

# CHURCHWORK

---

Volume 65, Issue 2

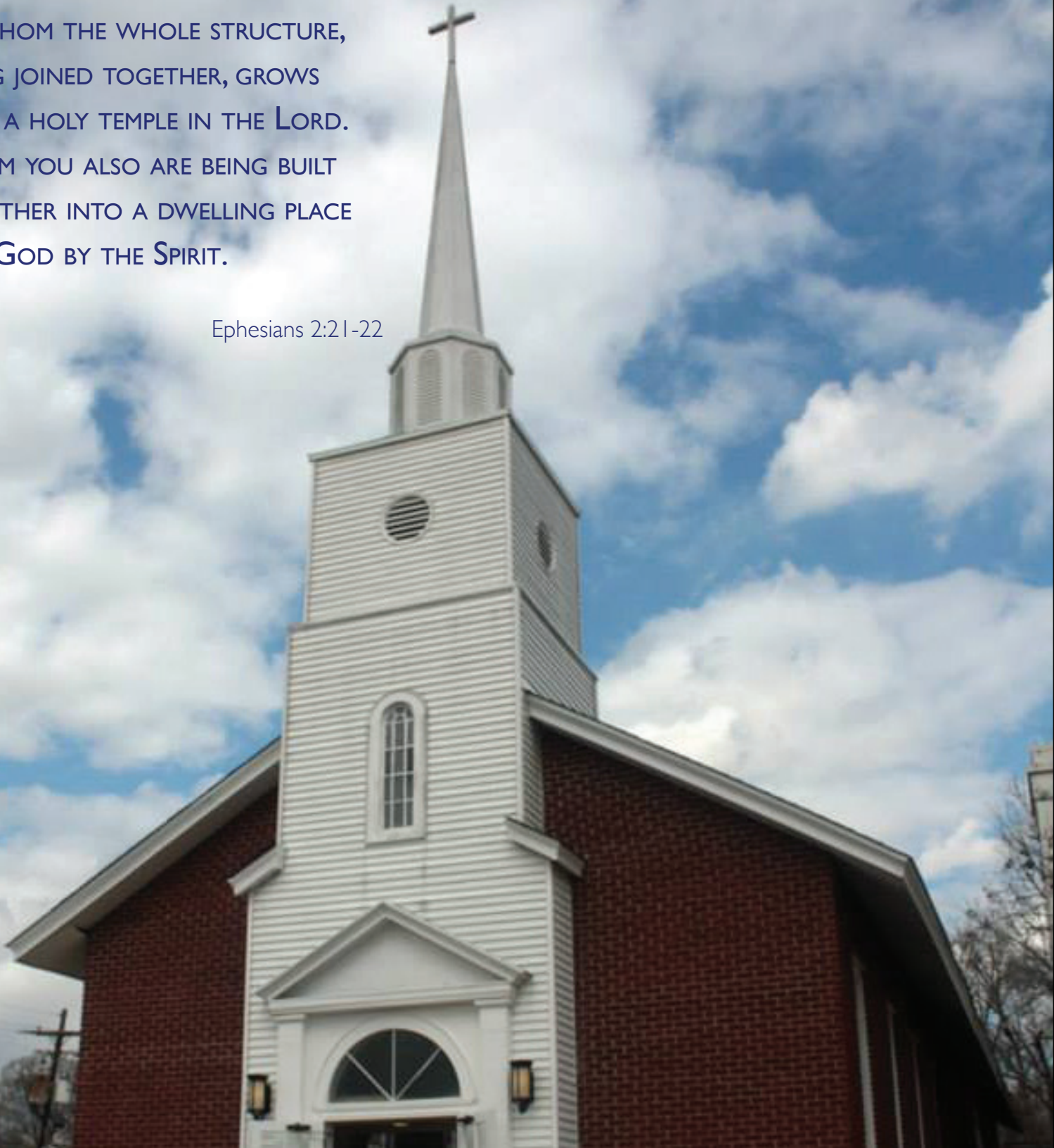
The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

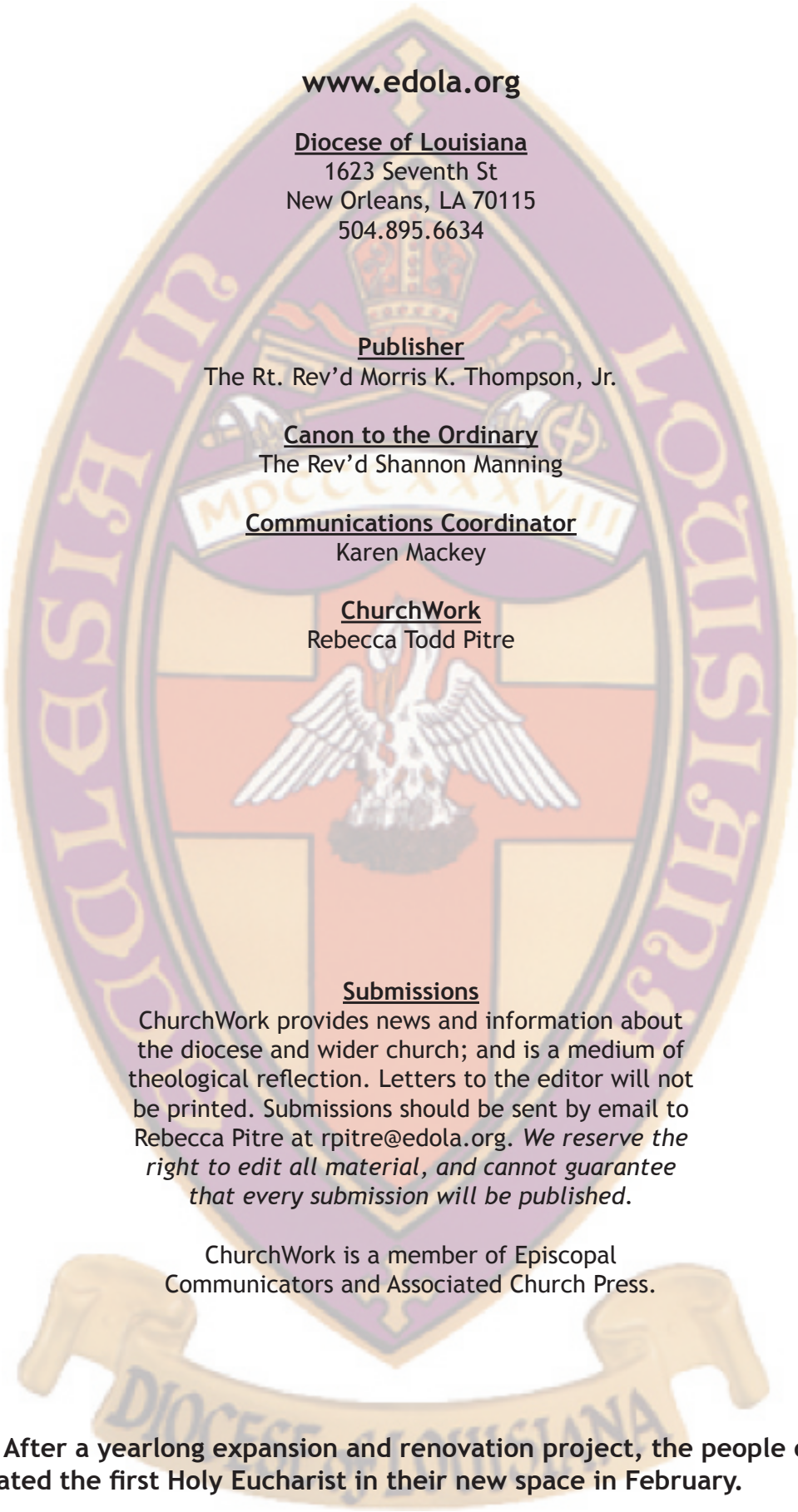
April 2015

---

IN WHOM THE WHOLE STRUCTURE,  
BEING JOINED TOGETHER, GROWS  
INTO A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD.  
IN HIM YOU ALSO ARE BEING BUILT  
TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING PLACE  
FOR GOD BY THE SPIRIT.

Ephesians 2:21-22



The seal of the Diocese of Louisiana is a large, ornate shield. It features a central eagle with spread wings perched on a cross. The shield is divided into four quadrants. The top and bottom quadrants are purple, and the left and right quadrants are gold. The shield is surrounded by a purple border with gold lettering. At the bottom of the shield is a gold banner with purple lettering.

[www.edola.org](http://www.edola.org)

**Diocese of Louisiana**

1623 Seventh St  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
504.895.6634

**Publisher**

The Rt. Rev'd Morris K. Thompson, Jr.

**Canon to the Ordinary**

The Rev'd Shannon Manning

**Communications Coordinator**

Karen Mackey

**ChurchWork**

Rebecca Todd Pitre

**Submissions**

ChurchWork provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Rebecca Pitre at [rpitre@edola.org](mailto:rpitre@edola.org). *We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.*

ChurchWork is a member of Episcopal Communicators and Associated Church Press.

**FRONT COVER:** After a yearlong expansion and renovation project, the people of St. Patrick's, Zachary celebrated the first Holy Eucharist in their new space in February.

[photo by Karen Mackey]

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

**Bishop Thompson's Address from the  
Diocese of Louisiana's 178th Convention  
Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans  
February 27, 2015**

To the beloved people of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

On July 13 of this past year the Old Testament reading for Morning Prayer was taken from the first chapter of the Book of Joshua. The reading began this way: "After the death of Moses..." Moses was dead and God was making his presence known to Joshua, Moses' second in command. God tells Joshua to take up where Moses left off and continue to the land God had promised Moses. God said, "As I was with Moses so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous." The phrase "Be strong and courageous" is repeated four times in the first chapter. The last sentence of that chapter ends with, "only be strong and courageous."

Those words gripped me in a powerful way. Imagine the trepidation Joshua was feeling. The prophet that had led the people of God out of bondage, the man who spoke face to face with God and lived to tell about it, had just died. I can't imagine anything more intimidating than to be told that what was Moses' job is now mine. God must have sensed Joshua's anxiety and God said several times, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not



fail you or forsake you." Joshua understood his calling to trust in God's goodness but he also had to trust his own truth, be strong and courageous.

On that Sunday in July the power of these words lifted my soul. The feeling was exhilarating as if I could actually hear God tell me to speak these words to you. God was and is calling us as people of faith to pick up where Moses and Elijah, Ruth and Rebekah, Matthew and Paul left off. God is calling us to go and be the face of Jesus to the poor, those in prison, the depressed and the outcast. As God sends us out, we are charged to be strong and courageous.

Not long ago someone asked me what got me going in the morning, what got me out of the bed. My first thought was Agatha, my admin-



# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

---

istrative assistant. If I don't get out of the bed quickly and respond to texts or emails sent to me in the wee hours of the morning she will be texting me around 5:30 or so to make sure I received the original text from 1:00 am. But the truth is, it is Agatha. It is Fr. John Kellogg, Diocesan Missioner. It is Mother Anne Maxwell, associate at Christ Church Covington. It is Fr. Steven Craft, rector of St. Phillips, or Deacon Cindy Obier, Chaplain to the Bishop. It is Mr. Allen Marcel, Sr. Warden at St. Andrew's Bayou du Large or Carolyn Douglas, Prison Ministries. These people and many more like them is what gets me going in the morning. I am energized by their commitment to serve the least of these. Throughout this convention you will hear some of the powerful stories of wonderful things that are going on around the diocese. From construction projects, to ministries to the incarcerated, from housing work groups through Molly's House, to Deaneries supporting one another. Bold, courageous steps are being taken every day. To be bold takes strength. I'm not talking about the kind of strength that is identified with macho intimidation but the kind of strength that is buried deep within each of us and when discovered, unleashes a resolve that knows no bounds. This is the kind of strength I believe is buried deep within this diocese waiting to be discovered in such a way that gives witness to what we believe. We believe in resurrection, new beginnings and a sense of mystery.

Last year I mentioned in my address we would be closing the Baton Rouge office formed in response to Hurricane Katrina and returning to the See City of New Orleans where for 176 years we have been located. We made this move after observing we were not being practical. As I began to understand the manner in which we

worked together as a staff there were concerns that didn't make sense. We were not operating on all cylinders. We needed to make some adjustments. Over the past five years we have made significant changes that have improved our response to the needs of the diocese. We have moved into one office and cut the staff from 10 to 7.5 people. Because we are in one office we are more proficient. We are cross training everyone and our mission to serve the diocese is focused more outward to help you. We are seeking ways to be collaborative. For example, we are sharing resources with St. Mark's Harvey and St. James' Baton Rouge. For the price of one full time staff member we now have a diocesan youth coordinator, missioner for church development and priest in charge at St. Mark's. Pooling our resources and donning our thinking caps is what gets me up in the morning. Being creative with what we have or finding ways to make something work in new and imaginative ways is a very exciting way to do ministry. Another way in which we have stepped further into the diocese is with Agatha's Administrative Luncheons that meet twice a year. We often receive calls from parish administrators wanting to know where, or how to do something. Through these luncheons, relationships have been forged and new ideas investigated. Karen Mackey our Communications Officer has traveled throughout the diocese to help with Asset Mapping, Web page designs and other technical matters. Chris Speed our Diocesan Administrator has visited churches that need help regarding their finances and how they are structured. He is always available for consultation. Cannon Manning continues to assist churches with deployment, canonical concerns, and vestry trainings. I love it when she is called to help not with a problem but with something new and creative.



This year we were blessed to have Fr. John Kellogg join our staff. John and his wife Tait moved to Louisiana so she could finish her Ph.D. work at Tulane. Within the first six months he has visited almost every church asking questions that will help us understand how best to assist your work. In fact, his first question is; how can we assist you in being bold and courageous? Last year we held our second vestry workshop. This year we already have on our calendar more workshops that will deal with topics such as newcomer ministries and technology and the church. Our Stewardship Officer Debbie Hudson has visited several congregations to help them better understand stewardship as a joy and not a burden. I encourage you to contact her for informational teaching. You see, our work is to serve the congregations of this diocese and we are moving in new and creative ways, sending people out to accomplish our mission. Which leads me to another bold and courageous move, the property on Canal Street, New Orleans.

When it was clear we were going to shutter Grace Church four years ago our vision was thwarted I think by a lack of leadership. I'm referring to my own. If I had trusted my inner voice we might have been in the building by now. But one thing I know about myself is that I don't react quickly so I sat on this idea. Two years later the idea of reclaiming the Canal St. property surfaced again and this time I listened and spoke with the executive board. With their blessing and with the Deans of the diocese encouragement we embarked on a bold and substantial venture to move our diocesan offices from its present location to the property on Canal St., by the end of 2016. Why, you ask? That is a very good question

When Katrina landed and the levees broke, Grace Church on Canal Street was flooded with several feet of water. It was one of three churches in New Orleans that received devastating damage. It was ruined. But before the storm, Grace was the center of the neighborhood. The Opera rehearsed there, outside organizations met there, mission work developed there. In addition, there are also two frescos worth over two million dollars on the east and west walls. The property is literally in the middle of the city of New Orleans. I can't think of a better way to make our Episcopal presence known in this city, in this diocese than to raise the Episcopal flag again, to say we are alive and well! The vision for this property is to allow communities to see this sacred place as a home of safety and the reminder of God's resurrection, and where neighborhood groups can meet again, for the opera to sing in the nave again, and for people passing by to see the Episcopal sign that tells all the world that through these doors, all are welcomed.

You may wonder what will become of the offices where we are presently located? It is our intention to turn them into apartments that will provide revenue for missional work throughout the diocese.

This is a bold step and the financial cost will be great but it is worth taking these steps for the future of our diocese. We can choose to be content and maintain what we have or we can be strong and courageous believing what we do today will serve the diocese well into the future. What we do today is not so much for you and me or even our children but for our children's children. It is their future we want to establish the best we

know, in this time.

The cost of the construction will be born from outside resources. Several months ago I began meeting with individuals who have the means to help significantly with the cost and their advice. I will continue to seek your and other's help in the months to come. One or two persons will not complete this project; it is ours to share and celebrate. I hope you will join us in this bold step. I also want to address the issue of our new assessment that you so courageously passed two years ago based on your request to establish just one number and not two, the ask and the voluntary. We did just that and you responded with courage. However, I am well aware of some of the anxieties floating around today. Some of you have spoken to me regarding your fears of not being able to fulfill your fair share giving. I want to speak directly to you. Do not be anxious. Let me repeat this; do not be anxious. Being anxious will not help. It will only make you fearful.

Those churches that are already paying 100% of what was asked will not notice anything except maybe a decrease in the new assessment. However, the churches that were not paying 100% will in all likelihood see an increase. Hear me, do not be anxious. Let me explain what I mean. The image of the physical body Apostle Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12 has always been a vivid understanding of the church for me. St. Paul writes; "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many....But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body,

but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

What the Apostle Paul is teaching us is that we are one body, and when we work as one body, then we are at our very best. We are all in this together. That is what separates Episcopalians from Congregationalists. Episcopalians are connected one to another by bishops, common prayer, and by ecclesiastical governance. Congregationalists are self governed and are not connected from one congregation to the other. You and I are connected historically by our relationships. I realize it can be messy at times to live in communion; its much easier to live in our own silos. But the truth is that communities are more bold and less fearful than when alone.

I've heard your frustration to what so many have referred to as the "penalty." Fr. Bill Terry and others have been working on a proposal to reform the canon that deals with a congregation that either can't or refuses to be part of the body. What would it look like for a congregation that could not give its full assessment, that instead of being penalized the leaders of the vestry sit down with a small committee from the Executive Board for an honest discussion regarding the health of that particular parish? It would be the same for a parish that was intentionally protesting and refusing to give. What would it look like for concerned individuals to sit down with the diocesan leaders to hear the hard words of frustrations, anger and protest? If we could do this, then our mission would not be about getting blood out of a turnip but helping the congregation to find a way to be vibrant and hopeful. It helps no one if we are

more concerned about the bottom dollar than we are about being connected to each other in love and fulfilling our mission. My vision for this diocese is one of connectedness, reaching out for help when times are difficult and singing and dancing when it is time to celebrate.

What I'm trying to say is that we are in a new era where open communication is paramount. The world is changing fast and if we can't be honest with ourselves then who can we be? We must build and trust our relationships that nurture open conversations about the real, hard facts and then consider how we will tackle such concerns. This doesn't mean every time we speak we will get what we want, but I promise, your concerns will be heard. We need to be nimble as one priest put it. Nimble in addressing new ideas of evangelism, telling the story of resurrection that is relevant to a 21 century inquirer. But if we are stuck in doing things the way we did them fifty years ago then we are not speaking of resurrection but of a requiem.

Not long ago, a group of clergy was sitting around contemplating how to fix the world. It was a relaxing moment for me. In the conversation the word "relevant" was mentioned. Do I matter is another way of looking at this question. Do I matter to the church and do I matter to God. The answer is yes. God desires to be in relationship with each of us but we don't always know this deep truth. Whether you are just learning to speak, or speaking on your death bed, God longs to know you as you are, vulnerable and all. The mission field in which you and I are called to work is the simple truth that the person sitting right in front of us matters. By the cross, we all matter, black, white, Jew and Gentile, gay and straight,

male and female. I know this because the Bible tells me so.

You and I, the good people of this Diocese have a great story to tell and wonderful places to gather to be community. We must only be strong and courageous in telling the story of grace, and forgiveness, of hope and life.

As you leave this place go back to your churches and have a frank and honest conversation and ask this simple question to the entire congregation, are we being strong and courageous?

Brave journey,

+ *Mavis*

The graphic features the words "SAVE THE DATE" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are large and overlap each other. "SAVE" is at the top, "THE" is in the middle and smaller, and "DATE" is at the bottom. The letters are colored in a vibrant, multi-colored palette including yellow, blue, pink, orange, and green.

**October 31, 2015**

**A Special Meeting of the Convention**

**Trinity Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge**



# Grace, Hope & Life: The 178th Diocesan Convention

*by Karen Mackey, Diocesan Communications Coordinator*

The Very Rev. Henry Hudson, Rector of Trinity, New Orleans, welcomed 204 delegates to the 178th Diocesan Convention, February 27-28 held at Trinity. The Convention passed 12 resolutions, held elections, and rejoiced as St. Michael's, Mandeville once again became a parish. Prison ministry was celebrated as the Church of the Transfiguration marked 25 years of having an Episcopal presence at the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

The convention welcomed the Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop of Florida, as guest and keynote speaker.

Bishop Howard spoke of his time as federal prosecutor and of prison ministry

in the Diocese of Florida. His message was filled with images of love, forgiveness, redemption, hope, and resurrection.

Mary Frazier Brennan, Mission Communication Officer for The Episcopal Church was another honored guest to the Convention.

Harriet Murrell was honored by Bishop Thompson on the occasion of her retirement from the bishop's office. Harriet has served in several capacities since 1999. Most recently she has served as the diocesan



archivist. She has also served as the Director of the School for Ministry and as office manager of the No-land Center. She received a standing ovation from all those present. She thanked everyone as she said, "I miss you all but I am enjoying retirement."

On Friday evening during the convention Eucharist, the Rev'd Hi-Jae Peter Kang was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests. Fr. Kang is serving as a chaplain at the Louisiana State Penitentiary and as priest-in-charge of St. Stephen's Church, Innis.



A convention honoring prison ministry was the perfect setting for his ordination. The Rt. Rev'd Morris K. Thompson celebrated the mass and Deacon Charles DeGravelles preached. The choir, led by Dr. Caroline Carson, was made up of representatives of choirs throughout the diocese. The service was followed by a grand reception with music at Trinity Parish House.

In his address to Convention, Bishop Thompson called for members of the diocese to be strong and courageous. Bishop Thompson stated, "My vision for this diocese is one of connectedness, reaching out for help when times are difficult and singing and dancing when it is time to celebrate." He goes on to say, "You and I, the good people of this Diocese, have a great story to tell and wonderful places to gather to be community. We must only be strong and courageous in telling the story of grace and forgiveness, of hope and life."

Stories of grace, hope and life throughout the Diocese of Louisiana were shared during the two day convention.

## **Actions Taken by the Convention**

### *Election of Offices and Boards*

During the Friday afternoon plenary, convention delegates elected Marsha Wade, St. James Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, to a one-year term as Secretary of Convention.

Katherine Martin, St. James, Baton Rouge, was elected as lay member of the Standing Committee. The Rev'd Doug Lasiter, Trinity, Morgan City, and St. John's, Thibodaux, was elected clerical member of the Standing Committee. Each will serve a three-year term.

Debbie Boies, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, and Jennifer Johnson, Trinity, Baton Rouge were elected as lay members of the Executive Board. The Very Rev'd Craig Dalferes, St. Matthew's, Houma, was elected as clerical member of the Executive Board. Each will serve a four-year term.

Bennet Ford, Trinity, Baton Rouge, and Dottie Suthon, St. Augustine's, Metairie, were elected lay members of the Disciplinary Board. The Rev'd James Morrison, St. Andrew's, New Orleans, was elected clerical member of the Disciplinary Board. Each will serve a three-year term.

The Rev'd Ralph Howe, Jr., St. James, Baton Rouge, was elected to a three-year term as clerical trustee of the University of the South.



### *Budget*

During the plenary session on Saturday, the Convention adopted for 2015 an assessment budget in the amount of \$689,248 and a program budget of \$734,825.

*continued on next page*



## *Resolutions*

During the plenary session on Saturday, the Convention accepted the following resolutions:

- To move the date of future Diocesan Conventions to the fall
- To set the date for a Special Meeting of the Convention on October 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM
- To acknowledge and affirm the diocese's long-standing prayer partnership with the Diocese of Tohoku, Japan
- To support in prayer the Diocese of Tohoku, Japan, our diocese's long-time prayer and mission partner, on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the earthquake/tsunami of March 11, 2011
- To recognize St Luke's Episcopal Church in New Orleans as a "Historic Church," being the first congregation formed solely for "the religious instruction of Colored People in the Diocese of Louisiana" in 1855.
- To acknowledge St Luke's Episcopal Church in New Orleans for 160 Years of serving God and His Beloved Community.
- To acknowledge and promote the First and Only Blessèd Frances Joseph Gaudet Chapel located at St Luke's Episcopal Church, New Orleans.
- To encourage both congregations and schools to prepare for disasters
- To encourage its Members to be Repairers of the Breach and Makers of Safe Streets (the members of the diocese are called to be Agents of Reconciliation).
- To recommit to the work of Anti-Racism
- To commend the Diocesan Response to this year's Ebola outbreak
- To change the status of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Mandeville from mission to parish.

The 179th Convention of the Diocese of the Episcopal Church of Louisiana will be held in the fall of 2016. We will hold a Special Meeting of the Convention on October 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Trinity Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, in order to adopt the 2016 diocesan budget.





# Clergy Transitions

## The Rev'd Sharon Alexander Installed Rector of Trinity, Baton Rouge

[by Marcie McBride]

The Feast of Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, marked a very special day for the congregation at Trinity, Baton Rouge. Trinity welcomed guests, congregants, and clergy to the Celebration of New Ministry service on Tuesday, January 13th. Bishop Thompson presided over the institution and induction of the Reverend Sharon A. Alexander as its eighth — and first female — Rector.



*Celebration of New Ministry for The Rev'd Sharon Alexander*

The joyful service included many components that made the night memorable for all. Trinity's talented chorus, under the direction of Elvia Parsons, provided moving musical accompaniment. The Rev'd Canon Shannon R. Manning's thoughtful and reflective sermon allowed the Trinitarians to get a glimpse of the treasure they were receiving in their new Rector. Lastly, representatives from the Day School, Episcopal School, church ministries, and area clergy presented special gifts that reflect Mtr. Alexander's new role at Trinity.

The celebration continued at a reception. Guests enjoyed an assortment of sweet and savory treats. The church community extends gratitude and thanks to all of those who helped make Trinity's new Rector's institution and induction a reality.

## Christ Episcopal Church, Covington, Calls the Rev'd Bill Miller as Rector

Fr. William "Bill" Miller has accepted the call to serve as the next rector of Christ Church. He comes to us from St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on the island of Kauai where he lived with his dogs, Nawiliwili Nelson and Sinbad.

Fr. Bill has served as rector of St. Michael's since 2006. During his term as rector, St. Michael's has grown significantly and initiated innovative new ministries for children, youth and the music and arts community in Hawaii. Under his leadership, St. Michael's founded a jazz festival that attracts over 1,200 people from around the world.

Fr. Bill began his ministry as the Director of Youth Ministries at the Church of St. John the Divine in Houston from 1986-1991. Under his leadership, the youth program grew from 12 to 100 active participants and initiated a number of innovative outreach, social justice and music ministries. From 1991-1999, he served as Vicar and Rector of St. James Church in Austin. Under his leadership, the congregation grew in size, started a school for economically disadvantaged students, and became a model for multi-cultural ministry. From 1999-2006, Fr. Bill served as Rector of Trinity Church in downtown Houston. During his tenure, the parish more than doubled in attendance and giving, completed a needed renovation and restoration, created a critically-acclaimed art-filled chapel and began a flourishing jazz and gospel service.

Fr. Bill has founded 3 jazz festivals and has collaborated with musicians to create 12 different jazz masses utilizing the music of Coltrane, Ellington, Armstrong and others. He is the author of *The Gospel According to Sam: Animal Stories for the Soul* and *The Beer Drinker's Guide to God: The Whole and Holy Truth About Lager, Loving and Living*. He is currently writing a congregational development guide titled *NET: How Real Churches Really Grow*. Fr. Bill will begin at Christ Episcopal Church on June 1st.



***The Rev'd Bill Miller***

## **The Rev'd Kit Sharp McLean Called as Associate Rector of Trinity, New Orleans**

[by The Very Rev'd Henry Hudson]

I am delighted to announce that the Rev. Katherine Sharp McLean has accepted our call to be Associate Rector. Kit comes from Hammond, and has many friends and kin here in New Orleans. Answering God's call to ordained ministry later in life, she received her Master of Divinity from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and was ordained by Bishop Thompson in April of 2013. She has been serving at St. Michael and St. George's in St. Louis, Missouri. We are delighted to welcome her home. She will have primary responsibility for Christian Formation and Education, coordinating all our formation programs and planning. She will be working to bring all the Children's, Youth, Young Adults and Adult programs together. We have a tradition of excellence in our offerings, and I am confident Kit will strengthen these programs. She will begin work on March 16, 2015.

## **The Rev'd Dr. Walter Baer Serving as Supply Priest at St. Michael's, Mandeville**

The Rev'd Dr. Walter Baer has been working as supply priest at St. Michael's Church, Mandeville since December 2014.

Fr. Baer also currently serves as the Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer and the Jubilee Ministry Officer for the Diocese of Louisiana. As the Bishop's designate he is on the Board of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

Most recently, he participated in an Interfaith Conference and Study Tour on Spirituality & Giving in Ramadan in Morocco. He has led several mission trips to the Dominican Republic, to Honduras, and



most recently to Cuba with a group of high school students from St. Martin's School. He is a member of the Fellowship of St. John, and makes regular retreats at the monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. He is also a member of the Society of Catholic Priests and of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.

## **The Rev'd Margaret Austin Leaves Trinity Church, Baton Rouge**

The Rev'd Margaret Austin served her last Sunday as part time Pastoral Associate at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, on January 4th. Mother Margaret came to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana when she retired from the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. She will continue serving as supply priest in our diocese.

## **Deacons Quin Bates and Michael Hackett Sworn in as Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Chaplains**

In a ceremony on January 7th, Deacon Quin Bates and Deacon Michael Hackett were sworn in as chaplains for the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. They are taking part in an expanded program of over 60 Jefferson Parish-based clergy who work as chaplains in the correctional center or in the patrol division. Deacons Quin and Michael are both working in the patrol division. They will ride along with JPSO officers offering counseling and prayer.

## **The Rt. Rev'd Duncan To Be Bishop-in-Residence at St. Paul's, New Orleans**

In February when the Rt. Rev'd Duncan Gray, Bishop of Mississippi, passed the crozier on to Bishop Co-adjutor Brian Seage, he and his wife Kathy moved to New Orleans for two years. They will be living in the rectory of the former Grace Episcopal Church on Canal Street.

Bishop Gray has agreed to serve as bishop-in-residence of St. Paul's, New Orleans, and while he will only be working part-time, his duties include ministry work in the St. Paul's day school.

## **Ordination of the Rev'd Peter Kang to the Sacred Order of Priests**

On Friday, February 27th at Trinity, New Orleans, the Rev. Hi-Jae Peter Kang was installed to the Sacred Order of Priests. The ordination took place during the 178th Convention where we celebrated 25 years of prison ministry at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. Fr. Peter is serving as a prison chaplain at Angola, as well as part-time Priest-in-Charge at St. Stephen's, Innis. He was sponsored by Grace Episcopal Church of West Feliciana Parish in St. Francisville.



*The Ordination of the Rev'd Peter Kang*

## **The Rev'd Winston Rice Starts Maritime Pastoral Institute**

The Rev'd Winston Rice has recently formed the Maritime Pastoral Institute, a non-profit organization providing ecumenical offshore ministry along the Texas and Louisiana coasts. Fr. Winston was employed for the past four years as a Chaplain for the Seaman's Church Institute. However, this position was re-



cently eliminated. He was also serving as Assisting Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Convington. His last Sunday at Christ Church was March 8. Fr. Winston can now be found responding to pastoral crises and preaching in churches in Louisiana and Texas.

You can follow his ministry [here](#).

### **The Rev'd Karen Gay Resigned from Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine**

The Rev'd Karen Gay resigned from Holy Communion, Plaquemine, in March. She is on extended medical leave at this time. Please keep Mother Karen and Church of the Holy Communion in your prayers.

### **The Rev'd Terry Johnston Resigned from Grace Episcopal Church, St. Francisville**

The Rev'd Terry Johnston resigned as Associate Rector of Grace Church in St. Francisville. He served his last service on March 15th with the church holding a farewell party for him and his wife Amy. They are moving back to Tennessee for health reasons. Please keep the Johnson Family and Grace Episcopal in your prayers.



*The Rev'd Terry Johnston's  
Last Service at Grace*

---

# Diocesan Deputies Prepare for 78th General Convention

Louisiana deputies are preparing for the Episcopal Church's 78th General Convention set for June 24th through July 3rd in Salt Lake City, Utah. Since their election last year the deputation has been meeting to learn more about and discuss the issues that will be before them at Convention. Before General Convention, the deputies will gather at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center on April 18th. They will also attend the Province IV Synod 2015 at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina, from June 3rd through 5th.

The Rev'd Sharon Alexander will serve as Chair of the Deputation, while Ed Starns is taking the place

of lay deputy Amelia Arthur who had to step down for family obligations. Caroline Carson was moved to lay deputy first alternate position.

Several deputies have received legislative committee assignments. Bishop Thompson and John Musser will serve on the Social Justice and National Policy Committee. The Rev. Sharon Alexander will serve on the Governance and Structure Committee. Ann Ball will serve on the Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Committee. The Rev. A.J. Heine will serve on the Certification of Minutes Committee.

The Diocese of Louisiana has elected a diverse deputation. They have met several times for prayer, study, reflection, getting to know one another and learning from those deputies who have attended prior conventions. They are currently studying proposed resolutions and other issues that will come up at General Convention.

## **Clerical Deputies:**

- The Rev'd Sharon Alexander, Trinity, Baton Rouge
- The Rev'd AJ Heine, St. Augustine's, Metairie
- The Rev'd Fred Devall, St. Martin's, Metairie
- The Rev'd Anne Maxwell, Christ Church, Covington

## **Lay Deputies:**

- Ann Ball, All Saints, River Ridge
- Edgar Cage, St. Michael's, Baton Rouge
- John Musser, Trinity, New Orleans
- Ed Starns, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge

## **Alternates:**

- The Rev'd Roman Roldan, Grace, St. Francisville
- Dr. Caroline Carson, St. Paul's, New Orleans
- The Rev'd Ed Thompson, All Souls & St. Luke's, New Orleans
- The Very Rev'd Ron Clingenpeel, Retired
- The Rev'd Rob Courtney, St. Paul's, New Orleans
- The Rev'd Canon Shannon Manning
- Levi Johnson, St. Luke's, New Orleans, Attending as Province IV Youth Deputy



The deputies welcome questions from around the Diocese — you can email them at [GC78@edola.org](mailto:GC78@edola.org) or by clicking [here](#).

You can also learn more about General Convention at the following websites:

General Convention: [generalconvention.org](http://generalconvention.org)

House of Deputies: [houseofdeputies.org](http://houseofdeputies.org)

Episcopal News: [episcopaldigitalnetwork.com](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com)

# ECW's 48th Triennial Meeting

The 48th Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women will gather with the theme "Stir Up the Spirit: ¡Celebremos!" in Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting takes place from June 25th through July 2nd.

Running concurrently with General Convention, the meeting provides members of the ECW from across the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion an opportunity to meet, listen to inspirational preachers and teachers, and take part in workshops.

The Louisiana delegates are Laurel McCartney, President of the ECW in our Diocese; Noretta Stackel, Elected Delegate and Honored Woman Recipient from Diocese of Louisiana; Kathryn Johnson; Reba Mackey; and Judy Weber, Church Periodical Club Coordinator. Alternate delegates are Ophelia Banks and Ellarose Gray.

The ECW is cohosting a dinner on June 26th to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the United Thank Offering. The guest speaker will be the Rt. Rev'd Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina.



---

## Gaudet Scholarship Applications Now Available

The Gaudet Program awards scholarships to advance the education of African American students by providing need-based partial scholarships for attending primary and secondary schools that offer rigorous curricula in preparation for entry to and completion of college.

### Scholarship Guidelines:

- Priority will be given to students living within the Diocese of Louisiana attending Episcopal schools within that diocese.
- A Report of Family Contribution (School Report) from School and Student Service for Financial Aid or a report by ISM FAST and a financial award from the student's school, if the school awards need-based aid, are required to be considered for a Gaudet scholarship.
- Scholarships will be awarded to individual students. Funds will be disbursed to the school on behalf of the student.
- Student awarded a scholarship in one year is eligible for scholarships in future years, provided that the student fulfills the application requirements each year.

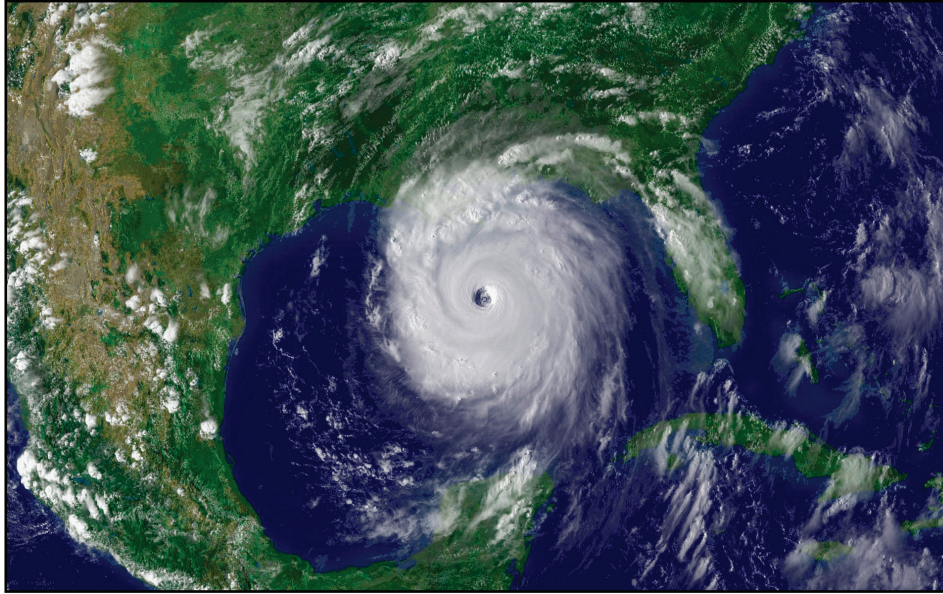
Applications for the 2015-2016 academic year are due to the Gaudet Fund Committee no later than **Thursday, April 30, 2015.**

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, click [here](#).



# This Fragile Earth: Disaster Preparedness In Our Diocese

by Deacon Elaine G. Clements, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator



“This fragile earth, our island home” (BCP, pg 370, Eucharistic Prayer C) is a phrase that all too often resonates with those who live in south Louisiana. Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and oil spills—all have been unwelcome visitors in south Louisiana this past ten years. All, however, have provided us with unique opportunities to respond to the needs of the communities in which we live.

In disasters, like in many things, the best offense is a good defense. Parishes are better equipped to respond to the needs in their communities if they are prepared themselves. Individuals can more easily reach out to others if they know that their own homes are prepared and that their loved ones are safe.

We invite you, as hurricane season approaches, to take advantage of the many resources on preparedness the Church has to offer. Parish preparedness templates are available at [edola.org](http://edola.org) as well as in the U.S. Disaster Program’s resource library at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org).

Deacon Elaine Clements ([eclements@ecsla.org](mailto:eclements@ecsla.org)), Diocesan Disaster Coordinator, is happy to help parishes put together plans and routinely develops a plan for the diocesan offices so that communications and operations are not significantly interrupted after a disaster. Individuals can learn about preparedness through resources such as [ready.gov](http://ready.gov), [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) and [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

After a disaster, Karen Mackey, Communications Director for the Diocese, will constantly update information on the following sites:

- [edola.org](http://edola.org)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

So let us prepare for what we would never wish for but in the preparing, be stronger to face whatever we must.

*It’s the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief and Development this year. As they continue to strive to “heal a hurting world” please consider a gift in honor of the anniversary. Click [here](#) to donate.*

# Community Mission Appeal Rewarded 11 Grants in 2014

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Community Mission Appeal, formerly known as the Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal. The Community Mission Appeal exists in order to support the development and continuing strength of mission work at parishes throughout the Diocese. One hundred percent of your gift is helping our parishes to serve Jesus as he lives and breathes in Louisiana.

The 2014 Community Mission Appeal awarded 11 grants in the amount of \$23,259. Every parish that requested funds this year was provided with some financial support. Grant recipients of the 2014 Community Mission Appeal were announced during the 178th Annual Convention.

**All Souls, New Orleans: \$1,500**

All Souls Episcopal Church's Scholar Success Tutoring Program provides afterschool tutoring to low-income children in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans five days per week during the school year, and a six-week summer school program.

**Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans: \$1,200**

The Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, operating out of Christ Church Cathedral, supports affordable housing and community development in Central City, New Orleans. This grant will contribute to their community engagement activities by supporting Neighborhood Circle Gatherings in order to build community cohesiveness.

**Christ Church, Covington: \$1,350**

Christ Church, Covington's First Love Early Learning Program provides classes and services for between eight and ten low-income children between the ages of two and four in Covington and the surrounding area, and is a partnership with Faith Bible Church. This grant will pay for classroom supplies and snacks.

**Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans: \$1,000**

Holy Comforter is the Episcopal campus ministry for the University of New Orleans and Southern University of New Orleans. This grant will help the congregation to hire an intern who will do outreach to students and organize diverse social service, social, and worship activities, and to purchase supplies for outreach activities.

**St. Andrew's, New Orleans: \$1,000**

St. Andrew's Outreach to Community Commitment Education Center project supports the parish's involvement with a community organization, which serves 57 children. Specifically, it supports participation in a reading program, a community beautification project, and three events. The program involves partnership with Evening Star Baptist Church, and is intended to open other opportunities for social ministry. The parish will provide matching funds for the program, and significant volunteer contributions.

## **St. Anna's, New Orleans: \$3,681**

Anna's Place, a ministry of St. Anna's, New Orleans, provides tutoring, arts education, and other services to approximately 50 children, most of whom are low income residents of the Treme and Seventh Ward neighborhoods of New Orleans, as well as medical screening and services to low-income community residents. This grant will provide support for program t-shirts, field trips and swim lessons, musical instruments, and arts and teaching supplies.

## **St. George's, New Orleans: \$4,299**

St. George's Dragon Café ministry provides breakfast to 90 people each Sunday morning, most of whom are low income, mentally ill, or have substance abuse challenges. This grant will provide funding for approximately two and one half months of support for the program.

## **St. Mark's, Harvey: \$3,729**

St. Mark's Mothers of Preschoolers program will provide help for new mothers and their young children in Harvey. The intention is to influence new mothers and their young children at a critical stage, and have lasting impact on their development. This is a new program based on a best practice model, and will provide services that have not previously been available in the area. This grant will pay for start-up fees and supplies (training materials, etc.), child care, equipment for the nursery/parent room, and sponsorships for 10 women.

## **St. Paul's, New Orleans: \$2,000**

St. Paul's Senior Center provides a variety of social and other services to senior citizens in New Orleans. This grant will support a "senior prom," which will combat the isolation and depression that are so common in this community. It will also help 50 members of the congregation who will serve as volunteers, and the people who are provided with services, to build stronger relationships.

## **Trinity, Baton Rouge: \$2,000**

Trinity Baton Rouge's Hispanic Ministry is a cooperative effort with the Baton Rouge deanery, and will be the only Hispanic ministry in the area based at a mainstream Protestant denomination. It will serve the LSU community and Angola Penitentiary as well as the wider population. This grant will enable Trinity to purchase Spanish-language hymnals, Bibles, and Books of Common Prayer.

## **Trinity, New Orleans: \$1,500**

The Household of Faith and Trinity Church Historic Habitat Build program will build a house in Irish Channel, New Orleans, for the use of a low-income family, and thereby help to address the area's urgent need for housing that is accessible to the working poor. It is a partnership between Trinity New Orleans, Habitat for Humanity, and Household of Faith. This grant will help support construction costs.

## **2015 Community Mission Appeal**

We will kick off CMA 2015 on **Sunday, May 10!** Please consider making a tax-deductible donation so that next year we can do even more to support our diocese's mission work.

*Contribute online [here](#) or mail your check with "Community Mission Appeal" written in the memo line to: Community Mission Appeal at Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana 1623 7th Street New Orleans, LA 70115.*



# Celebrating 25 Years of Prison Ministry: A Look Back & Forward

*by the Rev'd Peter Kang, Chaplain of Angola & St. Stephen's, Innis*



Celebrating 25 Years of Prison Ministry: A look back and forward

“What took you so long?” - This question was asked of Deacon Charles deGravells the first time he visited an Episcopalian at the Louisiana State Penitentiary (aka “Angola”). With the assistance of a Catholic chaplain there, Charlie obtained a list of the inmates at Angola who self-identified as “Episcopalian” and he set out to meet them - all 6 of them. The first was Ricky Smith. Not really knowing what to expect, he introduced himself to Ricky, who sat across from him on the other side of a partitioned visitation booth in shackles. Charlie explained that he was from the Episcopal Church and he had come to see about Ricky’s spiritual needs. Ricky then smiled at him and asked, “What took you so long?”

25 years later, delivering an inspired sermon for the service of my ordination to the priesthood at the 178th Convention of the Diocese, Charlie looked at me from the pulpit of Trinity Church, New Orleans, and asked the same question.

Taken personally, it may seem an unreasonable query. How could we have been expected to arrive any sooner? Yet, considered in terms of what we stand for - as ministers called to represent Christ and his Church in different ways - the question is worth pondering. Is it unreasonable to expect the Episcopal Church to have a ministry presence in the prisons and jails of our state and local communities?

We now have a well-established ministry at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the Church of the Transfiguration. We have a growing ministry presence at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. Some volunteers from our Angola ministry also visit individuals in different penal facilities, such as Rayburn Correctional and the State Police Barracks. Now, through interdenominational prison ministries like Kairos, dedicated members of the Episcopal Church are touching lives of incarcerated persons and their families in more and more locations around the state.

25 years of prison ministry is a laudable achievement, rightly celebrated in the Diocese of Louisiana. Yet, still, we might ask - what took us so long?

Looking back, we must note that the first penitentiary of Louisiana was erected 180 years ago (in Baton Rouge) and the state penitentiary has effectively been in operation in its current location (Angola plantation) for the last 145 years.

Major Samuel Lawrence James - the former Confederate officer responsible for moving most of Louisiana's convicts from the penitentiary facility in Baton Rouge to Angola (his privately owned

plantation) — was a communicant of the Episcopal Church.

Episcopalians elsewhere were highly involved in prison ministry and the work penal reform. For example, William White, the first presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, participated in prison ministry in Philadelphia and served for over 50 years as president for the Philadelphia Society for the Alleviation of Miseries of Public Prisons. Both the 1789 and the 1892 editions of the Book of Common Prayer included a substantive "Form of Prayer for the Visitation of Prisoners" with an additional rite of "Prayers for Persons under sentence of death." The introductory rubric for the Form of Prayer reads: "when notice is given to the Minister, that a Prisoner is confined for some great or capital crime, he shall visit him; and when he cometh into the place where the Prisoner is, he shall say, kneeling down,..."

So it seems, at least in the past and in other dioceses, one might reasonably expect ministers in the Episcopal Church to visit and provide spiritual care for people in prison.

Here in Louisiana, however, Major James apparently cared little for the needs of the convicts he was "leasing" from the state to work the land of his plantation. According to historian Mark T. Carlton, James "initiated and personally maintained for twenty-five years the most cynical, profit-oriented, and brutal prison regime in Louisiana history." His legacy is still apparent in Louisiana's prison system. Criminal justice professor Burk Foster writes, "Major James stands today as the one person who did the most to shape the idea of the prison, the convict and the nature of punishment in the minds of the people of Louisiana." According to Foster's assessment, "In Louisiana and in the other states that established large prison farming operations, 'convict,' 'slave,' 'Negro,' and

*continued on next page*

‘farm work’ became synonymous terms in the public and political mind.”

As a matter of faith, we profess that change - metamorphosis, transfiguration - is possible. When those first few Episcopal inmates sought out by Charlie requested a worship service, they told him - “If you bring a priest, we’ll bring the men.” Charlie came back with Father Ken Dimmick, rector of nearby Grace Church, St. Francisville. Regular liturgies of the Episcopal Church have continued at the prison ever since, with lay and clergy volunteers from churches around the diocese coming to the prison, to share in worship and fellowship with the men there, and to receive and administer the Holy Sacraments. Today, there are over 100 confirmed Episcopalians at Angola and as many more regular communicants attending our monthly services at the prison.

The Rev’d Peggy Scott of St. Paul’s Holy Trinity, New Roads, and St. Mary’s, Morganza, currently serves as the coordinator for prison ministry. She has faithfully fulfilled the duties of this position since her appointment in 2013 - organizing the dozens of volunteers from different churches in the diocese, planning services and special events, communicating with the prison administration, and traveling to the prison almost every week. Her selfless dedication to the ministry is humbling - though she would say it’s fulfilling, for “it is in giving that we receive.”

Regardless of why it took so long for members of this diocese to take an interest in prison ministry, now more than ever is the time to get involved.

Involvement does not necessarily mean volunteering inside prison. There are other important ways to participate, like offering assistance with re-entry, helping men and women navigate the many challenges they face when they leave prison - helping them find a place to stay, clothing to wear, a source of employment and the means to

get there.

Like Bishop William White and other early leaders in the Episcopal Church, it is also time for us to take more of an active interest in reforming penal legislation.

As reported in the Times-Picayune and other media outlets, Louisiana now holds the dubious honor of being “the world’s prison capital.” We incarcerate more people per capita than any other state in America. First in the U.S. means we’re first in the world. “Louisiana’s incarceration rate is nearly triple Iran’s, seven times China’s and 10 times Germany’s.” No other country in the world imprisons so many of its racial and ethnic minorities. We’ve locked up a larger percentage of our black population than South Africa did at the height of apartheid.

Change, metamorphosis, transfiguration - is possible. We can do this work. As Bishop Thompson encouraged us in his address at Convention, we must only be strong and courageous. May God grant us the strength and courage to faithfully respond to his call for another 25 years, to seek and serve Christ in all people, particularly among the “lowest” and the “least” - the outcast, the unclean, the imprisoned.

Would you like more information about prisons, prison ministry and how to get involved? What took you so long? Please visit our website: [peli-transfiguration.org](http://peli-transfiguration.org).

For information about re-entry in the Baton Rouge area, visit [caparcadmin.org](http://caparcadmin.org) and for advocacy: [louisianacure.org](http://louisianacure.org).



# Confirming Faith at Angola

by Jamie Maduro

Reprinted with permission from *The Angolite*, Angola's Prison Magazine

An entourage of more than 20 Episcopal Ministry volunteers from Baton Rouge, New Orleans and St. Francisville, accompanied the Right Reverend Morris K. Thompson, Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana, in celebration of the annual Christmas Mass with Angola's Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in early January. The bishop also administered the sacrament of confirmation to three candidates, including ministry volunteer Olivia Pass from Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville. Assisting Thompson were Deacon Cindy Obier and Rev. Peggy King Scott, the presiding priest of the Church of the Transfiguration.

After the Gospel readings Thompson began his homily by asking, "How many of you know Frances Gaudet?" Very few raised their hands in acknowledgment as the bishop explained that Gaudet is a saint in the Episcopal Church. "She saw a tremendous need in education. She was a petit African-American woman who had the ear of the governor, the ear of the mayor, the ear of the people in charge of prisons. She would do whatever it took to minister to the people who were incarcerated. And she gained the respect of people with great power."

An educator and prison reformer born in 1861 in a log cabin in Holmesville, Mississippi, Gaudet became the face of God in dark places, Thompson said. "And you and I are called to go into those dark places and sit with people and be the face of Christ, the face of love and the face of hope. The courage, the wisdom and the fortitude to keep going back over and over again. She was a wonderful person for us to remember, for I think she gives us hope in what we are all called to live and to be people of love and hope."

Gaudet's penal reform efforts during the early 20th century won her the respect of those in authority, from prison officials to city and state leaders to the Prison Reform Association. She became a delegate to the international convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1900. Working to rehabilitate young African-Americans arrested for misdemeanors and vagrancy, Gaudet also became the first woman to support young detainees in Louisiana, helping to establish a state juvenile court system.

Gaudet practiced what she preached by visiting those in prison, Thompson said. "In spite of all she had gone through in her life, Frances did what God had called her to do. Its just not enough to be glad that Frances is part of the Episcopal church, but to us to do likewise. For us not to be a part of loving our neighbors, for us not to be a part of visiting those who are incarcerated, then we have failed. All of us in this room have a chance to love one another as God has loved us and as Frances has shown us."

During the Mass Thompson invited Olivia Pass and inmates Eric Gonzalez and Robert Hyde to reaffirm their renunciation of evil, renew their baptismal vows and confirm their commitment to Jesus Christ in the sacrament of confirmation. Pass said she chose to be confirmed at Angola instead of her home church in St. Francisville because "I feel like it makes me more of a part of here. And I would like to be able to be as close as I can to many of the people that mean so much to me. And it is just a wonderful

opportunity.”

A former Methodist, Pass became an Episcopalian following an invitation from a friend to attend Mass at Grace Episcopal Church. Prior to confirmation she completed a six-week preparatory class at the church. “But I wanted to be confirmed here in Angola and Father [Roman] Roldan (pastor of Grace Episcopal Church) said that I could do that and Peggy [Scott] agreed,” she told *The Angolite*. “It just seemed like the right church for me.” Pass has been visiting Angola with the ministry volunteers every Tuesday since early 2013.

Adjusting to the prison environment was not easy for Gonzalez when he arrived at Angola six months ago. “Being here was a place that I never thought I would be in,” he said. “Before I got here, I told my wife that I will never be in Angola and look now where I am.” Sentenced to five years for multiple DWI offenses, Gonzalez was sent to Angola to complete a series of rehabilitation courses through the re-entry program with an opportunity for early release. He decided to become an Episcopalian



after Fabian Harper, a church member, invited him to a service in the Main Prison Interfaith Chapel. “I like what the church is doing here because it has helped me reaffirm my faith in the Lord,” he said. “And it is really not emphasized on things you have to do, but just making sure that you believe in the Lord and be truthful and honest with yourself.”

When Hyde transferred to Angola two years ago from Dixon Correctional Institute to become a seminary student at the prison’s Bible College, he began looking for a home church. Interested in freedom of worship with a liturgical and ecumenical system, Hyde became an Episcopalian in 2013. “I did not ask a lot of questions once I knew that this was the place that I needed to be,” he said. “I am excited to start something new with a new group of people. It’s like having a horizon ahead of you and not knowing exactly where it is going to lead.” Hyde has hopes of studying for the ministry to become an ordained deacon.

As he confirmed the candidates, Thompson laid hands upon each person and prayed, “Defend, O Lord, your servant with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom.” Standing together in front of the congregation, the candidates received the traditional Church of the Transfiguration reception before re-

ceiving the Holy Eucharist: "We recognize you as a member of the one holy Catholic and Apostolic church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you. Amen."

Responding to what he said was a call to the priesthood in the Episcopal church, Delaware native Thomas Becker visited Angola for the first time. "Actually, this is my first time in Louisiana," Becker said. "and it's a gift. I did not know what it was like at Angola. I have never been in a prison before, and I did not know what to expect. Everyone is warm and welcoming. For so many people, myself included, church was wake up on Sunday morning, take a shower, put on my church clothes, go worship and then go back to my normal life. The church is here at Angola as much as it is out in St. Francisville, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Kentucky and Delaware."

Becker, a junior at Centre College in Kentucky, decided to spend a month in the Diocese of Louisiana after meeting with Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, his pastor at Trinity Episcopal Church in Kentucky, about his calling. Meaux recommended that he intern in her native state to get a feel for the ministry. "She told me that I need to go down there and see what is like," Becker told The Angolite. "Meet the people, come to Angola, do all these different things, visit schools, visit churches, because this is a very diverse diocese. Especially in the Episcopal church, this one stands out as one where there is so much diversity, culturally, ethnically, socio-economically. There are so many different people, all in the same church."

Thompson encouraged the congregation to look toward the future. "We are going to focus on missions and move out beyond the borders of our churches," he concluded, "paying more attention to our community in which we live in."

# Getting Lost in the Wonder of God

The 4th Annual Men's Retreat with Bishop Thompson will be held April 24th through 26th at the SECC.

This annual men's retreat offers a chance for the men of the diocese to come together, to reach across parish lines, strengthen relationships, make new friends in Christ, and broaden our common vision for advancing our mission.

Led by John Pitzer, the retreat combines a harmonious blend of peaceful, quiet time with inspired fellowship. The expansive and naturally beautiful grounds of the Solomon Center provide a wonderful backdrop for meditation, fishing, and plain old rest!

Walking life's journey with fellow devoted Christians is a privilege and a joy. This empowering experience fills a need and desire that cannot be found elsewhere. The retreat only serves to strengthen those bonds. Prayerfully, this time together will help us go out and "lift at least a part of the burden of our suffering fellow men and women."

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.





# The Church & Addiction

by Lance Armstrong, ARM Commission Convener

Here are some frightening figures:

- Over 20 million people in America age 12 and older have substance abuse problems
- Substance abuse is a factor in 86% of the crimes resulting in incarceration
- Nearly 75% of substance abusers are currently employed
- More than 50% of us have a close family member with a chemical dependency

Addiction is not a problem affecting ‘those people’ who live under the overpass and eat out of the dumpster. It’s a problem that exists today in our communities and our homes. Last December, the Bishop Suffragan of Maryland was involved in a fatal accident driving drunk and texting – it’s a problem that exists in our churches as well.

We need to look at how we respond to the people with addictions in our community, and how we should respond. We need to ask how we can help these people find the grace and recovery to lead resurrected lives.

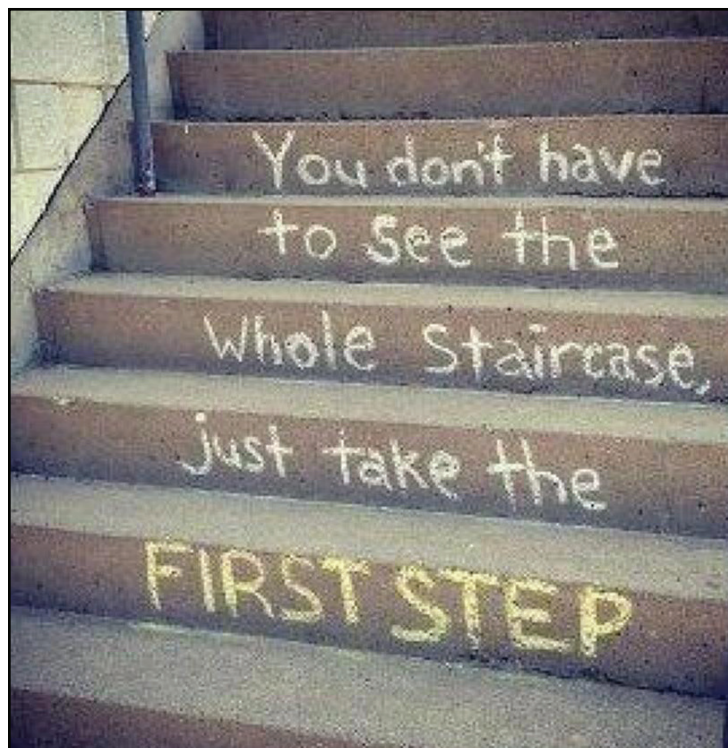
The Episcopal Church has been involved with addiction and recovery since the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous. The rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in New York, Sam Shoemaker, was Bill Wilson’s mentor and spiritual advisor. His guidance helped formulate many of the spiritual principles of the 12-Step programs. Sam Shoemaker was not an alcoholic, but his influence has affected millions of lives since 1935. The Episcopal Church Calendar of Saints commemorates his ministry on January 31st.

The Diocese of Louisiana has had an active Commission for Addictions Recovery Ministry (ARM) since 1984. The Commission serves as a resource in recovery matters for clergy, parishes, and individuals as well managing two annual recovery retreats. Being in recovery is not a requirement for participation on the Commission – merely a desire to help anyone affected by an addiction to experience the fellowship of recovery under God’s grace. Commission membership is not published and the anonymity of members in recovery is respected according to their wishes.

If you think you might have a heart for this ministry, contact the Commission chaplain, Mtr. DeeDee Estes (504.231.5670 or by [email](#)), or the Commission Convener, Lance Armstrong (225.315.9083 or by [email](#)). Volunteering your time, talents, and treasure may save a life.

Addiction does not have to be the end of the road for anyone’s life. Families can be restored and the addict can go on to become a better friend, child, spouse, and parent. God has always answered our faithlessness and infirmities with His faithfulness, healing, and redemption. Our response to the addicts in our lives needs to mirror His.

For more information, please visit our website: [addictionsrecoveryministry.org](http://addictionsrecoveryministry.org).



# Let Us Walk Together: An Update on the Diocese of Tohoku, Japan

by Karen Mackey, Diocesan Communications Coordinator

Four years have passed since our long time prayer partners the Diocese of Tohoku in Japan suffered a devastating earthquake and tsunami. As you may recall, the epicenter of the 8.9 earthquake occurred off the coast of the city of Sendai in the Tohoku region. The disaster caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Asahi Nuclear Power Station causing radioactivity to spread across the region. Over twenty thousand people lost their lives in Japan. Property was destroyed and thousands more had to abandon their homes because of the nuclear contamination.

The Diocese of Louisiana and the Diocese of Tohoku have a prayer partnership dating back for decades. The Diocese of Louisiana received much needed financial support from the Diocese of Tohoku after our own devastating natural disasters of 2005 so when our friends needed help, the people of the Diocese of Louisiana gave generously to aid the people of Japan and support the "Let Us Walk Together!" Project.

The "Let us Walk Together!" Project started in April 2011 to provide much needed supplies

and support in all areas of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Anglican Church of Japan). The guiding statement: "We walk with and pay respect to the people who have been suffering from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. We walk with the people to help them rebuild

their lives and to reconstruct the affected areas. We walk with the people, with the encouragement of Jesus, who also walk with us."

## The Sendai Area Base

The following is reprinted from the "Let Us Walk Together!" Project Two-Year journey Progress Report dated May 2013. It describes the relief and rebuilding efforts happening in the Diocese of Tohoku.

"The Sendai Office, having a clerical function for our projects, and the Sendai area base, having the actual function for our

activities, were established on May 6th, 2011 on the corner of the Sendai Christ Church, the Cathedral, of Tohoku diocese to join the disaster-countermeasure office of the Tohoku Diocese



*continued on next page*





that was established after the disaster. Then, at the end of May 2011, the Sendai Area Base was transferred again to a nearby building.

The Sendai Area Base has been supporting the affected area in the vicinity of Sendai, such as Miyagi Prefecture, Shinchi in Fukushima Prefecture and Murone in Iwate Prefecture or the like. Every morning, we offer prayer at the Sendai Office and visit each area and then return to the office. Immediately after the disaster, we were mainly in charge of material support, such as transporting emergency-aid supplies to the affected area. As time passed and the situation changed, we started providing timely and as-needed support, such as Japanese language-classes for the foreign residents. Such support activities began to support the affected church members and then spread to their neighbors

and to their friends. In the future, such support activities will be set up at the Sendai office as a base for the Disaster Victims Assistance Division (daijini Tohoku) of the Tohoku Diocese. “

## **Sendai Christ Church Cathedral**

The Sendai Christ Church Cathedral of the Tohoku Diocese became the base of emergency relief efforts immediately after the disaster. However, the cathedral was damaged and was designated a “half destroyed building” and would have to be demolished and rebuilt. The “Let Us Walk Together! Project” was moved to the Tohoku Diocesan Office.

On June 28, 2012, a “demolishment-consecration service” was held. On April 1, 2013, the ground was broke for the construction of



the new cathedral. On April 11, 2014, the new Christ Church Cathedral was completed and re-consecrated. It is now the base of operation for continuing relief efforts in the Tohoku Diocese.

## **Bishop John Hiromichi Kato**

The Most Rev. John Hiromichi Kato, Bishop of Tohoku, serves as the Director of the “Let Us Walk Together!” Project. In an address to Southwark Cathedral in London on March 15, 2014, he states, “Our job, as a Church, is not only to put all the efforts we can into recovery and support for the living, but also to continue to remember the dead. We must continue to pray, as we look towards that final hope...”

Soon after the earthquake and tsunami, the NSKK (Anglican Church in Japan) set up a project to provide support for victims called the ‘Let Us Walk Together Project’. It was the first time that all 11 dioceses, from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south, had joined together to support victims of a natural disaster like this. Many, both clergy and lay people, have worked as volunteers. We have deeply valued not only the support activities in a tangible way, but also we have welcomed visitors from other parts of Japan and worldwide who come to meet and pray together with people affected, a kind of ‘pilgrimage’. This is because we believe the most important thing for us and you is to KEEP PRAYING and NOT TO FORGET.”

## **Prayers for Diocese of Tohoku from the Diocese of Louisiana**

Resolution R3 of the 178th Convention was accepted. It called for us to pray for our brother and sisters in Christ in the Diocese of Tohoku as they continue the recovery work and to rejoice with them for the progress made thus far.

The full text follows:

*Resolved, that the 178th Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana, convening at Trinity Church, New Orleans, Feb. 27-28, 2015, sends its warmest regards, heartfelt prayers and steadfast commitment to the ongoing prayer partnership with its brothers and sisters in Christ in the Diocese of Tohoku, Japan.*

*The Louisiana Convention offers prayers for Bishop John Kato, the clergy of the Diocese of Tohoku, members of the Tohoku Mission Committee and all of the dedicated members in the Diocese of Tohoku who continue the work of restoration in Sendai, and the surrounding areas of the diocese, which were so heavily devastated by the earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011 and subsequent nuclear disaster.*

*The Louisiana Convention rejoices that Christ Church Cathedral in Sendai has been rebuilt, serving as a testament of God’s love among his people and offering hope and comfort to all who come to its doors.*

*The Louisiana Convention affirms the “Let Us Work Together” program and prays for the continued wisdom of its leaders as they endeavor to restore the country to wholeness.*

*The Louisiana Convention acknowledges our shared destinies in overcoming hardship and renews its commitment to spread the Good News of God in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.*

**[Photographs of Christ Church Cathedral in Sendai are by Scott Shaw]**



## Paula D'Arcy Listening To Your Life

*Learning to listen and see with the eyes of the heart how the thread of Divine love moves in everything, summoning us to live with a new intention.*

**When:** October 16-18, 2015

**Where:** Solomon Episcopal Conference Center  
Loranger, LA

**Cost:**

- Single Room: \$300; two nights / six meals
- Double Occupancy Room: \$250; two nights / six meals
- Saturday Only: \$80; lunch only

**Registration Opens:** Monday, March 16th, 2015

**Registration Link:** [www.solomoncenter.org/events](http://www.solomoncenter.org/events)

**Questions:** Contact The Rev'd Canon John Kellogg  
[jkellogg@edola.org](mailto:jkellogg@edola.org)  
(504) 895-6634

Hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana  
[www.edola.org](http://www.edola.org)



# 128th Gathering of Our Diocese's Episcopal Church Women

Greetings from the Planning Team for the 128th ECW Annual Gathering!

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Louisiana are pleased to invite you to this year's Annual Gathering at the beautifully rebuilt St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houma, La., May 15-16, 2015.

St. Matthew's has "risen from the ashes" of its former historic building, which burned to the ground in 2010. St. Matthew's now enjoys its "renaissance" in a glorious new church structure and adjoining state-of-the-art school. The majestic row of oak trees on the grounds of St. Matthew's were spared the fire's flames and stand as a grace-filled testament to their lasting presence on downtown Barrow Street.

We are grateful to have a talented roster of speakers for the program on both Friday and Saturday of the Annual Gathering. On Friday, the Rev'd Craig Dalferes, rector of St. Matthew's, will be our primary speaker and will lead us on a guided tour of the church's new facilities. He also will officiate at our service of Evening Prayer. A gala feast will be held on the church grounds sponsored by the ECW of St. Matthew's and the churches of the Southwest Deanery. Additionally, the Friday program will feature the Episcopal Church's work in the Navajoland Area Mission in the U.S. southwest and the work of Kairos Torch Prison Ministry for the youth in Louisiana.

On Saturday, our keynote speaker will be the Rev'd Sharon Alexander, newly installed rector of Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, and chair of the Louisiana deputation to General Convention. Her address will take place during the Annual Gathering's morning plenary. We are blessed also to have Bishop Morris

*Vive La Renaissance*

*Friday and Saturday  
May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>*

*St. Matthew's,  
Houma*

Thompson who will bring us news about our diocese and join us to celebrate the Festival Eucharist complete with parish banners. The Honored Woman Program and small group workshops will round out Saturday's program.

Overnight guests may take advantage of special event rates at the Courtyard Marriott in Houma. The hotel is located just off of Barrow Street a short distance south of St. Matthew's Church.

The Annual Gathering offers you a time of fellowship, learning and sharing among your sisters in Christ –good food, worship, fun, and friendship. Join us for a wonderful day!



# Renewing our Dedication to the Life & Legacy of Blessed Frances Gaudet

Resolution R7 of the 178th Convention called upon Diocesan members to commend the life and work of Blessed Frances Gaudet, a turn-of-the-century prison reformer and educator. Churches around the diocese were also called to celebrate her legacy in a yearly service on or near her feast day which is December 30th. This annual service has occurred since 2008 at St. Luke's, New Orleans.

Mrs. Gaudet earned a national reputation as a prison reformer and missionary. She was a true leader who united forces from diverse segments of society to affect social change. This determined woman was not only a primary force in the establishment of better conditions for the city's indigent mentally ill, she was also a driving force behind the establishment of the first juvenile court in New Orleans. Upon her death she left a trust to the Diocese of Louisiana to be used for programs benefiting underserved children and families. In 2009, Frances Joseph Gaudet was added to the Episcopal Church's Holy Women, Holy Men and is the only person from Louisiana to achieve this honor.

In 2008, Raymond Calvert, a notable iconographer whose work can be found at St. Augustine's in Metairie, Chapel of the Holy Spirit in New Orleans, Chapel of the Holy Comforter in New Orleans, and Christ Church Cathedral, wrote an icon of Frances Joseph Gaudet. This icon is located at St. Luke's in New Orleans. Smaller printed copies of the icon can be found at most churches around the diocese.

On January 25th St. Luke's dedicated a space to be used as a chapel in honor of the Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet. They will continue the tradition of honoring Mrs. Gaudet at a service on December 27th.

You can learn more about the work of Blessed Frances Gaudet through her own words. Her autobiography, *He Leadeth Me*, published in 1913, can be found [here](#).



***From left to right are The Rev'd Ed Thompson; Raymond Calvert, writer of the Frances Joseph Gaudet icon; and Bishop Thompson.***

*[photo by Gillian Knowles]*

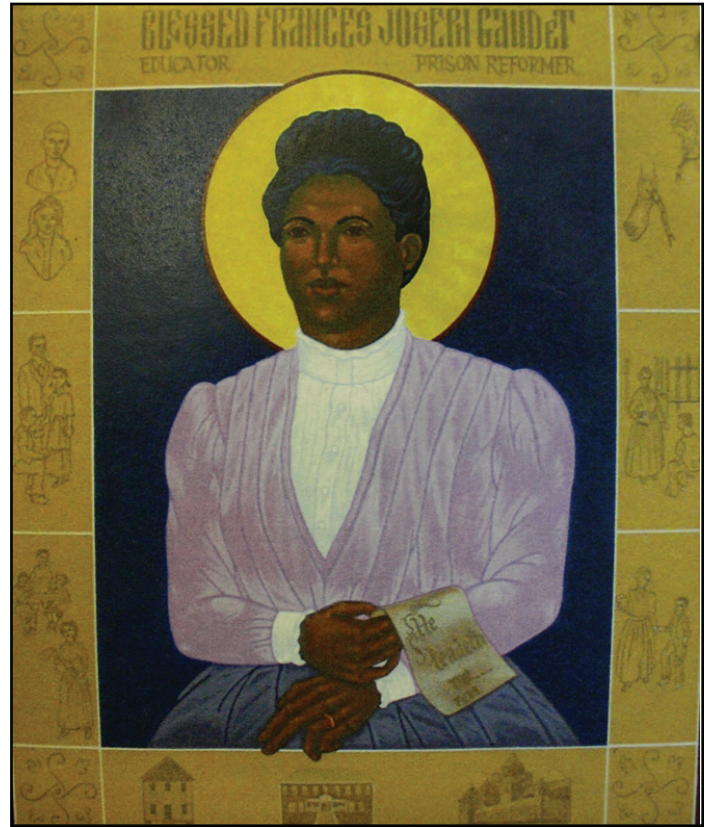
# Reflecting on the Icon

by Raymond Calvert, Iconographer

Approach the icon with inner silence and prayer. After prayer, look at the icon as what it might mean, especially to you. Notice the lines and color, the eyes, the hands, and hair. In her hands the Blessed has a scroll with writing. How does this apply to her, to me?

She sits in quiet contemplation, her eyes fixed on the Divine. Her invitation to us is to join her in prayer and become transformed by Christ. Divine light is emanating from within. There is order and peace. Her mouth is closed and her ears listening. A person standing in front of her icon is no longer an onlooker but becomes a participant.

The surrounding images tell the story of her role as an educator and prison reformer. The buildings on the bottom point to the places where she taught and ministered. *As long as you did it to one of the least, you did it to me.*



painting courtesy of Paul Signac

## BLESSING OF THE FLEET

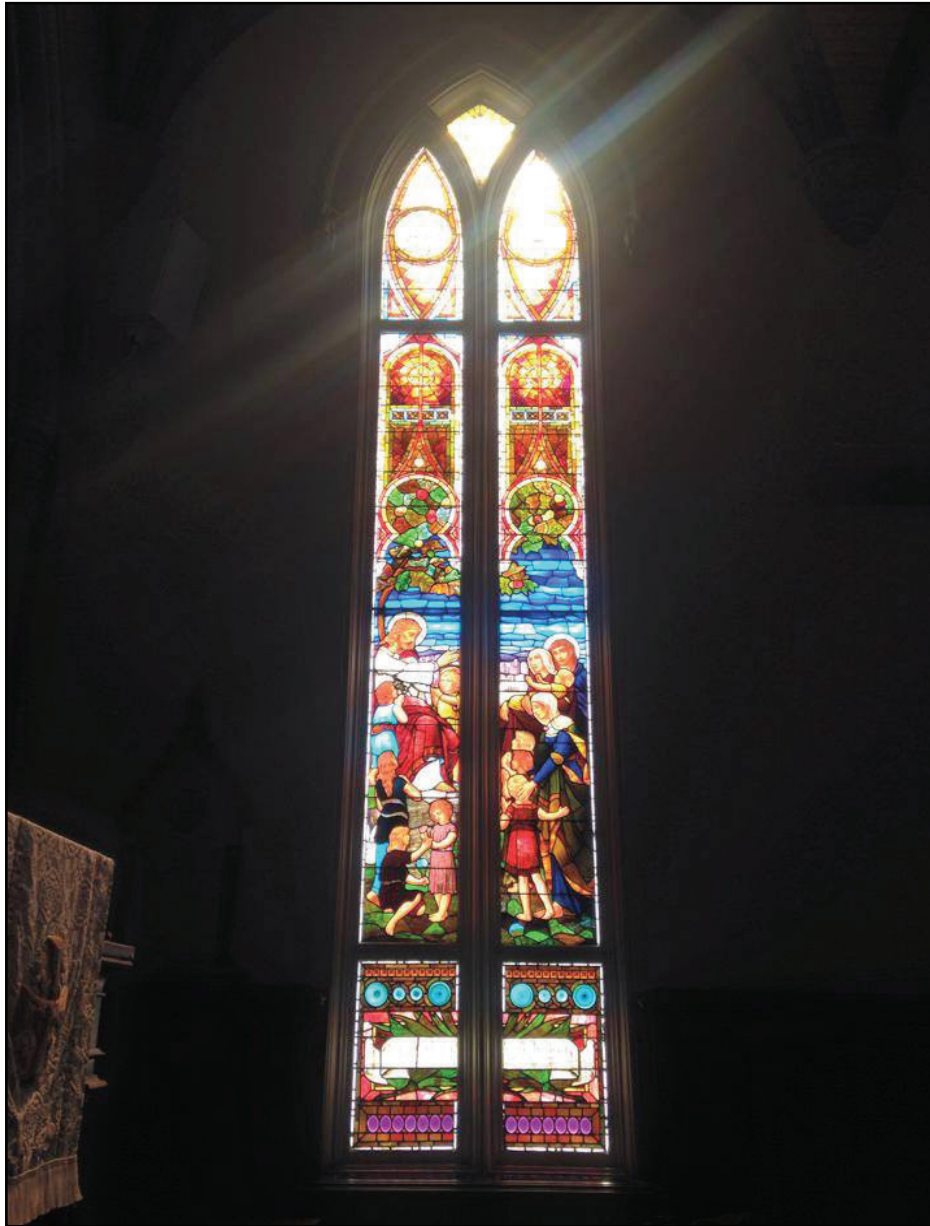
**April 26th at  
St. Andrew's in  
Bayou Dularge**

**Holy Eucharist at 10:30  
Blessing to Follow**



# LAST LOOK

---



**Glorious light shines from a stained glass window at Trinity, New Orleans.**

[photo by Caroline Carson]