead a retreat for All Souls vestry.

February 27: I spent most of Saturday with the vestry of All Souls. We worked hard dealing with pressing issues and getting to know one another on a deeper level. Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge for the night in preparation for my visit to Holy Communion, Plaquemine.

February 28: Rebecca and I had a wonderful visitation at Holy Communion where I received two. The service was followed by a very nice reception and lunch. In spite of being without a rector, the church seems healthy and alive. They have children running all over the place, which brings a smile to my face.

February 29: Leap Day! I took the morning off and in the afternoon Agatha and I made a run to Costco for office supplies.

March 1: I had an early morning staff meeting followed by a short meeting with the two canons. Afterwards, I drove to Baton Rouge for a lunch meeting, then off to the Solomon Conference Center to meet with the staff. Home to New Orleans for the evening.

March 2: I spent the first part of the day catching up on emails and phone calls since I’ve been on the road a good bit lately. Canon Manning and I had lunch and a couple of appointments in the afternoon; one on racial reconciliation and the other with a postulant for seminary. I get so energized when we talk about real issues of hope and new beginnings. Sometimes I find we get bogged down in arguing over matters that honestly don’t have much to do with widening the circle of Christ’s love.

March 3: The day began with calendaring with Agatha and checking in with Chris Speed and Canon Manning. I drove to Baton Rouge for a lunch meeting with the leadership of Trinity Church and then on to St. James to prepare for Rodney Kennedy’s ordination. Rodney was ordained a Deacon.
March 4: I worked on my sermon for Sunday and followed with a visit to the eye doctor. My doctor told me that I have cataracts, that people of “my age” all have it to some degree. I guess I have reached the age where I will hear the phrase “people of my age...”

March 5: I spend the day running errands and visiting with our houseguest, the Rev’d Michael Carlisle.

March 6: I got up early to drive to St. Matthew’s, Bogalusa, where I confirm two. The service was followed by a nice meal and a visit with the new senior warden. On my way back to New Orleans I drive to the Solomon Center and celebrate the closing of Happening. The youth always energize me with their enthusiasm.

March 7: I said good-bye to our houseguest and then went to the dentist. Most of the day I was home with the exception of having lunch with my two canons.

March 8: Tuesday was a full day beginning with our weekly staff meeting followed by several appointments. Agatha has packed my schedule in advance of the House of Bishops meeting. The highlight of the day was a luncheon meeting with a few priests. The purpose was to introduce them to Mr. Lloyd Lazard of the Antelope Slave Ship project. Mr. Lazard has been working on this project for quite some time. His dream is to build a replica of the slave ship Antelope for teaching purposes. Currently, there is only one museum dedicated to the issue of slavery.

March 9: I left early for the House of Bishops meeting at Camp Allen, about an hour northwest of Houston. The weather is terrible and it took me two hours longer than I had planned. I very much enjoy the House of Bishops meetings.

March 10: I spent the day in our Peer Coaching meeting. All new Bishops have a peer coach for the first three years of the episcopate. Those who agree to be a coach must attend coach training a couple of times a year. The day is long but very productive.

March 11: The spring meeting of the House of Bishops (HOB) began today. It was the first HOB meeting led by our new Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. After breakfast, we began the day with Morning Prayer, a welcome from Bishop Curry and then a check-in around the table. Every triennium our table assignment is rearranged so we get to know more bishops on a personal level. This way of living together as bishops allows for strong bonds of affection. In the afternoon Bishop Curry leads us into our first meditation in which he speaks powerfully about the Jesus Movement. The workday ends with Eucharist. Bishop Dean Wolf is the preacher and Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves is the Presider. Bishop Wolf challenged us to be bolder in our proclamation of Jesus Christ. I was challenged by his words.

March 12: The workday began with Eucharist. Bishop Don Johnson, diocese of West Tennessee presided and his wife, Jeannie Johnson preached the sermon. Jeannie is very involved in Christian formation and her sermon was eloquent. Eucharist was followed by retreat time; I went for a three-mile walk. It was the first day we didn’t have rain. I kept up with the weather and flooding back in Louisiana. Both Canon Manning and Deacon Elaine Clements were doing a fine job checking on everyone. They assured me that if I needed to return they would let me know. In the afternoon Presiding Bishop Curry presented another meditation centering on racial reconciliation with table discussion. The day ended with class dinners.

March 13: This day began with Eucharist. The
preacher was Bishop Scott Mayer and the Presider was Rayford Ray. Bishop Mayer challenged us that sometimes we are called to be seen as losers in order to win for Christ. Are we willing to be fools for Christ? After the service, several of us went to play golf while others did different activities during their Sabbath time.

**March 14:** Monday was full of discussion on the topic of vision for the House of Bishops. Our new PB has invited the Bishops into the conversation of who we are as a HOB and how do we desire to move forward.

**March 15:** The HOB meeting ends today. It was a good retreat and I’m ready to head back home to New Orleans. As I drove back into the state of Louisiana I was lucky to be able to cross the border. Flood waters shut the westbound I-10 but the eastbound was still open at that time. The highway patrol closed the eastbound down about two hours after I got through.

**March 16:** I was able to catch up on some overdue work and get my hair cut before Agatha had to remind me. Phew!

**March 17:** I spent the morning catching up and meeting with Jarrett Follette regarding the upcoming Chrism Mass at the cathedral. Later in the morning I had a phone conference with our fundraising consultant, followed by lunch with the Cathedral clergy. In the afternoon I had a meeting with Fr. Fred Devall and then we drove to St. Martin’s School board meeting. Merry Sorrells is doing a fantastic job as headmaster.

**March 18:** I spent the morning working on my sermon for Sunday.

**March 19:** Rebecca and I drove to the Solomon Center for the Executive Board meeting. It was a good meeting. The conference center was full of activity for which I was happy to see. We drove to Baton Rouge where I made a pastoral call on a parishioner. Rebecca and I had a lovely dinner with Nanette Noland and Dub Noel.

**March 20:** Rebecca and I drove to St. Francis, Denham Springs for Palm Sunday. It was a beautiful day and the church was full. Following the service we had a delicious lunch with the parishioners.

**March 21:** We held the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral and following the service the clergy, spouses, and staff of the cathedral and Diocesan office had a wonderful lunch together. Later in the day Canon Manning and I had a conference call with our consultant.

**March 22:** The day began with the weekly staff meeting followed by a conference call to Maggy Charles from Trinity Wall Street, New York. In the afternoon Deacon Quin Bates came in for his annual meeting. Quin has been faithful in his ministry at Bayou du Large.

**March 23:** I drove to the Solomon Center to meet with the staff. It was an educational meeting, learning more and more how the Conference Center operates. In the afternoon I had a meeting with Deacon Mark Hudson who is doing good work at St. John’s Kenner.

**March 24:** The morning was spent working on upcoming sermons. In the afternoon I met with Deacon Cindy Obier who is to become the next Archdeacon. Our meeting was followed by the Maundy Thursday service at the Cathedral. It is one of my favorite services of Lent.

**March 25:** The office was closed so I worked in quiet on sermons. Rebecca and I attended St. Paul’s church for the Good Friday liturgy.

**March 26:** Study time in the morning then I
drove to Houma for the Deanery Easter Vigil where I preached, confirmed and received several new members. It was a great night.

**March 27:** Easter Sunday I preached and the Dean celebrated at the Cathedral. The choir was lovely and the flowers beautiful. Rebecca and I went on a long walk that afternoon.

**March 28:** Easter Monday the office was closed so Deacon Hudson and I drove to the farm to tramp around. It was nice walking through the woods. Saw an alligator and decided not to go too near.

**March 29:** Spent the day reading and catching up on unfinished work.

**March 30:** I drove to St. Francisville to have lunch with Fr. Roman Roldan and Fr. Peter Kang. It was good hearing about their work at Grace Church. I drove back to Baton Rouge for a pastoral meeting with one of the clergy and then needed to move some of my belongings out of my apartment that St. James’ Place has so graciously allowed me to use so new carpet and painting could be done. After the small move, I drove back to New Orleans.

**March 31:** I drove to Franklin for the funeral of Shannon Evans. Fr. Stephen Crawford officiated a meaningful service.

**April 1:** I had no appointments; I worked on my sermon and other writings.

**April 2:** Canon Manning and I met with parishioners at St. Luke’s, New Orleans, to discuss the life of their parish. I had a wonderful time listening to them tell their rich stories. Following our work, I drove to Morgan City to spend the night.

**April 3:** I drove to St. Mary’s, Franklin, for my annual visitation where I preached and celebrated. The service was followed by their annual crawfish boil. The crawfish were the best I’d had this year.

**April 4:** I took the day off.

**April 5:** The day began with our weekly staff meeting. With Easter week being so hectic and the week after not having a staff meeting, it seemed like a lifetime of not being with them. We have a great staff and I enjoy being in their presence. The meeting was followed by Fr. Edward Thompson’s annual consultation. I quickly drove to lunch with Chancellor Cove Geary.

**April 6:** I got up early and drove to Baton Rouge where I met with Headmaster Hugh McIntosh. I’ve been meeting with him once a month so that I have a better understanding how Episcopal operates. I always look forward to our time together.

**April 7:** In the morning I had a pre-marriage counseling session and an afternoon conference call with Canon Manning and our chancellor.

**April 8:** I spent the day working on sermons.

**April 9:** I drove to the Solomon Center for a board meeting and a walk around the property, then back to New Orleans around 2 that afternoon.

**April 10:** My visitation was at St. Andrew’s, Luling. Fr. Spencer Lindsay is faithful in his care of the few members and I am grateful. It was a nice visit and nice reception followed.

**April 11:** The morning began with the exterminator making his annual call followed by the a/c man doing his annual check up on our units. New Orleans is not a place to be without air-conditioning.
April 12: The day began with our weekly staff meeting followed by a meeting with Fr. Seamus Doyle, a retired priest from Arkansas. For lunch, I took the Diocesan clergy to Johnny Sanchez. That afternoon I had a meeting with the Reference Panel. After the meeting was over I drove to Baton Rouge for the night.

April 13: The day began in a fantastic way. I celebrated my annual visit to St. Luke’s School where they honored Mrs. Amy Whitley who is retiring from head of school. There is much love and appreciation for the years she has led the school. After the school visit I had lunch with Fr. Ashley Freeman, the associate at Trinity Baton Rouge, to ascertain his new cure. Following the lunch, I drove back to New Orleans in heavy rain.

April 14: Canon Manning and I went to the CBD to close on selling property to Eden House, a ministry for women caught up in sex trafficking. We are pleased with the Episcopal support Eden House has experienced. I end the day with a meeting with Fr. Michael Kuhn.

April 15: Spent the day working on sermons.

April 16: In the morning I had a pre-marriage counseling session.

April 17: Rebecca and I traveled to St. Paul’s New Orleans for my annual visit. It was great being with them to confirm, receive and re-affirm parishioners followed by a nice reception.

April 18: I took the day off.

April 19: The day began with the staff meeting followed by a parishioner dropping by to see me. I celebrated the noon Mass at the cathedral for the staff.

April 20: Today I celebrated the Mass for Harriet Murrell’s funeral. Fr. Henry Hudson preached a fine sermon. Harriet was beloved throughout the Diocese. From St. Francisville to New Orleans, the crowd in the nave told the story of the many lives Harriet touched.

April 21: I drove to the Solomon Center for the St. Martin’s school board retreat. I always look forward to my time with this board. Merry Sorrell does a fine job of leading the school.

April 22: After the Board retreat is over I drove to Baton Rouge for the night. I spent time returning phone calls and working on the several sermons I have that weekend.

April 23: I attended the annual ECW gathering at St. James. Canon Manning gave a powerful address in the morning and I followed with an abbreviated “state of the diocese” talk. Following the business session, I preached and celebrated and blessed the new officers for the year. After lunch I drove to St. Mary’s, Morganza, where I preached and celebrated their 100th anniversary. It was a lively celebration. Mother Peggy Scott and others worked hard preparing for this event. After dinner, I drove back to Baton Rouge for the night.

April 24: I began the day at St. Luke’s by celebrating and preaching, also confirming and receiving many newcomers. It was a good day at St. Luke’s. In the afternoon I had a meeting with Mother Peggy Scott to talk about prison ministry at Angola. I also celebrated and confirmed at St. James’. This Sunday was full and wonderful.

April 25: The first part of the day I was off and the second half I did catch up work followed by a conference call dealing with the audit committee for the University of the South.

April 26: The day began with the staff
meeting and celebrating of Karen Mackey’s birthday. Afterwards, I had a meeting with Mr. Lloyd Lazard and Ms. Gail Glapion concerning the Antelope Ship project. Later in the morning Maggy Charles from Trinity Wall St. called to address a trip they are making to New Orleans. In the afternoon I met with Deacon Joyce Jackson as she prepares to retire from ministry. She has been a faithful deacon at St. Anna’s.

April 27: I had a phone conference with Ms. Carolyn Chassee who will direct a retreat for the Solomon Center board. Afterwards, I drove to Byblos in Metairie to have lunch with Fr’s Michael Kuhn and Jeff Millican. After lunch, I took the next two days off to spend time with our grandson, Mack. We celebrated Mack’s first birthday as well as our son Morris’ 29th. It was a blessing to be with the family.

April 28: Off

April 29: Off

April 30: Drove back to New Orleans from Jackson, MS.

May 1: Made my visitation at St. Philip’s, New Orleans, where I preached, celebrated and confirmed new Episcopalians. The service was followed by a nice reception. Before I could get in my car, the skies opened and I got drenched getting into my car. Too much water in New Orleans!

May 2: My day off.

May 3: The day began with our staff meeting followed by a meeting with Canons Kellogg and Manning. Later we went in style as driver chauffeured Bishop Brown, Canons Kellogg and Manning and myself to lunch. We celebrated Bishop Brown’s 40th anniversary to the Episcopate. He is truly a blessing for many, but especially me. He has been a source of wisdom and history.

May 4: I had a morning meeting with Fr. Jerry Phillips and then went to the airport where I am interviewed for a particular flying card. In the afternoon I met with Deacon Mark Hudson regarding St. John’s, Kenner.

May 5: Today began with catching up with Canon Manning. We have several openings in the diocese that are in the beginning stages of discernment. Following that meeting, I did some work on my journal. At lunchtime, I met with Caroline Carson who will be a first-year student at Sewanee’s School for Ministry. In the afternoon I met with Agatha, Canon Manning, and Joy to begin working on the Diocesan Convention.

May 6: I spent the morning working on my sermon. In the afternoon Rebecca and I power-washed the front steps of the Noland Building. The steps had gotten very slippery with mildew.

May 7: I had an early morning pre-marriage counseling session.

May 8: Today was my anniversary to the Episcopate. I am now in my seventh year as the Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana. The years have truly passed quickly. It is also Mother’s Day. My visitation was at Trinity Church, New Orleans, where I confirmed over twenty-five, preached and celebrated. Following the service, Mary Beth and Henry treated Rebecca and me to lunch. The day ended with a nice walk, enjoying the beautiful weather.
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

For more information on these and other events, go to www.edola.org/calendar-2.

July
4    Bishop’s Office closed in observance of Independence Day
31   The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, to preach at Christ Church Cathedral at 7:00 PM for the Opening Eucharist of the UBE Annual Conference & Business Meeting to be held July 31 - August 4.

August
5-7  Addiction Recovery Retreat (at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center)
13   Youth Ministry Workshop: Developing a Sustainable Strong Youth Ministry (at Trinity, New Orleans)
20   Small Church Workshop: Big Ideas From Small Places (at St. Margaret’s, Baton Rouge)

BISHOP’S VISITATIONS

July
21   Lambeth House
31   7:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral to celebrate the Opening Eucharist of the UBE Conference

August
7    10:00 am at St. Margaret’s, Baton Rouge
14   10:30 am at St. Michael’s, Mandeville
21   10:00 am at Trinity, Baton Rouge
28   10:30 am at St. Augustine’s, Metairie
28   3:30 pm at Happening Closing (Solomon Episcopal Conference Center)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Sign above front door at St. Anna’s, New Orleans, as seen when one exits the church.