

# CHURCHWORK

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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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Jesus said,

*FEED MY SHEEP.*

FRONT COVER: A volunteer for the St. James feeding ministry serves during the church's Fifth Sunday meal.

[photo courtesy of St. James]

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DIOCESE of LOUISIANA

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

In the first chapter of the Book of Joshua, Moses has died and God taps Joshua to be the new leader of the people of Israel. In the transition God assures Joshua that just like Moses, God will be with him. In the commissioning God uses the phrase, “only be strong and courageous”. These words are spoken three times by God in the first chapter and once more by the people Joshua is leading. Only be strong and courageous are powerful words of blessing and charge.

As I look around the Diocese, these words are being demonstrated in many ways. Just recently the mission of St. Andrew’s, Bayou Dularge celebrated its centennial anniversary. For one hundred years the good people of Bayou Dularge have gathered at St. Andrew’s to offer to God their lives in worship, grief, and celebration. Through mud, flood waters and storms, they persevere because their lives together with God matter and they are grateful.

St. Margaret’s in Baton Rouge has also faced recent challenges. Not so long ago St. Margaret’s went through a difficult time. It could be said they were wandering in the wilderness, searching for direction and purpose. In the last few years they have held high the calling of God to become the people God has called them to be. With gentleness, frank conversations and new vision they have taken steps in new directions. During my last visitation they showed me the drawing for a new nave and other projects. They are a renewed congregation.

On the North Shore sits St. Michael’s Epis-



copal Church and School. Several years ago this community went through a very difficult period. The bitterness within the parish was so pronounced that they lost members, their purpose, and moved from parish status to mission. Today St. Michael’s has a spirit of anticipation and joy. Missional work with prisons and the homeless are front and center of reaching beyond their property. St. Michael’s is learning what it means to give in the fulness of its being. They are ready to move back to parish status.

On a diocesan level the Executive Board and Standing Committee are having conversations surrounding the property on Canal Street, formally known as Grace Church. With new vision the decision was made to

*continued on next page*

keep the property in the family and move our offices from Seventh Street to Canal. This will provide space for missional work, parking, and future growth. Reestablishing our Episcopal presence in the middle of New Orleans will send a message to the whole community, the Episcopal Church is alive and well, and all are welcome.

The Mission Statement of our diocese reads:  
*The Diocese of Louisiana is, by grace, a vital community, reborn in the wake of tragedy, forging a new and prophetic environment of healing, trust and empowerment as servants of Jesus Christ.*

Above are just a few examples of how our community is living our mission. We are being reborn in a new and exciting way to preach God's loving redemption. We are reaching out to the disenfranchised with words of hope. It is our desire to heal wounds in such a way that trust is regained and our prophetic voice is heard. We can do this work. It is our calling and as God reminded Joshua, we only must be strong and courageous.

Brave journey,



## BISHOP'S JOURNAL: APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> TO JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>

**April 29:** Bishop Matthew Gunter picks me up at the hotel in Wisconsin and we have breakfast and then drive around the Diocese of Fond du Lac. It is great to see Bishop Gunter in his new surroundings and to hear the excitement from his parishioners of his arrival. Later that evening I meet Matt's wife Leslie and the three of us share a wonderful meal together.

**April 30:** I'm up very early to catch a flight back to New Orleans. Later in the day I ordained Duane Nettles to the order of Deacon. The service was well attended.

**May 1:** The day begins with a meeting with Canon Manning and Donna Hurley regarding St. Mark's, Harvey. In spite of not having a full time rector in quite some time, St. Mark's is doing quite well. I'm impressed with their lay leadership. Later in the day I have a meeting with someone who would like to move into the Episcopal Church from another tradition. The rest of the day is filled with phone calls and a couple of conference calls. I'm trying to catch up from my travels.

**May 2:** I spend most of the day working on my sermon and paper work.

**May 3:** I travel to Grace, Hammond to speak with the ECW and introduce Canon Manning. I also preside over the Festival Eucharist. After the service is over I drive to Baton Rouge for Sunday's visit.

**May 4:** My visit with St. Luke's in Baton Rouge is wonderful. I confirm and receive several youth and adults. The church is full. It is clear that Fr. Bryan Owen is leading this congregation in many fruitful ways. Their spirit is high and joyful. That afternoon I commit the unpardonable — I'm late for a service. I was fifteen minutes late for a confirmation service at St. James'. In my thirty-three years of ordained ministry I have never been late for a service. This was embarrassing. I pray it was my first and last time to make that mistake. Even though I was late, Fr. Holland invited me to dinner. The day ended in a gracious way and I drove back to New Orleans.

**May 5:** I participate in the Mayor's Inauguration Interfaith Service. Following the service, I take the rest of the day to relax.

**May 6:** I take the train to Birmingham for a Province IV meeting. The train ride is absolutely refreshing. When I arrive at my meeting I am ready to work. Canon Manning is also present. She began her work on the previous day.

**May 7:** Our meeting continues and then Canon Manning and I drive back to New Orleans.

**May 8:** The Episcopal Health Ministries Conference is being held in New Orleans and I am honored to welcome them. This is followed by a meeting with the Sr. Warden of Trinity, Baton Rouge, the head of their search committee and Canon Manning. Later, I have lunch with the Very Rev'd Henry Hudson, Mark Holland and Canon Manning to kick around some ideas. Later that afternoon I meet with Dr. Bill Soileau and Dr. Annette Figueroa regarding SECC. I wrap up the day with meetings with staff, trying to catch up on what's been happening in my absence.

**May 9:** I spend some time alone before I go the Conference Center for the Deacons' retreat. I

always look forward to spending time with our clergy.

**May 10:** I'm still at the Conference Center and the day begins with an Executive Board meeting. Following, I return to the Deacons' retreat where I preach and celebrate the closing Eucharist. I drive back to New Orleans for the night.

**May 11:** My visitation is at Trinity, New Orleans. I meet with the confirmation class before the service and have a wonderful discussion. This is followed by the service where I confirm and receive over 45 people. What a wonderful way to spend Mother's Day. Afterwards Fr. Hudson treated Rebecca and me to lunch at Arnaud's in the Quarter.

**May 12:** I have one appointment early in the day and then I take the rest of the day off.

**May 13:** I have an early meeting with Duane Nettles and Canon Manning regarding Living with Purpose and then we go straight into our staff meeting. Fr. Richard Easterling comes in for his annual consultation. Richard is doing good work at St. George's down the street. In the afternoon I meet with Fr. Jim Morrison for his annual consultation. Jim is an associate at Trinity New Orleans. He has a deep desire to tell the story of Christ and it shows on his face. The day ends with a meeting to discuss the possibility of reforming a chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. I drive to Baton Rouge for the evening.

**May 14:** I lead the closing chapel at St. Luke's School, Baton Rouge. This is always a treat for me to participate with the students. Later that morning I have a consultation with Mtr. Mary Ann Garrett, an associate at St. James. This is followed by another consultation with Mtr. Maggie Dennis, priest-in-charge at St. Michael's, Baton Rouge. In the afternoon I meet with Deacon Elizabeth Coleman Becker for her annual consultation. I follow

# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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this meeting with Fr. Patrick Edwards, rector of St. Margaret. The day closes with a drive to Denham Springs to meet with St. Francis' vestry regarding a search for a new priest-in-charge. Fr. Dan will retire soon. Following this meeting I drive back to New Orleans.

**May 15:** I'm up early to drive to Christ School, Covington for their Baccalaureate. This is their second graduating class of twelfth graders and they are inspirational. After a brief reception I drive to Baton Rouge for some meetings and Episcopal's Baccalaureate service in the evening. I arrive back in New Orleans late that evening.

**May 16:** The morning is spent working on sermons and some phone calls. Late in the afternoon I drive back to Baton Rouge for Episcopal's graduation, then back to New Orleans.

**May 17:** No appointments.

**May 18:** Rebecca and I attend services at St. Paul's, New Orleans where I preach, baptize, confirm and receive. It is a joyous day with a full church. There is a lovely reception following the service.

**May 19:** I have a brief orientation meeting with the Disciplinary Board followed by a pastoral meeting with several priests. Later in the day a search committee interviews me for one of my former colleagues who is in a search process.

**May 20:** The day begins with our weekly staff meeting followed by several annual clergy consultations that take me to five o'clock. Agatha and I find a few minutes to do some calendaring.

**May 21:** We begin the day meeting with our architects to make sure we are on the same page of needs for the new Diocesan office building. Following this two hour meeting I have yearly consultations with three priests and a quick conversa-

tion with Canon Manning regarding construction. At four that afternoon Canon Manning and I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with the search committee of Trinity Church to give them names of prospective rectors. These meetings are always interesting. We leave around 7:30 to drive back to New Orleans.

**May 22-25:** Rebecca and I are in Dallas where I will officiate at a wedding for a dear friend we have known for many years. I have time to visit the JFK Memorial in Dallas. I am struck how moving the experience is even though the event was so long ago.

**May 26:** The office is closed for Memorial Day.

**May 27:** I fly out early to Fresno, CA to meet with the Rt. Rev'd David Rice regarding Peer Coaching. It is my first visit to Fresno and I am intrigued by the terrain. It is very dry and brown. David's wife Tracy is from New Orleans and it's nice to make that connection.

**May 28:** David and I continue to meet. I learn much about the ministries in San Joaquin before I board a plane back to New Orleans where the grass is green. I land around 10 pm.

**May 29:** I drive to Jackson for family business.

**June 1:** I visit St. James for their two morning services. It is a wonderful day full of baptisms and confirmations. I travel back to New Orleans for Mother Susan Gaumer's final service. The church is full of her supporters from within the parish and around the community. Afterwards there is a very nice reception.

**June 2:** Office clean up and phone calls.

**June 3:** I fly to Kanuga for the Province IV Bishop's meeting to be followed by the Provincial gathering of ECW and General Convention Deputies. Our

diocese did not fare as well with attendance. We must work on this next year.

**June 6:** I fly back to New Orleans.

**June 7:** The executive board meets at the Canal Street property to get a better understanding of what it will look like to move the Diocesan Offices to that location. In the afternoon there is a Diversity Gathering at St. Luke's New Orleans. It is well attended and the music and food is outstanding. What a great idea the Racial Reconciliation Commission had by promoting this event.

**June 8:** My visitation takes me to Christ Church, Covington. It is a great day of preaching, celebrating, confirming, baptizing and reaffirming. It is Pentecost! In the afternoon I meet with some parishioners from St. John's, Kenner to discuss their future.

**June 9:** I take my day off.

**June 10:** The day begins with our staff meeting followed by Fr. Bill Terry's annual visitation. I have a quick meeting with Canon Manning and then celebrate mass at the cathedral followed by lunch with the staff. The afternoon begins with calendaring with Agatha, Joy and Canon Manning. Deacon Quin Bates arrives for his annual consultation. Deacon Bates is doing a fine job helping with St. Andrew's, Bayou LaLarge. This meeting is followed by Fr. Devall's annual visit and then a conference call. We close the office and I drive to Baton Rouge for the night.

**June 11:** The day begins with a meeting with Fr. Terrence Johnston, the new curate at Grace, St. Francisville. This is followed by a meeting with Mtr. Peggy Scott regarding prison ministry and her annual consultation. I meet with a postulant and her spouse regarding the need for a break. In the afternoon I meet with Deacon Camille Wood and Fr. Ralph Howe for their annual consultations. The

day ends with a meeting with Fr. Ernie Saik who needs my signature for his retirement. It is late, but I drive back to New Orleans anyway.

**June 12:** I finally make it to the barber to get my haircut. Agatha was giving me that look that said I needed to trim my ponytail! The morning ends with a meeting with Debbie Hudson regarding stewardship. I am looking to her to leadership in helping us develop a strategy for teaching stewardship. What does it mean to live generously? Later I have lunch with Canon Manning.

**June 13:** I work on my sermon and some paper work.

**June 15:** My visitation takes me to St. Timothy's, Laplace. The parishioners are so hospitable and engaging. Following the service they have a wonderful meal with some of the fruits of their garden on the table. They presented Rebecca and me with a nice basket of some of their vegetables.

**June 16-July 4:**

I am on vacation with the exception of one day. Rebecca and I walk in the Gay Pride Parade in New Orleans. It was a very moving event. Along side us were several clergy from the New Orleans area. As we walked, I kept hearing the phrase in my mind, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You."

**July 5:** In the evening, I'm talking with Rebecca about a fever I've had for the past five days when my throat begins to close. We quickly make our way to Touro Hospital where I am admitted to ICU. Two nights later I am released and am on the mend. All is well that ends well.

**July 7:** Dismissed from the hospital. Doctor appointments.

**July 8:** Canon Manning is on vacation and Agatha has cancelled my appointments due to being in the hospital. With no appointments I begin

# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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to work on projects that I have put on the back burner.

**July 9:** Work half a day and go home to rest.

**July 10:** More office catch up work.

**July 11:** It is the anniversary of my going into Marine bootcamp at Paris Island. Why did I choose the summer? Work on sermon from home.

**July 12:** The morning begins with a meeting with the Standing Committee. This is followed by the Executive Board meeting and that one is followed by the building committee meeting. Much is taking place around the Diocese. One of our hard decisions of the Executive Committee involves shuttering the Living with Purpose program. Only three fellows had been recruited and this low number simply cannot support the program. This evening Rebecca and I have a lovely dinner with Deborah and Patrick Edwards. Patrick is the priest-in-charge at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge where my visitation will take place the following day.

**July 13:** We have a grand time at St. Margaret's. Following the service in which I preach and celebrate, the Sr. Warden shows us the plans to expand the building for a new nave. The men of the church have prepared the most delicious barbeque. On the way back to New Orleans Rebecca shows me the place where I could buy her birthday present if I'm interested. Of course I am!

**July 14:** Day off.

**July 15:** I arrive at the office early so Agatha and I can touch base before the rest of the staff arrives for our weekly staff meeting at 9. Staff meeting is the first time we have all been together due to travel and vacation. It is good to see all of us in the same room. I wish the Diocese could see the joyful way the staff goes about their work. I

always look forward to being around these good people. The morning schedule has to be rearranged due to miscommunications. I had to cancel one meeting so I could make the 11 am worship service at Lambeth House. I visit Lambeth House once a year to celebrate, preach and have lunch with the residents. The residents are so appreciative and hospitable. The visit ends with lunch on the top floor overlooking the Mississippi River. As the visit ends we can see the dark clouds rolling in. It is an amazing sight to see but I also realize I need to get in my car before the deluge arrives. In the afternoon I have a meeting with Harriet Murrell regarding archives. Harriet is persistent and rightfully so in making sure not only the Diocese archives are in good shape but all our churches are aware of the need to take care of important documents. I get home in time for Rebecca and me to take a long vigorous walk.

**July 16:** In the office early for some calendaring with Agatha. My meetings begin quickly with a parishioner who is off to seminary. This is followed by a quarterly meeting with our Trustees. They are responsible for making sure our endowments are securely invested for future growth and available for ministry. Canon Manning and I have a working lunch in my office to go over a list of matters. There are some phone calls to be made before my meeting with Mr. Romi Gonzalez, a good friend of Bishop Leo Frade. I want to know more about Cuba and how might this Diocese connect with Cuba. My last meeting is with Lee Crean to discuss matters regarding his Commission. Before the lights are out, Chris Speed, Diocesan Administrator and I go over matters relating to the budget. Home for a walk with Rebecca. Busy but productive day.

**July 17:** I'm up early and spend a bit more time in quiet reflection. I am always moved by music. This morning while writing in my journal, musical notes become reflection which become prayer.

# Payday Lending Reform:

## *Paying the Piper — Again and Again*



*by Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus*

As part of our vows to serve the poor and vulnerable, a number of deacons in the Diocese of Louisiana have been working to address the problem of payday lending. While short-term loans

are a necessity for the working poor, who are often living paycheck to paycheck and for whom an unexpected car repair can mean the loss of transportation and perhaps the loss of a job or an unexpected medical expense can mean choosing between health and housing, payday loans can be a trap from which they cannot easily escape.

While the popular imagination often sees recipients of these loans as the idle and shiftless, in fact, only those receiving regular paychecks or Social Security benefits are eligible. The unemployed need not apply. The loans are typically made for a short period of time – until the next paycheck. Then, the amount due is deducted from the recipients' pay, along with fees.

This might not be a bad arrangement were it not for two things: First, the recipient is already likely to be barely eking by and second, the interest and fees are far in excess of what you or I would pay on a bank or credit union loan or credit card, so the borrower typically takes out another loan to pay the first. The Louisiana legislature passed a law in 2009 exempting payday lenders from the usury laws that apply to other lending institutions. While the usury laws make it a felony to charge more than 45% inter-

est, the average APR for payday loans is 250% and can reach up to 700%. The average payday lender takes out 9 payday loans a year, resulting in a cascading tide of debt.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia restrict high rate payday loans in one way or another with seven of them either prohibiting or not authorizing them. In 2007, realizing that this was an acute problem for military families and presented a threat to U.S. security, Congress capped interest rates at 36% per annum for military families. Washington State has capped the number of loans a single borrower can take out in a year. The Consumer Financial Product Board has also been studying how best to address the problem.



In this last legislative session, a number of Episcopalians, both ordained and lay (including Bishop Thompson), along with the citizen group Together Louisiana, the AARP, and Catholic Charities spoke or signed cards and letters in support of payday lending reform. Bills in the Senate (Nevers, Ad-

ley, Broome) and House (James) sought to limit the amount of interest charged per annum to 36% and to limit the number of payday loans one individual could take out per year. Though hundreds showed up or supported the effort, the payday industry, aided by its 55 paid lobbyists, prevailed over grassroots citizen interest.

Realizing that legislation was not forthcoming to regulate the industry as banks and credit unions are regulated, or to protect consumers, five Louisiana deacons (Deacons Elizabeth Coleman Becker of Baton Rouge, Elaine Clements of New Orleans, Suzanne Johnston of St. Francisville, Priscilla Maumus of Metairie, and Camille Wood of Zachary) formed a task force to look at how we, as Christians, might address the problem. Deacons Charmaine Kathmann of Kenner and Kathy Comer of Metairie have also signed on to help. We are working with the Ven. Bette Kaufmann of the Diocese of Western Louisiana and continue to work with Together Louisiana and other community partners.

Of course, elementary to the solution is the payment of a living wage which keeps up with inflation. In the meantime, we will be working with community partners to identify and encourage the development of alternative products, small loans for longer periods of time at significantly reduced interest.

We further plan to work with community partners and congregations to identify financial literacy programs and help them implement the appropriate ones in their congregations.

Finally, we will continue to make public the effects of predatory lending and urge its reform, to the public and to our legislators. We will also publicize alternative sources of lending and give information on how congregants and the public can get access to these in our particular areas. What can you, as a Christian and an Episcopalian,

do to aid this reform and help relieve the suffering of the working poor? First, pray. Daily. For the poor and those oppressed by circumstance and casualty that they may find relief from their suffering. Pray also for those who lead and those who influence public opinion that they may see the needs of the poor and respond to them.

Second, assess your own capability. We often underestimate ourselves. Do you know a legislator or public official you can talk to about meaningful reform? Do you know a banker, a credit union official, someone in the financial industry who may have knowledge of the issue and suggest or help develop products to address the need for short term financial help. Are you a teacher? You can talk to your students about financial literacy – how to avoid taking out loans when it is possible and when possible, what strategies they might use. Are you a Christian Formation teacher? Devise exercises that illustrate how far a household of four can stretch two minimum wage salaries. Will they cover the rent in your area for a basic two-bedroom apartment? Will they cover the groceries? The child care? The gas or transportation expenses? The Family Promise program Just Neighbors ([www.familypromise.org/just-neighbors](http://www.familypromise.org/just-neighbors)) provides structured exercises which are very helpful in helping parishioners understand the plight of the working poor. Are there people in your congregation, your neighborhood who are liable to fall prey to the predatory loan trap? Ask the Spirit to lead you to where you can be most effective.

We will keep you updated on our work. In the meantime, if you have specialized knowledge or skills and would like to participate in the reform effort, write me at [deacon@cccnola.org](mailto:deacon@cccnola.org) and I will pass your suggestions and skills on to the task force.

# Verifying Identity of Bishop Polk



*Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist*

*The Historic New Orleans Collection has a well deserved reputation as a stellar institution for historical research in this city. I always read their quarterly newsletter thoroughly and was amazed to turn the page recently and glimpse a photograph of a bishop that resembled Leonidas Polk. My, was I entranced as I followed Rebecca Smith's journey to verify that the portrait print that they had been given was truly that of the first Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana and to pin point as closely as possible*

*the date the photo was taken. Ms. Smith is the curatorial cataloger for the Collection and her responsibility is to verify accuracy on all their acquisitions.*

*I was delighted that the marketing director gave permission for us to reprint the article so that Churchwork readers could enjoy the image of Bishop Polk as a young man (about 35 years old) and appreciate the steps that were followed to verify the subject's identity. Ms. Smith's article follows.*

**by Rebecca Smith, Curatorial Cataloger at the Historic New Orleans Collection**

My responsibilities as curatorial cataloger at The Collection begin with the technical aspects of art cataloging, mainly making sure the data elements required by standard museum practice are included and accurate in each record. Often this is a straightforward process of double-checking information provided by the curator, donor, or another source prior to accession, but sometimes a newly acquired piece comes with little information. In these cases I use a variety of sources to research the item's history and create a detailed, accurate catalog record that staff members across departments—as well as the general public, via our online catalog—can access.

Recently I researched a portrait print of Confederate army general Leonidas Polk, acquired by donation in April 2013. I was not familiar with Polk, so my first step was to gather biographical information from two reference books in our collection, *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biogra-*



phy, frequently used among THNOC catalogers, and *Stories Behind New Orleans Street Names*. I learned that Polk (April 10, 1806–June 14, 1864), though known mostly for his military role in the Civil War, also served as Episcopal bishop of Louisiana and rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Leonidas Street, in Carrollton, is named for him.

Next I searched our catalog for other Polk-related items in our collection. I found several biographies, a thesis, and a few other portrait prints, none of which were duplicates of the portrait in question. According to the Polk biographies, he was elected bishop in 1841 and joined the Confederate army as a major general in July 1861. The caption on the portrait indicates that he was bishop at the time of publication but does not identify him as a general, so I tentatively narrowed the date of publication to between 1841 and 1861.

In addition to the caption, the print bears a list of names and accompanying roles: a publisher, B. M. Norman; a daguerreotypist, James Maguire; and the surname Sartain, with no associated role. Searching our catalog's artist authority records—key biographical information drawn from and fed into databases across institutions, such as the Library of Congress and Getty Research Institute—I found New Orleans-based publisher Benjamin Moore Norman (1809–1860). His life dates fit the tentative window I established for the print, and the caption indicates that the piece was published in New Orleans, so I felt confident in confirming Norman as the publisher.

Next I checked our catalog for daguerreotypes by James Maguire. Not finding any, I turned to another of our in-house resources, an illustrated dictionary of New Orleans photographers' imprints and their dates active in the city. A listing for Maguire indicated that he maintained a studio in New Orleans on and off from 1842 until his death,

in 1851. (The photographers' imprints book is available to researchers in the Williams Research Center reading room.) Because, in the portrait, Polk is depicted wearing ecclesiastical robes, I deduced that Maguire's original daguerreotype and the print were made to commemorate Polk's election as bishop of Louisiana.

Suspecting that the final artist, attributed only as Sartain, was an engraver, I turned to Mantle Fielding's *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers*. It turned up three engravers within the Sartain family: John (1808–1897) and sons Samuel (1830–1906) and William (1843–1924). The life dates of these artists, combined with the probable date of the portrait's publication (some time shortly after Polk's appointment to bishop in 1841), led me to strongly suspect that John Sartain was responsible for the work, though I didn't feel there was enough information to conclusively attribute it to him. I created an authority record for the Sartain family and entered it into the catalog.

Mantle Fielding's *Dictionary* mentioned the Sartains' frequent use of the printmaking technique called mezzotint, in which a steel or copper plate is "rocked" with many thousands of tiny needle dots, which can hold ink, and then burnished. The donation paperwork had identified the print as a lithograph, so to resolve the discrepancy I looked at the print under a small illuminated microscope. Comparing it against similarly magnified examples in the book *How to Identify Prints* and also asking printmaker and THNOC preparator Joseph Shores to take a look, I determined that it is indeed a mezzotint.

I'm content with the catalog record I created for the Polk portrait, but I understand that cataloging is an ongoing process; when new information arrives, we never hesitate to return to a record with corrections and additions. We welcome in-

put from friends of The Collection, so if you have information to contribute to the catalog record, please contact me at [wrc@hnoc.org](mailto:wrc@hnoc.org).

[2013.0115.3] Rt. Revd. Leonidas Polk D.D.; ca. 1842; mezzotint; by Benjamin Moore Norman, publisher, James Maguire, photographer, and the Sartain family, engravers; The Historic New Orleans Collection, gift of Anne Butler, 2013.0115.3

*Reprinted with permission of the Historic New Orleans Collection; from the Spring 2014 issue of the Historic New Orleans Collection Quarterly. To view the entire issue, please [click here](#).*

## Have You Helped Our Community?

This year, all gifts from the Community Mission Appeal will be returned to our parishes in the form of missional grants. In 2015, we will focus on those ministries where:

- The lives of the people in the community are directly affected.
- Parishioners are willing to do the hands-on work.
- There is a personal connection to the poor, the broken, and the disadvantaged.
- The work is relieving suffering and rebuilding hope.

Please help us show the love of Christ to our neighbors, a love that sets us free from all that is hopeless and leads us to all that is good and holy.

**[Click here](#)**

for more information or to make a donation.



# Province IV's Synod

*by the Rev'd Sharon Alexander, St. Michael's, Mandeville and Deputy to General Convention*

Bishop Thompson and I attended Province IV's Synod at Kanuga Conference Center in early June. Representatives from all 20 Province IV dioceses attended, including a full deputation from the congregations from South Carolina who are remaining in the Episcopal Church after a division in the Diocese of South Carolina a few years ago. This deputation was warmly welcomed.

The event began with a Eucharist, which was celebrated by the Rt. Rev'd Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina and the first female Bishop elected in Province IV. A number of presentations were made in preparation for General Convention, with much attention being focused on the work of the Task Force on Reimagining the Episcopal Church (TREC), which is studying a potential restructure of the Episcopal Church.

One of the members of TREC is Ms. Sarah Miller of the Diocese of Alabama, who served as a Living with Purpose Fellow at All Souls in New Orleans last summer. I had the opportunity to talk with her and other members of TREC at Kanuga. They encouraged all Episcopalians to review TREC's Study Papers and other information on TREC's website ([reimaginetec.org](http://reimaginetec.org)) and to send them thoughts and ideas about the potential restructure at [reimaginetec@gmail.com](mailto:reimaginetec@gmail.com). TREC has produced three Study Papers on the topics of (a) Vision and Identity, (b) Networks and (c) Gover-

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Deputies greet each other in one of many icebreakers designed to get people talking to their neighbors from other dioceses.

[photo courtesy of provinceiv.org]

nance and Administration. The primary concerns being studied are the large size of both General Convention and the organizational structure of and function of the Executive Council, and how to determine which things are better done at the churchwide level and what is best done at the diocesan or parish level. TREC is also tasked with creating restructure resolutions to be presented at General Convention in 2015.

The Committee to Elect the Presiding Bishop presented a timeline for its work. One of the major events at General Convention will be the election of a Presiding Bishop. The Committee has been conducting interviews and collecting information from across the church to create a profile of attributes the next Presiding Bishop should have. The profile will be issued in August. From October 1-31 the Committee will receive names based on the criteria set forth in the profile. In May 2015 the Committee's nominees will be announced. The Bishops and Deputies will then have two weeks to indicate whether they intend to nominate others from the floor of Convention. The House of Bishops elects the Presiding Bishop at General Convention and then the House of Deputies must give its consent to the election.

The Task Force on the Study of Marriage gave a brief presentation on its work and its plans to have a report ready for distribution in December. You can find out more about the Task Force on its Facebook page by clicking [here](#). Other topics covered were brief reports on College and University Chaplaincies, Youth Ministry, UTO and a wonderful ECW presentation by our own Barbara Owens. To round out the meeting, several workshops on a variety of topics were offered and the attendees were given the choice of watching the movies *12 Years a Slave* or *Captain Philips*.

The Clergy Deputies from the Diocese of Louisiana are The Rev'd A.J. Heine (St. Augustine's, Metairie), The Rev'd Fred Devall (St. Martin's, Metairie), The Rev'd Sharon Alexander (St. Michael's, Mandeville) and The Rev'd Anne Maxwell (Christ Church, Covington), with The Rev'd Roman Roldan (Grace, St. Francisville) as the first Alternate. The Lay Deputies are Ms. Ann Ball (All Saints, River Ridge), Mr. Edgar Cage (St. Michael's, Baton Rouge), Ms. Amelia Arthur (Trinity, New Orleans), and Mr. John Musser (Trinity, New Orleans), with Mr. Ed Starns (St. Luke's in Baton Rouge) as the first Alternate.

# Diocese Awarded UTO Grant

We are pleased to announce that the Diocese of Louisiana was awarded a United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant in the amount of \$37,800 for the St. Paul's Senior Center in New Orleans. The grant money will be used to expand the work of the Senior Community Center to serve the elderly population of the Gentilly neighborhood with a holistic approach that addresses all aspects of a senior's life. This will involve food distribution, computer classes, and daily prayer. Inclusion and support of the seniors will help them to feel less isolated and fearful.

St. Paul's Homecoming Center has moved on from working with survivors of Hurricane Katrina and now includes a needed place and programs for the senior citizens of the Gentilly community.



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## Living with Purpose: Ending Well

*by the Rev'd Duane Nettles, Program Coordinator for Living With Purpose*

Bertie Forbes, the founder of *Forbes Magazine* said, "How you start is important, very important, but in the end it is how you finish that counts. It is easier to be a self-starter than a self-finisher. The victor in the race is not the one who dashes off swiftest but the one who leads at the finish. In the race for success, speed is less important than stamina."

Ancient Jewish wisdom puts it another way "Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; the patient in spirit are better than the proud in spirit." (Ecclesiastes 7:8 NRSV)

I start with these quotes because I am proud of how well the 2013-2014 Living with Purpose Fellows finished the program year. They have been an amazing group of adults to walk along side. They are smart, passionate, and fun.

Typical of any intentional community, it has been a year of challenges and opportunities. Early on, the fellows transitioned to a new program director and two of the ten fellows left. For the first time in the program's history, no fellows left after the autumn/fall. I wish I could take credit for this but the credit is due to the fellows. They stayed committed to stay through each and every challenge with a willingness to adapt and grow. Naturally, it was not always easy (for them or me!), but it felt so good to sit around the dinner table with them at the closing retreat in early July and share in their success as individuals and as a community. For one last weekend, we all shared in one another's lives.

*continued on next page*



Just as the fellows ended this chapter of their lives well, they are beginning the next chapter equally well:

- **Helen Lindau** will spend another year as Volunteer Coordinator for Eden House in New Orleans. Helen is excited to continue her work with the women of Eden House who seek a new life.
- **Lindsey Lewis** will become the first executive director for Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance. Building on her work as their first staff member, she will expand their programs and advocacy for more affordable housing in New Orleans.
- **Sarah Hyndman** will stay on at Kids Orchestra in Baton Rouge as Program Coordinator. As Kids Orchestra continues their expansion, Sarah will provide much needed operations support.
- **Marvin McLennon** has been asked to stay on at St. James, Baton Rouge working with Fr. Mark Holland in a part-time capacity. Marvin will also work part-time with Kids Orchestra assisting with social media and marketing.
- **Brandon Foster** will return to Loyola University in New Orleans to complete his last year of studies.
- The remaining fellows are returning to their home cities and currently seeking full-time employment in those cities. **Melissa Kleppinger** will return to Seattle to work for Microsoft, **Jacob Gehl** will return to Chicago and **Erin Hurley** will return to Atlanta.

For the coming year, the program will take a one-year hiatus to redesign itself. The needs of our communities are still as great as ever and direct service fellowships are in high demand, in particular in New Orleans as AmeriCorps moves more funding away from direct service positions towards capacity building positions.

At the same time, skilled young adults are finding an ever-improving economy and more employment opportunities. The great challenge to young adults is crushing student debt. While it can be deferred for one year, it looms over their financial future and pressures them to take full employment when available over a year of service. This is difficult to hear because young adults, more than ever, want to serve their communities and give back.

The challenge then for the Church is to embrace our diaconal side and answer the question: How do we translate that desire of service into a reality for our communities?

2014 ASSESSMENT		2014 PROGRAM		YTD		YTD		YTD	
Assessment	City	Assessment	City	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
Assessment	City	Assessment	City	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
Church of the Incarnation	Amite	Church of the Incarnation	Amite	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00
Church of the Holy Spirit	Baton Rouge	Church of the Holy Spirit	Baton Rouge	\$6,150.00	\$6,150.00	\$6,150.00	\$6,150.00	\$6,150.00	\$6,150.00
St. Alban's Chapel	Baton Rouge	St. Alban's Chapel	Baton Rouge	\$12,074.00	\$12,074.00	\$12,074.00	\$12,074.00	\$12,074.00	\$12,074.00
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00
St. James' Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	St. James' Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$75,311.00	\$75,311.00	\$75,311.00	\$75,311.00	\$75,311.00	\$75,311.00
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$41,232.00	\$41,232.00	\$41,232.00	\$41,232.00	\$41,232.00	\$41,232.00
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$11,992.00	\$11,992.00	\$11,992.00	\$11,992.00	\$11,992.00	\$11,992.00
St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal	Baton Rouge	St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal	Baton Rouge	\$32,555.00	\$32,555.00	\$32,555.00	\$32,555.00	\$32,555.00	\$32,555.00
Trinity Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	Trinity Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$32,009.00	\$32,009.00	\$32,009.00	\$32,009.00	\$32,009.00	\$32,009.00
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Bayou du Large	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Bayou du Large	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Bogalusa	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Bogalusa	\$3,766.00	\$3,766.00	\$3,766.00	\$3,766.00	\$3,766.00	\$3,766.00
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Clinton	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Clinton	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00
Christ Episcopal Church	Covington	Christ Episcopal Church	Covington	\$40,521.00	\$40,521.00	\$40,521.00	\$40,521.00	\$40,521.00	\$40,521.00
St. Francis' Episcopal Church	Dienham Springs	St. Francis' Episcopal Church	Dienham Springs	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Franklin	St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Franklin	\$5,453.00	\$5,453.00	\$5,453.00	\$5,453.00	\$5,453.00	\$5,453.00
Grace Memorial Church	Hammond	Grace Memorial Church	Hammond	\$14,779.00	\$14,779.00	\$14,779.00	\$14,779.00	\$14,779.00	\$14,779.00
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Harvey	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Harvey	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Houma	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Houma	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Irish	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Irish	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00
St. John's Episcopal Church	Kenner	St. John's Episcopal Church	Kenner	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	LaPlace	St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	LaPlace	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00
St. Michael's Episcopal Church	Mandeville	St. Michael's Episcopal Church	Mandeville	\$7,822.00	\$7,822.00	\$7,822.00	\$7,822.00	\$7,822.00	\$7,822.00
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Melrose	St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Melrose	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.00
St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Melrose	St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Melrose	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00
Trinity Episcopal Church	Morgan City	Trinity Episcopal Church	Morgan City	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Morganza	St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Morganza	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00
All Souls	New Orleans	All Souls	New Orleans	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00
Church of the Annunciation	New Orleans	Church of the Annunciation	New Orleans	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00
Chapel of the Holy Comforter	New Orleans	Chapel of the Holy Comforter	New Orleans	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00
Chapel of the Holy Spirit	New Orleans	Chapel of the Holy Spirit	New Orleans	\$60,349.00	\$60,349.00	\$60,349.00	\$60,349.00	\$60,349.00	\$60,349.00
Christ Church Cathedral	New Orleans	Christ Church Cathedral	New Orleans	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00
Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church	New Orleans	Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$17,051.00	\$17,051.00	\$17,051.00	\$17,051.00	\$17,051.00	\$17,051.00
St. Ann's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	St. Ann's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$7,596.00	\$7,596.00	\$7,596.00	\$7,596.00	\$7,596.00	\$7,596.00
St. George's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	St. George's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00
St. Philip's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	St. Philip's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$4,173.00	\$4,173.00	\$4,173.00	\$4,173.00	\$4,173.00	\$4,173.00
Trinity Episcopal Church	New Orleans	Trinity Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$8,447.00	\$8,447.00	\$8,447.00	\$8,447.00	\$8,447.00	\$8,447.00
St. Paul's-Holy Trinity Church	New Orleans	St. Paul's-Holy Trinity Church	New Orleans	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00
Church of the Holy Communion	Ponchartraine	Church of the Holy Communion	Ponchartraine	\$10,187.00	\$10,187.00	\$10,187.00	\$10,187.00	\$10,187.00	\$10,187.00
All Saints' Episcopal Church	River Ridge	All Saints' Episcopal Church	River Ridge	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00
Church of the Nativity	Rosedale	Church of the Nativity	Rosedale	\$10,676.00	\$10,676.00	\$10,676.00	\$10,676.00	\$10,676.00	\$10,676.00
Christ Episcopal Church	Sidell	Christ Episcopal Church	Sidell	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00
Grace Episcopal Church	St. Francisville	Grace Episcopal Church	St. Francisville	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00
St. John's Episcopal Church	Thibodaux	St. John's Episcopal Church	Thibodaux	\$10,225.00	\$10,225.00	\$10,225.00	\$10,225.00	\$10,225.00	\$10,225.00
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	Zachary	St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	Zachary	\$713,610.00	\$713,610.00	\$713,610.00	\$713,610.00	\$713,610.00	\$713,610.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$713,610.00</b>	<b>\$713,610.00</b>	<b>\$713,610.00</b>	<b>\$713,610.00</b>	<b>\$713,610.00</b>	<b>\$713,610.00</b>

# Reservation for Three: A Conversation with Our Two Retired Bishops

by Margaret Lawhon Schott, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge

*We are blessed to have The Right Reverend James Brown of New Orleans, ninth Bishop of Louisiana, and The Right Reverend Charles Jenkins of St. Francisville, tenth Bishop of Louisiana living here in the Diocese of Louisiana. Though both retired, they remain very much involved in the lives of family, friends, former parishioners, colleagues and clergy. Recently, I spent several months interviewing both former diocesan bishops individually, as they reflected on their two very different episcopates, as well as the common threads in their personal and spiritual lives. To culminate their conversations, we met at Advent House near Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans, followed by a lively lunch together.*

**Margaret Lawhon Schott:** When did the two of you meet? Do you remember meeting each other?

**Charles Jenkins:** No, I'm not sure I remember when we met.

**Jim Brown:** Through the Commission on Ministry.

**CJ:** It would have been in the early 1970s through the Commission on Ministry. You would have been Arch-Deacon.

**JB:** That's when we met.

**CJ:** Bishop Noland was bishop and I was coming through the process.

**JB:** And Louise Hazel (her maiden name prior to her marriage to Bishop Jenkins) was on the Commission.

**CJ:** That's the only way I got through! (laughter)

**JB:** When I came along there was no such thing as the Commission on Ministry. You took a name to the bishops and all you had was the vestry's okay and the priest's okay and a letter from a psychiatrist saying you're okay, and then the bishop made the decision to accept you as a postulant or not.

**CJ:** Right. I remember seeing once, to my terror, that Bishop Noland used to publish a journal in Churchwork, and I can't remember which church he was referring to, let's say Bunkie, but he said, "I made a visitation to such-and-such church, met a young man there who offered himself to the ministry. I had to tell him he didn't have what it takes." Of course everyone at that church knew who he was talking about. You remember that?!

**MLS:** Bishop Jenkins, you have told me about your last conversation with Bishop Noland, where you were, that kind of thing. Bishop Brown, what do you remember about that summer?

**JB:** Well, I was archdeacon, and we got a call from the religion reporter for the Times-Picayune, and he had talked to Bishop Noland recently and

knew he was going to New York to a meeting, and he said, “We’ve got a report that the Eastern Airlines flight to New York from New Orleans crashed at JFK,” and we didn’t know. And from that point, Jim Wyrick and I got confirmation somehow, and we went over and sat with Nell Noland. That was June the 24th, 1975, the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

**MLS:** While Bishop Noland was in Louisiana, wasn’t he elected bishop somewhere else, but turned it down?

**JB:** While suffragan here, he was elected to be Bishop of Montana, and he said that he thought that would have been a good thing for his three boys to grow up in that kind of place. But that didn’t work, and people in Louisiana liked him and wanted him here.

**MLS:** In terms of the bishop’s calendar, did both of you as bishop visit every single church in the diocese every year?

**JB:** I did. I tried to, but you can’t do it all on a Sunday morning. There are not that many Sundays in the year. Once Bob Witcher (The Right Reverend Robert Witcher, Diocese of Long Island and former rector of St. James Baton Rouge) retired in Baton Rouge, I would ask him to take some of those visitations, so basically it was the pattern of an annual visit by, if not me, then a bishop anyway.

**CJ:** Margaret, one of the things that you may not be aware of is that when Bishop Brown became bishop, the state of Louisiana was one diocese, the entire state, and obviously there was no way that any bishop, any person, could have done the entire state of Louisiana. And I guess it was three or four years after Bishop Brown became bishop that the diocese of Louisiana voted to divide, multiply into two dioceses. And believe it or not, when the diocese divided it was a time of eco-



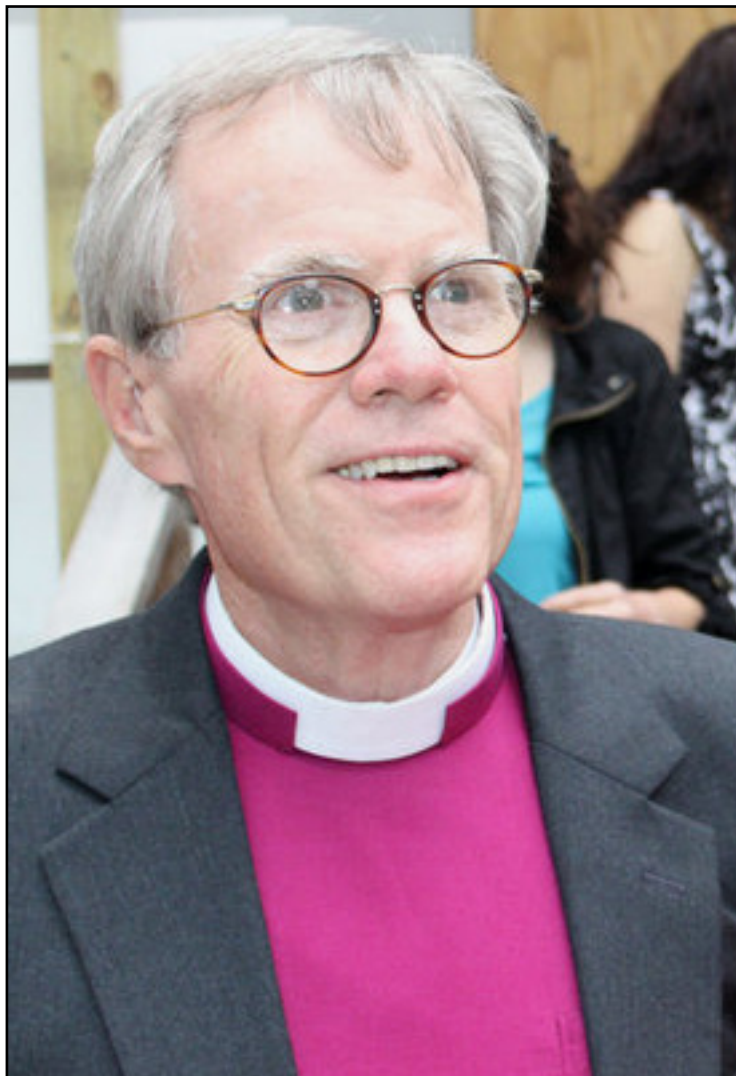
**Bishop James Brown,  
Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana**

**[photo by Wallace Van Nortwick]**

nomic sunshine in Louisiana.

**JB:** It sure was. And then in 1983, here came the oil glut. Then you saw all these well-paid jobs and parishioners leaving to go to Houston. You had men in those days who would get up and dress to go to work, and they were just fooling their wives. They didn’t have jobs anymore. I mean, it was really tough.

*continued on next page*



**Bishop Charles Jenkins,  
Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana**

[photo by Steven Forster/courtesy of [nola.com](http://nola.com)]

**MLS:** Looking back over each of your episcopates, have things changed that much? We still have racial issues, poverty issues, we have the potential for natural disasters.

**JB:** Well, let me take the racial issue. The tensions in the '60s when integration was upon us were tremendous. I remember after one General Convention the situation was totally, totally tumultuous. Anxiety everywhere was high, but these days you don't find that in a church situation. That's not to say that the race issue is solved, by any means.

**CJ:** I certainly think that the constituency of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana has changed in its attitude about black people, and it's very welcoming generally. I think that we have made great strides in dealing with racism in the diocese, but as Bishop Brown notes, and I would absolutely second, we have not finished our work about racism. We have yet to try to deal with institutional racism, and some of the class issues around racism. It's been said that prior to the Civil War and the Emancipation of the slaves, there were more black Episcopalians than there were white in Louisiana. And somebody said, "Well, why did they leave?" and I said, "Because they could!" But I think the future, a future of the Episcopal Church involves being a reconciling presence and I hope that it will be a very mixed presence in the future.

**MLS:** One of the challenges facing all denominations today is how to keep young adults involved in church. Did you have similar issues when you were bishops?

**JB:** I was talking to a priest the other day who is very experienced and she said, "You know, we're really living in an age where people are just skeptical, and they won't commit to anything." They don't want to commit to teach Sunday School, for example, even if they've got children. But the other thing that's happened that has really hurt is so many activities for children now take place on Sunday, which they did not in the early '60s. Sunday was still respected.

**MLS:** You agree with that?

**CJ:** Absolutely!

**MLS:** I'm interested in how each of you would describe what it means to be an Episcopalian. Bishop Brown, you've said that it's a thinking man's church.

**JB:** Well, for me to be an Episcopalian, it means

that I'm in the main tradition of the Catholic Church, without any sort of "Italian additions" or "Genevan subtractions". And basically that's what I told Bishop Jones when I met with him and wanted to become an Episcopal priest.

**CJ:** Both of us chose the Episcopal Church. It accepted me at a time when I did not have much to offer, and I remain grateful for that. Perhaps at an emotional level, that's one of the reasons why I am a stalwart Episcopalian. I may or may not like everything that's going on in the National Church, but the Church didn't like everything that was going on with me when I became an Episcopalian. I've changed.

**MLS:** If the two of you were to sit down and talk to a new bishop, any piece of advice you would give to him or her?

**CJ:** I think if I were to do it you'd need to chain him or her to the chair, to keep him from running out in terror!

**JB:** You know, you couldn't say this to somebody who is newly elected, but I got thinking this morning that it really is helpful in the long term if the bishop is self-directed and not other-directed, because you're going to get plenty of advice. And criticism, and helpful suggestions, but in the long run you can't listen to all the voices.

**MLS:** Any other words of wisdom for bishops or even for priests?

**JB:** A good piece of advice is: Don't go back for seconds, sit whenever you can, never pass up a bathroom.

**CJ:** I wish I had been able, I wish I had taken better care of myself physically, but I didn't. And certainly to have a good hobby is important.

**JB:** Mine was sailing. I'd get on that boat and

I'd have no telephone, nothing, and a complete change of everything. One of the funniest things ever said in a sermon was by the then- Bishop of Atlanta at a consecration at a church in Houston. The first thing he said was, "I'm supposed to use this time to talk about the duties and work of a bishop, but if you want to know how to do that, just ask the priests. They know!" And that's true.

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## BISHOP JENKINS ON...

### The Late Bishop Iveson Noland

"Well, I think that I saw in Bishop Noland an image of God that I had not grown up with and that was of unconditional love."

"I had always assumed that I would just go to Sewanee. I didn't even know there was anything more than Sewanee. Bishop Noland thought I was a quote, 'professional Southerner,' and he said, "You can't go to Sewanee. You need to get out of the South." I was living in Rome at the time and he said, "You can look at General Seminary in New York and at Nashotah." And so I flew from London to New York and interviewed at General and then went to Nashotah, and the interviews at Nashotah were much, much better for me than at General."

### Lessons Learned As Bishop

"Just showing up, that is probably the most important thing. In some way the bishop's presence gives a sense of legitimacy that is not otherwise bestowed, and I wish I had realized the importance of that earlier on in my ministry, and I wish I had done a better job of pacing myself so that I could have been present more. Not necessarily more often, but fully present: spiritually and emotionally present."

*continued on next page*

## On His Goals For His Episcopate

"I realized even before Katrina, before my change and my metamorphosis that if the Church was going to have a future, it was not going to be the same as its past, that the Church of the future was going to resemble much more what I used to talk of as the rich culture, the 'gumbo' of Louisiana. So I consciously set about trying to change things. It was not only an engagement with the diocese, but more importantly an engagement with the life situation of the community. I think one of the reasons I stood for presiding bishop was because I wanted to try to recast the narrative on some hot-button issues such as human sexuality, and to encourage the church to live with a sense of ambiguity, respecting different opinions and practices, while at the same time recasting the narrative to issues around social justice, poverty, hunger, housing, wealth-differential, those kind of issues."

## BISHOP BROWN ON...

### The Late Bishop Girault Jones

"When I was elected bishop, I was 43 years old. My wife, Mary Jo, and I had the unique experience of having a baby while I was bishop, so our younger daughter was born during those years. You could say that was an advantage, but disadvantages were also there, and I'm thinking of Bishop Girault Jones. Bishop Jones had two daughters when he was elected, and was living in New Orleans. His first year as bishop, he spent at least 100 nights on the road. As he said, 'I didn't know the diocese. I only knew the New Orleans area,' and so he felt that it was his responsibility to get around and see people and spend the night with lay people and clergy, and not try to run back to New Orleans."

"At diocesan convention, Bishop Jones really didn't need a parliamentarian. He had all the

rules, everything in his mind and he handled it beautifully."

## On Lessons Learned As Bishop

"The ordination of women was an issue while I was bishop. I was, in the early days, against it for several reasons, but I came to believe that there are some areas in which women priests are better than men. When I decided to ordain a woman, it was very difficult. I was going to announce it at diocesan convention, which was to be at St. Luke's Baton Rouge that year. Charles Jenkins was the rector. I called Charles and told him what I was going to do and he said, 'Oh, could you do it anywhere else?' and I said, 'No, I've got to do it. This is the time,' and so that's what I did."

## On His Goals For His Episcopate

"To me, the heart of religion and the Christian religion has to do with being in communion with God. I think our object as a church is to lead people to God, and once you convert and accept Christ, as the Episcopal Church requires you to do, then what's next? It seems to me that you do everything you can to stay in communion with God in terms of prayer and the sacraments, reading the scripture and so forth, and also do the good works we're called to do. But without the prayer life, the rest is not going to happen."





## WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

10 DAY BIBLICAL TOUR OF ISRAEL  
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## Tee It Up With the Bishop!

Monday, October 13th, 2014  
Audubon Park Golf Course  
6500 Magazine St., New Orleans

### Schedule of Events:

Breakfast & Registration begins at 7:30 AM  
Shotgun Start at 8:30 AM  
Catered Lunch & Awards after Tournament

Download the brochure [here](#)  
or [register online here](#).

Questions? Contact Deacon Mark Hudson  
[daniel.mark.hudson@ms.com](mailto:daniel.mark.hudson@ms.com)  
or 225-270-4521

**Benefiting**  
**St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Day School,**  
**Baton Rouge**



*I'm excited about the Tee It Up With the Bishop golf tournament. It's my hope to build relationships while we support ministries around the diocese. I promise you will have a good day. So, dust off the clubs and join me October 13 to Tee It Up!*

-Bishop Thompson

# Bringing Neighbors Together at Pentecost Block Party

*by the Rev'd Jim Morrison, Trinity, New Orleans*



Hundreds were greeted on the steps of St Luke's, New Orleans as the smell of jambalaya and BBQ filled the air. Participants smiled and welcomed one another as they meandered through the crowd to gather a variety of food and drinks all provided free of charge and served proudly by representative from sponsoring parishes throughout the Diocese of Louisiana.

This first time event was sponsored by the Racial Reconciliation Commission. In the past few years the Diocese has made great progress through our Racial Reconciliation Workshop held at St. James in Baton Rouge and our Eucharistic Celebration Seeking Christ in all People: A Service of Commitment to Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation. This gathering provided the people of the Diocese the opportunity to put the prayers and discussions for unity into practice.

Cheers to St. Luke's for being such a gracious host! The members of the Commission also applaud the parishes that spon-

sored this event: All Soul's, The Church of the Annunciation, St. Luke's, New Orleans, Trinity, New Orleans, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Chapel of the Holy Comforter, St. Phillip's, St. Martin's, St. Augustine's, All Saints, Ponchatoula and River Ridge, St. Margaret's, Church of the Nativity, St. Paul's, Christ Church Cathedral and St. James!

The success of the Pentecost Block Party stands as an important reminder that we should not underestimate the power of gathering people together to build friendships and enter dialogue. Be on the lookout for similar events throughout the diocese!



[photos by Karen Mackey, Levi Thompson and Elizabeth Stoner]

# Camp Kindness: Part of the Solution

*by the Rev'd Charmaine Kathmann, St. John's, Kenner*

Nearly two years ago, the people of St. John's began a ministry to veterans and their families. What began as a meager few items collected in the back of the church for homeless veterans has grown into enough furniture for entire households. Now word is getting out about the congregation's aim to help veterans through educational forums, advocacy and aid for vets without a home.



The ministry began as a memorial to two young men who wore U.S. military uniforms and who died during the wars in the Middle East. It is dedicated to the memories of Matthew Scaruffi and Health Kelly who were born, baptized and raised in St. John's' loving arms. It is a ministry born out of grief and offered to share God's love to hurting American soldiers.

Since the need is great and the situation is so dire, the congregation especially wanted to help homeless veterans and — if possible — help soldiers before they were homeless. This situation is a matter of life and death for our wounded warriors. At this time the church is working with different veterans groups to furnish homes for men and women who are now off the streets and out of shelters and are living in low cost housing. There is a national federal initiative to , by 2015, find a permanent home for all former military who are currently homeless. St. John's is part of the solution.

The church began collecting furniture such as bed frames, sofas, chairs, chests and dressers, kitchen tables, end tables, desks, bedding, towels, as well as household items such as lamps, cooking items such as pots and pans, dishes, utensils and anything but the kitchen sink. So far, the church has furnished apartments and houses for six veterans with new mattresses, used sofas and other supplies plus all the things needed to start a new life. When the veterans are first in their new homes it often begins a transformation of the person as they are so used to being vulnerable on the streets. To have furnishings for their new places gives them dignity and self-respect.

Our only problem we are encountering now is not having enough people and trucks to pick up and transport the furnishings. If anyone is interested in helping this ministry by donating items or a working truck or van to St. John's, please contact me at 504.628.4447 or 504.469.4535.

# St. Andrew's Celebrates 100 Years

Over 100 years ago the rector of St. Matthew's in Houma, the Rev'd Gardiner L. Tucker, D.D., began traveling to minister to the people and families living at the lower end of Bayou Dularge, one of the most inaccessible areas of Terrebonne Parish at that time. In 1914, Dr. Gardiner began holding regular services. Since that time a church building was built (destroyed by Hurricane Hilda and rebuilt), roads were constructed and the people of Bayou Dularge steadfastly continued to do God's work and show His love in their community.

On Sunday, July 27, the people of St. Andrew's, Bayou Dularge, celebrated their 100th year of ministry and mission. It was standing room only in the church for Holy Eucharist as parishioners, neighbors, friends, and descendants of the founders of St. Andrew's were in attendance. Bishop Thompson preached and celebrated. After the service there was a grand feast of fish, beans, jambalaya, and kettle popcorn.



[Click here](#) to see more photos of this joyous event!

# Feeding God's Sheep: St. James' Growing Program

*by the Very Rev'd Mark Holland, St. James, Baton Rouge*

St. James has had a feeding program for the working poor for over twenty years. We are a distribution point for the Baton Rouge Area Food Bank. Twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, bags of groceries filled with ordinary food staples are given out to about 60 families. In addition to the pallets of food brought to us by the Food Bank, the parishioners of St. James also contribute canned and dry goods by placing them in the red Food Bank barrels on Sunday mornings.



After August of 2005 everything changed as we knew it. Katrina forced the evacuation of New Orleans and this meant many of the poor and homeless arrived in the downtown area where we are located. Two parishioners saw a need and asked if they could fill it. Warren and Boots Green wanted to know if they could make up a few brown bags to hand out to the homeless. As the rector, I told them to go for it.

A few bags per day grew by a few more bags per day. Before we knew

it we were feeding more than fifty people a day. Eventually this evolved into what we call the We Care feeding program. It is a simple response to the question our Lord Jesus Christ asked of Peter. "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." The We Care bags are supported strictly by volunteers and volunteer donations. To date we have handed out over 115,000 We Care Bags.

Of course some in the parish weren't all that keen on us opening our doors to feeding the homeless. They felt we were being taken advantage of by those who wanted something to eat. One parishioner noted that the same people came back day after day. My response, "Imagine that. They get hungry every 24 hours." As Jesus reminds us, "Whatever you do to the least of these you do to me."

One of the unexpected outcomes of starting up a feeding ministry is you never know for sure where the Spirit will lead you to minister to God's people. A former Associate Rector of St. James, Fr. John Moloney, began the Fifth Sunday feeding program. It was pointed out that many of the homeless are on Social Security Disability. This means that their disability checks usually run out before the end of the month. So on months where there are five Sundays the people of St. James become the feeding bridge that gets the

poor to the first of the month. It really isn't rocket science. "Do you love me? Feed my sheep."

The most recent expansion of the feeding ministries at St. James began a few years ago and happens during the month of December. We call it the Feast at St. James. There is a hearty meal prepared for those who live on the streets. They are given seconds and even to go plates. They are our guests and we serve them as honored guests. Before our guests leave our campus they are given a backpack that has in it a warm hat and gloves, a change of socks, and toiletries for personal hygiene. St. James wants them to know they are loved.

Of course we know that the poor will always be with us. That fact alone is not excuse to prevent us from caring for our neighbors. If someone should show up on your doors and say they are hungry, give them something to eat. If they are cold, give them something to wear. Each act of kindness is an expression of God's love and mercy for humanity. It's not all that hard to do.

If you love Jesus, then feed the sheep.



[photos courtesy of St. James]

## Interested in Prison Ministry?



The last volunteer training session offered by The Louisiana Department of Corrections for this calendar year will be held on October 11th at the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ located at 8725 Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Doors open at 8 a.m., with the session beginning at 8:30, and ending at 10:30 a.m.

This volunteer training session is required each year for anyone who visits or volunteers at any of Louisiana's prisons. If you need to renew your training or do it for the first time, this is your opportunity to "enter the gate" of service to those who reside in Louisiana prisons. For more information, contact the Rev'd Peggy K. Scott at **225.638.8433**.

# Fight the Blight: Survey Season



In New Orleans, we measure time not by the dates on the calendar but by the events and traditions we celebrate. Carnival is an end as much as it is a beginning, and Super Sunday and St. Joseph night lead us into festival season, and it always seems that the weather gets warmer after Mardi Gras and too warm by Jazzfest. For those the community organizers at Jericho Road, April is also the time for blighted property surveying.

The survey is not a onetime event, but part of a larger process. As a key component of the neighborhood's Blighted Property Campaign, the survey is an annual "checkup" on the health of the community. The survey

does not only focus on "blighted" property alone but it also rates the functional condition of all properties. The evaluation of each property breaks down to: Good, Fair or Poor. In addition to condition, the number of units, type of use and occupancy status is observed. The data from the survey can be used by the neighborhood association in better prioritizing which properties to pursue with regards to the city's code enforcement regulations.

Besides the data, there are other benefits to the survey. Over the past three years, more than 30 neighbors have participated in the survey. Community residents have dedicated two hours of their time or more to walking the streets with the goal of gaining a better understanding of their neighbors. We often know the situation on our block, but the property survey gives residents an opportunity to see other areas that they may be less familiar with. Their neighbors look at their efforts and see a way that they can get involved.



Jericho Road has no words to describe how grateful we are to the National Coalition for the Homeless, AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, Grinnell College, Louisiana Delta Service Corps, and Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program - Presbyterian Church (USA) for introducing us to Alysse Fuchs, Scott Webster, Ysela Galindo, Sydney Hubbard, Sumi Dutta and Ian Gold!!!!

What a difference these young adults make during a year of service! Small non-profits like Jericho Road make huge strides with the added capacity that year-long service fellows contribute. Thank you guys – we'll miss you!!

# “There’s a Doctor in the Kitchen!”

## *Faubourg Delassize Residents Get Tips on Healthy Cooking*

### EAT DAT:

#### FOOD FEST COMES TO CENTRAL CITY

Residents in the Faubourg Delassize community received a healthy treat. The Tulane School of Culinary medicine provided sixteen participants with a cooking demonstration geared toward introducing healthy cooking styles into the everyday diets of New Orleanians. On the menu was a rainbow of colors including spinach and strawberry salad with a honey lime vinaigrette dressing, chili lime shrimp, and sweet potato collard green hash. During the demonstration, culinary and medical students fielded questions ranging from the use of olive oil as a substitute for traditional vegetable oil to strategies for lowering cholesterol. Residents expressed their enthusiasm for the flavorful pairings of vegetables and fruit and discussed sharing the information obtained at the event by introducing their families to the recipes and cooking them at home. In addition, attendees marveled at the lush assortment of carrots, lettuce, kale, and herbs growing at the community garden and utilized by the culinary students in the demonstration.

### HEALTH STAT

New Orleans is widely known for its rich culinary history, unfortunately, Louisiana is also ranked highly in terms of the occurrence of diabetes and hypertension. According to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, 10% of all Louisiana residents have been diagnosed with diabetes by a physician. In 2008, Louisiana ranked second in the nation for deaths occurring as a result of diabetes. Furthermore “African-Americans have the highest prevalence of diabetes, with a 12.9% diagnosis rate, compared to 8.1% of Hispanics, and 9.2% of the white population”. The purpose of the Tulane Culinary School, which is the first of its kind in the nation, is to integrate the medical and culinary disciplines and highlight the ways in which food can be used as a tool to heal and prevent certain illnesses. Over the past sixty years, the American diet has been increasingly slanted toward fast food and heavily processed grocery items which are in some neighborhoods cheaper and more easily accessible than fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables.

### GROW DAT

Hurricane Katrina highlighted some of the most egregious disparities in terms of food insecurity in our nation. The term food desert has been used repeatedly to describe areas of our city in which access to healthy food is difficult to obtain or non-existent. Jericho Road developed the Faubourg Delassize Community Garden at the request of neighboring residents in the area and it functions as an outlet for neighbors to gather and engage in discussions focused on adopting healthy lifestyle habits and improving quality of life. If you are interested in renting a community bed or sponsoring a resident for a year, please contact Scott Webster, our Green Space Coordinator at **504.293.2883**.

# LAST LOOK

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**Blue, a therapy horse from Equestrian Angel Therapeutic Outreach Program, visited St. Michael's, Mandeville recently. Therapy horses can help with any number of medical and psychological conditions, including PTSD and depression.**

**Founder Ken Roché spoke to the church about incorporating these horses into St. Michael's Pet Ministry.**