Exploring the Second Mark of Mission: To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers
IN THIS ISSUE: Send Us Out to Be Faithful Witnesses

About this issue: This year in Churchwork we are exploring how we in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana are living out the Second Mark of Mission: To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.

On the Cover

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The altar is set for the installation of the Rev. Ashley Freeman as rector of St. Patrick’s, Zachary.

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Churchwork

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Our Vision

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is one church, faithful to our Lord Jesus, united in mission, reaching out through service and proclamation to all for whom Christ died. We live in joyous expectation of God’s transforming power, compassion, and mercy in our lives.

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Subscriptions

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Submissions

Churchwork provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word; photographs should have a resolution of 300. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Karen Mackey at kmackey@edola.org. We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.

Churchwork is a member of the Episcopal Communicators.
The other day I read a posting from a friend who wrote that the “fear of the other has become the socially acceptable behavior.” He went on to write about the action he was going to take to participate in the acknowledging of the other in the way he believed Jesus calls us to acknowledge. I was moved by his words but in my “pondering” I became aware of something that I had not really thought about. Who is the other?

I get that the world so often sees the other in terms of color of skin. If I’m black or brown maybe “the other” is a white person and vice-versa, but does that define the other as a person of whom to be fearful? I don’t think so. The truth of the matter is the person I most fear is the person who looks just like me, a white, middle-aged male. Why do I think this? When I look at history, it is the white, middle-aged male who has stirred the world of war, the world of intimidation, and the world of bigotry. In my lifetime, it has been the white male who has worn the secretive pointed hood of the KKK. It is people who look like me who come to church on Sunday but leave to make laws to put people to death, or take money away from school systems to build a larger war chest. It is people who look like me who refuse to give a living wage to the poor under the guise that we can’t afford it. It is people who look like me who fight for keeping the heritage of slavery alive rather than see the destructive nature slavery has caused. It is people who look like me who are so afraid of their shadow that they refuse to make a decision for the greater good, just so they can keep their jobs in the state and nations capitol. It’s people who look like me that scare me to death, who see their power slipping away from them and go into panic mode to hold onto the good ole day that causes me to pause a bit.

I was reading the 24th chapter of Matthew the other day and came upon this phrase: “And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold.” Every time I hear someone say we are a Christian nation I wonder what they mean. Maybe we’ve grown cold to love out of our own fear and brokenness? Maybe the fear we feel is so entrenched we believe it is impossible to change and see another way of being.

We are in the season after Pentecost. Pentecost was that moment when the Spirit of God landed on the disciples in such a way that each person felt empowered to tell the story of God’s love and mercy. The story was so strong that even persecution could not stop the early believers from telling it. I want to suggest that those of us who believe find ways to tell our stories that made us believers. Tell the stories of how God came to us in our brokenness and healed us and continues to heal us. It is in telling our stories that we become aware that our neighbor, “the other” is not so different from us. We are all broken and in need of mercy, forgiveness and hopefulness. Let us work together to diminish our fear of one another.

Brave journey,

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.  
Bishop of Louisiana
In my role as Canon Missioner, I have the joy of spending time with people and congregations from across our diocese. When Bishop Thompson hired me to this part-time position two and a half years ago, he shared his hope that the diocesan office could become a more effective conveyor of resources and facilitator of relationships. My charge was to develop resources capable of contributing to the health, mission and ministries of our congregations.

Most of this work has centered around creating opportunities for learning. In my conversations with clergy and lay leadership, I listen to what types of issues our congregations are struggling with and how the diocese can best respond to them. One way the diocese has answered this call is through diocesan-wide education days, which have focused on:

- Vestry Training
- Invite-Welcome-Connect Newcomer Ministry
- Technology, Social Media and Communications
- Prayer Practices
- Stewardship
- Youth Ministry
- Practicing Forgiveness
- Small-Church Leadership
These big, one-time events have been hosted by several different congregations. Each has been well-attended, with high energy and active participation. They have provided participants with opportunities to engage with fellow Episcopalians, as well as interact with clergy and diocesan leadership in a unique way. One thing that I try to make clear at the beginning of these gatherings is that their purpose is to furnish as much practical knowledge and advice as can fit into a few hours worth of teaching. Our presenters cannot tackle every pertinent issue in depth, but they can ignite a conversation that participants bring back to discuss with their clergy, vestries and church leadership. These events will continue to be a cornerstone of how the diocese makes education opportunities available.

Some congregations, however, can benefit from more focused teaching. In response to this need, we have hosted smaller gatherings intended to highlight a particular issue. We have also formed teams of Congregational Consultants, which are groups of knowledgeable lay and ordained individuals who have experience in areas critical to congregational vitality. Our two teams, Stewardship and Technology & Communications, are both are actively planning resource days, as well as brainstorming ways to be in relationship with our congregations. I highly encourage you to reach out to Debbie Hudson (dedhudson@cox.net), chair of the Stewardship team, and Karen Mackey (kmackey@edola.org), chair of the Technology and Communications team, to learn more about how these teams might assist your congregation. The process of forming a Christian Formation team is underway. If you are interested in serving the diocese in this capacity or know of someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to me.

A final way that the diocese is seeking to nourish our congregations is through providing regular and engaging continuing education opportunities for our clergy. By bringing in quality speakers to focus on clergy-specific issues, we are working hard to help keep our clergy on the forefront of their profession.

One of the benefits of the Episcopal Church is that our congregations are connected to one another through the diocese. What that means is that no congregation is an island; there is a network of support that extends throughout our Episcopal community in south Louisiana. The diocesan office will continue to be committed to helping our churches respond to the changing needs of their communities and providing quality education opportunities is central to this mission. If you have any creative ideas regarding how we might further this work, please be in touch (jkellogg@edola.org). I feel fortunate to share this important ministry with you and look forward to further developing the ways in which we offer education to our congregations.
The following reflection was written as the opening devotion for the 130th Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women held at St. Augustine’s, Metairie, on June 2 and 3, 2017.

The theme for today’s gathering is “Embrace the Community and the World” (Matt. 25:35B) – “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Jesus said this to his listeners when they asked: “When did we see you?” Reading a little more of the chapter, we know Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Who are the community and the world, and how do we embrace them?

A community is a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. It also could mean a community of similar interests or society as a whole.

The world is our planet; the collection of communities, countries, and peoples. When we’re young, community and the world to us are family, school and church friends. Those raised in Christian homes probably experience being embraced by family members, and from them learn about hospitality, respecting others and observing the Golden Rule – to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. As we mature, we recognize that we and our communities are part of the big wide world, all made by the one creator God who loves us all. In my somewhat insulated childhood environment, most people usually lived in the same neighborhood of the same city as their relatives. Their friends, neighbors, schools, and churches were their long-established communities within the city. Rarely were there any strangers to welcome, other than occasional visiting relatives. But when as a young wife and mother I moved to a different town, I was warmly greeted as a newcomer at Christ Church in Slidell.

This town was booming, with people moving in from all over the country, joining in activities and jobs right away. Slidell natives were amazed, but hospitality was rampant among the newcomers. In turn, I learned to welcome
and embrace newcomers to my church, neighborhood, and workplace.

In Christian context, the community of the people of God is where we learn to strip away our self-interest in order to serve others. It is here that we learn to share what God has given us, whether it be goods or spiritual gifts. It is also here that we learn to be served. Sometimes we are the foot-washers and sometimes the washees. Community means watching over one another for good, knowing that as we serve, all of us are growing stronger in Christ. Christian communities provide workshops for prayer and worship. As these communities witness to the power and presence of Christ in the world, they are models of what God wants for all of humankind: love and acceptance, compassion and kindness, truth and honor. Where would we be without such community! As mature Christians, we seek out and find smaller communities such as prayer groups, Bible Study, ECW, EFM, Cursillo, and other ministries in our parish, deanery, diocese, province, the national Church and ultimately, the Anglican Communion of the Body of Christ in the World. And we invite others to join us in these ministries! That is how we embrace our community and our world.

But how can we embrace those not raised with a faith experience or religious guidance? Some unchurched folk might join secular communities, but some others might feel unfit for existing communities. Our baptism calls us to carry the ministry of reconciliation to all those around us, bringing God’s compassion and healing power into our broken world. It is incumbent upon us to welcome the alienated, address the plight of the homeless; feed the hungry, seek justice for the oppressed. In other words, help to establish a beachhead for God’s peaceable Kingdom-community in a hostile World. Moreover, community is about relationships, to help us live together in the world as God wants us to in a great variety of ways – ways that strengthen rather than disrupt our vocations, families, and ministries.

Community is a gift where God offers to pour out love on us all. If we live into Christian community, we can broadcast the good news as a lived reality, and mediate God’s love to those who so desperately need it. We simply cannot experience fully the power and delight of life with God without also being drawn into life together with our sisters and brothers in Christ. Community is to be sought and welcomed. By taking whatever risks to follow Jesus, we find that the reward is to enter into life as God intended it to be lived from the beginning of the world.

This being the Eve of the Day of Pentecost, I’ll close with the appropriate collect; Let us pray: Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evil be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified in his risen life. AMEN.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE
The Clericus (December 1, 2016—May 31, 2017)

Transitions in the Diocese

The Rev. Mark Holland was called to serve as the rector of All Saints in Morristown, Tennessee effective February 5, 2017. He served his last Sunday as interim priest-in-charge of St. Francis, Denham Springs, on Sunday, January 29.

The Rev. Watson Lamb was called to serve as the chaplain at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans effective February 19. He previously served as the assisting priest at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge and day school chaplain at St. Luke's School, Baton Rouge.

The Rev. Dan Krutz began serving as supply priest at St. Francis, Denham Springs.

The Rev. Don Brown began serving as supply priest at St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge.

The Rt. Rev. Duncan Gray has returned to Mississippi after serving two years at St. Paul's, New Orleans. His last Sunday was Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017.

The Rev. Mitch Smith was called to serve as rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Columbia, South Carolina, effective July 5. He has served as associate rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans since 2011.

Deacon John Holbert retired as deacon of St. Philip's Church, New Orleans, on Sunday, May 7. He has served at St. Philip's since 2005.

New Clergy in the Diocese

The Rev. Chris Capaldo was called as the rector of Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, effective January 15, 2017. He was serving as the assistant rector at St. Peter's, Fernandina Beach, Florida.

The Rev. Liz Embler was called to serve as the associate for congregational development at St. Paul's, New Orleans, effective June 1, 2017. She is a recent graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee. She will be ordained to the priesthood in August.

John Tober was called to serve as curate and day school chaplain of Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, effective July 1, 2017. He is a recent graduate of the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest. He will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in June.

The Rev. Bobby Hadzor was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Wednesday, May 17 at St. Augustine's, Metairie. He will serve as a deacon at St Augustine's, as well as continue to work as the chaplain at Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans. Later this year he will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests.

Deaths

The Rev. Prospero Mesa died on February 17, 2017, at his home. A requiem mass was held on February 23 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Metairie.
Final Service for All Souls Episcopal Church & Community Center

[Photographs by Karen Mackey] On January 8, 2017, friends and parishioners of All Souls Episcopal Church & Community Center gathered to give thanks for her ministry. In the service, parishioners shared stories of the impact All Souls had on them and the community. Bishop Thompson celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Music was provided by the choir of All Souls.
Holy Week and Easter in the Diocese of Louisiana

Feast of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet
[Photographs by Karen Mackey] On January 11, Historic St. Luke’s, New Orleans, celebrated the feast of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet, a turn-of-the-century educator and prison reformer in New Orleans. Lyndsey Ardrey, Co-Chair of the Commission on Racial Reconciliation delivered a sermon entitled “Motherwork.” In the sermon, she called for us to carry on the work of reconciliation, saying: “Ms. Gaudet would be proud to know that we’re here celebrating her in this church tonight, but her CV and resume show us that she was a doer. You don’t tap into your site of power and just sit on your hands. She was a mover. She made things happen, so I encourage us to not get cozy in our pews, or in the work we’ve already accomplished. Let us take charge and live her legacy. Let us put feet to the movement she started.” The Rev. Canon John Kellogg celebrated Holy Eucharist. Musical guests included Deacon John, Emile Hall, Baba Luther, and Steve Sutton.

Clergy Day at Christ Church Cathedral (left)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] On May 3, Clergy of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at Christ Church Cathedral for a day of fellowship and to learn about effective pastoral care as key to church growth. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Canon David Lowry.

Lunch with C.S. Lewis at St. Alban’s, Baton Rouge (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] For over 10 years, St. Alban’s Chapel, Baton Rouge, has served a weekly lunch to students at Louisiana State University as part of their Lunch with C.S. Lewis ministry. Lately, the chapel has served a steadily growing international student population.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Prison Ministry Conference: Proclaiming Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Prison Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana hosted the 2017 Prison Ministry Conference at St. James, Baton Rouge, from March 27-29. Speakers included advocates, researchers, authors, clergy, attorneys, government officials, and service providers to inmates and their families.

Mardi Gras Spirits at St. George’s, New Orleans (left)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Bart Reilly welcomes parade revelers to St. George’s during Mardi Gras. For over 20 years St. George’s has held a fundraiser selling food and drink and providing a respite for those attending the parades.

Christ Church Cathedral Hermes Parade Spaghetti Dinner (middle)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Parishioners of Christ Church Cathedral serve spaghetti dinner just before the Krewe of Hermes Parade. Proceeds from the dinner benefited Grace at the Green Light.

Ash to Go at Christ Church Cathedral (right)

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Ashes are distributed outside of Christ Church Cathedral on Ash Wednesday.
Spring Fling at Grace Memorial, Hammond *(left)*
*[Photograph from the Grace Memorial, Hammond]* On Sunday, March 12, parishioners gathered after services for a social event to welcome the change of season and to share music, food, and friendship.

Episcopal Relief & Development Visit *(right)*
*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Disaster and Recovery Coordinators from the Diocese of Florida, Diocese of East Carolina, and Diocese of West Virginia met in mid-January in our diocese to learn best practices of the recovery work in Louisiana as they developed long-term recovery plans post-Hurricane Matthew in their own dioceses. Pictured above is the Very Rev. Dr. Roman

Trinity Loaves & Fishes Tornado Relief *(left)*
*[Photograph from the Trinity, New Orleans]* Volunteers with Trinity Loaves & Fishes serve meals to homeowners and volunteers following the tornado in New Orleans East that struck on February 7.

Anna’s Place Kids in the Red Beans Parade *(right)*
*[Photograph from Anna’s Place]* The kids of Anna’s Place New Orleans marched in the Red Bean Parade held on Lundi Gras in New Orleans.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Confirmation Day at Church of the Nativity *(left)*
[Photograph by Jane Baldwin-Kent] On Sunday, February 19, the Rt. Rev. Charles Jenkins, Tenth Bishop of Louisiana, visited The Church of the Nativity, Rosedale, baptizing, confirming, receiving and reaffirming 13 people.

Trinity Wall Street Visits the Diocese *(right)*
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] From March 9-12, eight people from Trinity Wall Street traveled to New Orleans for a mission trip. They volunteered at St. Mark’s, Harvey, to work on projects around the church. They also traveled to St. Francisville to work with parishioners of Grace Church to rebuild houses destroyed in the August 2016 flood.

Grace Church, St. Francisville, Mission Trip to Honduras *(left)*
[Photograph from Grace Church, St. Francisville] From January 9-16, parishioners from Grace Church, St. Francisville, traveled to El Carmen, a small village in San Nicolas, Copán State, Honduras to work at Iglesia Cristo Rey. They taught Vacation Bible School and worked on construction projects around the church.

Grace Baskets at Grace Memorial, Hammond *(right)*
[Photographs by Karen Mackey] Every Lent, Grace Memorial, Hammond, provides laundry baskets of cleaning supplies to families who were identified by Child Protective Services as being in danger of losing custody of their children if they do not clean up their houses.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Spring Concert at St. Margaret’s, Baton Rouge (left)
[Photograph from St. Margaret’s, Baton Rouge] On March 10, St. Margaret’s held a concert by the Seattle-based band St. Paul de Vance to benefit outreach ministries of the church.

Tea at St. John’s, Thibodaux (middle)
[Photograph by Rev. Travers Koerner] St. John’s, Thibodaux, held their annual ECW English Tea held on Saturday, January 28.

Bishop Thompson Annual Visit St. Mary’s, Morganza (right)
[Photograph from St. Mary’s, Morganza] Bishop Thompson held his annual visitation at St. Mary’s, Morganza, on Saturday, April 22.

Rising Strong Flood Relief Fundraiser (left)
[Photograph by the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning] On January 10, St. James, Baton Rouge, organized an evening with Dr. Brene Brown to raise money for flood relief in the Baton Rouge area.

Preaching Conference (right)
[Photograph by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg] From February 7-8, clergy from the Diocese of Louisiana and the Diocese of Western Louisiana attended the Preaching Conference held at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Lafayette. Guest speakers were Professor Micah Jackson, the Bishop John Hines Associate Professor of Preaching and the Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, PhD, the professor of Old Testament at VTS. The conference was co-hosted by the Diocese of Louisiana and the Diocese of Western Louisiana.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Walking the Stations of the Cross with Christ Church, Covington *left*
*Photograph by Karen Mackey* In partnership with the Covington Presbyterian Church, Christ Church, Covington, organized a 1.5 mile long stations of the cross through downtown Covington. Also in Lent, parishioners participated in a spiritual journey called “Walking to Jerusalem.” The goal was to collectively walk 6,837 miles, the equivalent mileage from Covington to Jerusalem, while praying, meditating, and connecting with fellow parishioners and friends.

Senior High Rally *right*
*Photograph by Annie Jung* Youth from across the diocese gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center from February 10-12 for a Beetles themed Senior High Rally.

75th Anniversary of St. Martin’s, Metairie
*Photograph by Karen Mackey* On Sunday, April 30, St. Martin’s, Metairie, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the church. It was a stormy day but that did not dampen the spirit. An outdoor picnic was still held in the parking lot under a tent with indoor games and a bounce house for the children in the parish hall. Music was provided by the band Marshland.
St. George’s Estate Planning (left)
[Photograph from St. George’s, New Orleans] St. George’s held an estate planning seminar on Saturday, April 1. The seminar was led by New Orleans lawyer Leslie-Johns Ray.

St. Margaret’s Shoes (middle)
[Photograph from St. Margaret’s, Baton Rouge] St Margaret’s collected over 1,100 pairs of shoes that will be recycled. Money raised from this collection will be used to eliminate maternal neonatal tetanus around the world in partnership with the local Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge. A pair of shoes was brought up as part of the offertory procession during the 10 am Mass on April 30.

St. Philip’s Tea (right)
[Photograph from St. Philip’s, New Orleans] The table is set for a tea party held at St. Philip’s on Saturday, May 13.

St. Joseph’s Day Altar at St. Paul’s, New Orleans (left)
[Photograph from St. Paul’s, New Orleans] St. Joseph’s Altar at St. Paul’s, New Orleans. People brought an incredible amount of food and collected non-perishable food items for the food bank at St. Anna’s Episcopal Church. The leftovers were distributed to the homeless.

St. Joseph’s Altar at St. Andrew’s, New Orleans (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Parishioners of St. Andrew’s, New Orleans, gathered for breakfast and to admire the St. Joseph’s Altar created by the Rev. James Morrison and Senior Warden Jeremy Aubert. After church, the food was packed up and delivered to the elderly in the community.
Garage Sale at St. Luke’s, Baton Rouge (left)

CODE Conference (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Bishop Thompson preached and celebrated the opening Eucharist of the 2017 CODE Conference held in New Orleans from April 25-28. CODE is an organization for diocesan executives of the Episcopal Church.

Back in the Office (left)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] On April 4, Bishop Thompson returned from his three-month long sabbatical. He gathered with some of his staff just before his first staff meeting.

Installation of the Rev. Ashely Freeman as Rector of St. Patrick’s, Zachary (right)
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Rev. Ashley Freeman gives the final blessing following his installation as rector of St. Patrick’s, Zachary. The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr. was the celebrant. The Rev. Rob Courtney was the preacher.
Deacons on Retreat

[Photographs by Karen Mackey] The deacons of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center on May 19-20 for their annual retreat. A discussion developed on how to grow the diaconate and how to share the stories of the many ministries that the deacons are involved with throughout their communities. The Rev. Bridget Tierney, the Rev. Canon Ron Clingenpeel, the Very Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan led a panel discussion on the relationship between a rector and a deacon.

Christ Church Covington, Pilgrimage to Molokai (left)

[Photograph from Christ Church, Covington] In April, parishioners from Christ Church, Covington, traveled to the beautiful island of Molokai in Hawaii to walk in the footsteps of Blessed Father Damien and Sister Marianne of Molokai.

Happening #78 (right)

[Photograph by Annie Jung] Youth from all around the diocese recently participated in Happening at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center from March 10-12. Happening is a youth-led spiritual formation weekend designed for high school teens. This was the 78th Happening weekend held in the Diocese of Louisiana.
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Flood Recovery (left)  
[Photograph from Grace Church, St. Francisville] Baton Rouge area flood recovery, led by Grace Church, St. Francisville, has continued helping hundreds of homeowners with the help of many volunteers from around the country and our diocese. The program will wrap up this summer. Shown above is a group from Franklin and Marshall College.

Holy Communion Gumbo to Go (right)  
[Photograph from Holy Communion, Plaquemine] Fridays in Lent, Church of the Holy Communion sells gumbo to raise money for outreach ministries of the church.

Bling Your Block with Jericho Road (left)  
[Photograph from Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative] In March Jericho Road facilitated a volunteer event called Bling Your Block in conjunction with Marriott Hotels’ Spirit to Serve service project that brought over 3,000 volunteers to New Orleans. Above volunteers hand art around a Central City brownfield.

St. Patrick’s Mosaic (middle and right)  
[Photograph by Karen Mackey] On May 2, Bishop Thompson was presented a beautiful mosaic created by St. Patrick’s parishioner, Ronald Mulligan, to thank Bishop Thompson and the Diocese of Louisiana for the assistance St. Patrick’s received after the August 2016 flood.
Art at St. John’s (left)
[Photograph from St. John’s Church, Thibodaux] On Saturday, April 1, St. John’s, Thibodaux, held an art sale to benefit the St. John Cemetery.

Sidewalk repair at Solomon Center (left and middle)
[Photograph by Solomon Episcopal Conference Center] Sidewalk repairs at the Solomon Center in February.

New Head of School at Trinity, Baton Rouge (right)
[Photograph by Trinity School of Baton Rouge] On June 1, Trinity School of Baton Rouge welcomed their new Head of School, Linda Brown. She formerly served as the Assistant Head of School at St. Luke’s Episcopal Day School, Baton Rouge.

Men’s Retreat with Christ Church, Covington (right)
[Photograph from Christ Church, Covington] On the weekend of March 3-5, thirty-seven men from Christ Church and beyond came together to worship, listen, share and laugh for a retreat centered around ‘mindfulness.’ Father Bill Miller and The Reverend Dr. William Thiele led the retreat. Next year’s retreat will be held March 2-4, 2018.
The Episcopal Church Women of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana held their 130th Annual Gathering at St. Augustine’s, Metairie, on June 2 and 3. The theme of the gathering was “ECW: Embrace the Community and the World.” The Rev. William Miller (pictured third row, right), author and rector of Christ Church, Covington, was the keynote speaker presenting his address entitled: “Be Strange. Not a Stranger.” Four women were named the ECW Women of the Year (pictured second row, middle). They were Val Jeanne Phillips from St. Augustine’s, Baton Rouge; Beulah Rodrigue from St. Matthew’s, Houma; Mary Hughes from Trinity Church, Morgan City; and Joy Benoit Roques from St. Augustine’s, Metairie. The Rt. Rev. James Brown, IX Bishop of Louisiana, was given a special honor for “his devotion, care and service to the people of the Diocese of Louisiana.” Bishop Thompson gave a “State of the Church Address” and celebrated and preached at the Saturday morning Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Watson Lamb (pictured bottom, middle) and Reba Mackey (pictured bottom, right) led workshops. The ECW chose Eden House as their ministry partner. Courtney Lauver of Eden House (pictured third row, middle) gave a presentation on the mission and ministry of Eden House. The current ECW President is Ann Ball (pictured third row, left). A Friday evening reception (pictured first row, right) was held at the home of ECW Vice President Jeanne Roques (pictured second row, left).
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

Louisiana Delegates Prepare for the 79th General Convention
[Photograph by the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning] Preparing for the 79th General Convention. Our Louisiana deputation met at Kanuga Conference Center with other Province IV dioceses from June 7-9.

Walking With Integrity in the New Orleans Pride Parade
[Photographs by Karen Mackey] Integrity New Orleans and St. Anna’s Episcopal Church organized a group of parishioners and clergy from across the diocese to walk in the New Orleans Pride Parade on Saturday, June 10. The goal was to demonstrate the love of God and to spread the message that all are welcome in the Episcopal Church.
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

June
28  Ordination of Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles to the Sacred Order of Priest (6:00 pm at Christ Church, Covington)

July
4    Bishop’s Office closed in observance of Independence Day

August
4-6  Addiction Recovery Retreat (at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center)
25-27 Happening #79 (at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center)

September
16   Caffeinated Church Conference (starting at 8:30 am at St. George’s, New Orleans)

October
6-8  Senior High Rally (at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center)

November
3-4  Diocesan Convention (at St. James, Baton Rouge)

Learn more about the Community Mission Appeal here: www.edola.org/cma