

CHURCHWORK

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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Fall 2012

TO BEHOLD
THE FAIR
BEAUTY OF
THE LORD

PSALM 27:6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

14

OUT & ABOUT

18

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

OF LOUISIANA

20

JERICO ROAD

EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE

22

FINANCIAL REPORTS

24

DONORS

On the back cover:

Participants of Happening #69
get together at Hosanna Lutheran,
site of the conference.

Photo by Debra Edens

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Over the past twenty years or so I've become accustomed to using a little book, *Courage to Change*. It is a day by day devotional produced by Al-Anon. I appreciate the writings as they are authentic, everyday truths that hit me where I am most vulnerable.

In one particular devotional the writer speaks of a time when she placed her sponsor on a pedestal. She believed her sponsor to be the ultimate role model until one day her sponsor fell. The writer said witnessing this fall was painfully difficult and forced her to learn some hard truths. "I learned that, although she was my sponsor, we were both changing, stumbling, growing members of Al-Anon. Most importantly, I learned that setting a human being up to be perfect created inevitable failure."

The phrase, we were both changing stumbling, growing ... got my attention. When we become frustrated with someone who acts in a way we don't approve, we fail to realize that we are just like them. We too change and stumble. Our neighbor is no different from us when it comes to maneuvering life.

I was reflecting on this image and the ten days of General Convention. In the convention hall a couple thousand people gathered because they want to help lead the Episcopal Church. They came from all walks of life, low liturgical tradition to high, ultra liberal to ultra conservative, and people on the fringe and those stuck in the thick of the pack. The common connection? We all change and stumble in our desire to love the Lord, typically not a graceful act. Sometimes we say something we wish had never left our lips. Sometimes we vote on a resolution not understanding its future implication. And sometimes our ego is larger than truth. Yet in the midst of it all, when we are at our best, we are able to stay contained amidst another's obnoxious response and say, I can be like that too.

You see, the church isn't made up of people who think like you or I. Our point of view is in direct cor-



relation to our view point and even that changes. The church is made up of people who can read a resolution, scripture or love note and only see what they see. Are they wrong? No. They are responding from their vantage point. This perspective is what makes us all interesting. We bring to the table what we know at that moment. That's all. And what we know is not what we need to force on anyone else. It is our knowing for us to do with it what we will.

In this issue, you'll find a recap from some of the Louisiana Deputies that attended General Convention. I have been blessed by their stories. I hope you will be too. After all, we may not think the same way but we sure act the same...we are changing, stumbling, growing...

Brave journey,

+ Mous

BISHOP'S JOURNAL: MAY 1ST – AUGUST 31ST

May 1: At the request of Bishop Duncan Gray, the Bishops of the Dioceses that own All Saints School, Vicksburg, Mississippi, met at the school to discuss its current status and our responsibilities as Owning Dioceses. These Dioceses include Mississippi, Louisiana, Western Louisiana and Arkansas. Drove to Baton Rouge that evening and stayed overnight.

May 2: Breakfast meeting with Canon Mark Stevenson for updates. Afterwards, weekly staff meeting at the Baton Rouge office. Attended the Board of Trustees meeting via videoconference between Baton Rouge and New Orleans offices. In the afternoon, annual consultations with Deacon Elizabeth Coleman Becker and the Rev'd Maggie Dennis. Met with Deacon Cindy Obier to discuss her new assignment as Bishop's Chaplain. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

May 3: Day long CCDP visit with the Rev'd Dr. and Mrs. Cal Lane, St. Mary's, Franklin.

May 4: Pastoral Care visit at East Jefferson Hospital. Writing day.

May 5: Drove to the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center to meet with the deputation to General Convention. I'm excited about going to Indianapolis with our deputies. Drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

May 6: Celebrated, preached, confirmed and received adults at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services at St. James, Baton Rouge. Baptized at the 11 a.m. service. Confirmed youth at the 5 p.m. service. What a wonderfully blessed day!

May 7: Day off.

May 8: My second Anniversary to the Episcopate. I am grateful to share this incredible ministry with so many gifted people. Met with an aspirant to the priesthood, followed by annual consultation with the Rev'd Mitch Smith. Met with Agatha Townsend for calendar scheduling. Met with postulant Duane Nettles to discuss his status in the ordination process and his plans for seminary. Later, annual consultations with the Rev'ds A. J. Heine and Richard Easterling. Bishop James Brown and I met about plans for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the SECC, scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 2013. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

May 9: Weekly staff meeting followed by a meeting with the Rev'ds Tom Blackmon, Fred Devall and A.J. Heine to plan the 2013 Vestry Training day. Working lunch with the Rev'd Henry Hudson and Kyle Gautreau. Afternoon meeting with Gary Solomon, followed by a meeting with Trevor David Bryan, Jr.

Warden, St. Luke's, New Orleans. Evening reception for confirmands and their families at Trinity, New Orleans.

May 10 - 11: Early morning flight to Nashville, and on to Seawanee for an overnight stay. My good friend, Bishop Dabney Smith, Diocese of Southwest Florida, and I shared an apartment on campus and had a nice visit. On Friday, processed with deacon Joseph Wallace-Williams and attended his graduation. Back to Nashville for the return flight home.

May 12: Dinner with a priest candidate for All Souls Church. The Rev'd Lonell Wright is retiring.

May 13: Spent the morning at Trinity, New Orleans. Met with adult confirmands during church school hour. Celebrated, preached, confirmed, received, and reaffirmed at the 10:30 service. Lovely reception in Polk Hall. Rebecca and I dined with the Rev'd Henry Hudson and his wife, Mary Beth.

May 14: Day off.

May 15: Breakfast meeting with local clerical leaders. Annual consultation with the Rev'd Walter Baer. Afternoon meeting with the Rev'd William Terry, followed by annual consultation with Deacon Joyce Eskamire-Jackson. Later, met with Dr. Tom Ryan, Director of Loyola Institute for Ministry, and Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus, to discuss educational opportunities at Loyola for deacon formation. Drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

May 16: Preached and celebrated at St. Luke's School Closing Eucharist. Being with the school children is always a highlight for me. Later, met for coffee with Ms. Maxine Crump, President/CEO of Dialogue on Race Louisiana about reconciliation training. In the afternoon, met with Canon Stevenson and Kara French for updates on Eden House, followed by a meeting with Nell Bolton, Executive Director of ECSLA for updates. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

May 17: Met with the Rev'd Howard "Flip" Bushey in the morning, then worked on a sermon. Celebrated and preached at the Ascension Day service in St. James' chapel with the Diocesan Parish Administrators in attendance, followed by a fine luncheon in the Parish Hall. The semi-annual luncheons (May and October) are sponsored by host parishes for the purpose of fellowship, information and best practices exchange. Celebrated at Episcopal High School's Baccalaureate. What a promising group of graduates. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

May 18: Writing day. Attended Episcopal High School's

graduation, said the closing prayer and gave a blessing to the graduating seniors. I was honored to present the Bishop's Award to Sarah Elizabeth Heigle. Drove home.

May 19: Rebecca and I attended the Holy Land trip meeting at St. Augustine's, Metairie. Dean duPlantier is doing a great job preparing us for this sacred pilgrimage. Enjoyed the afternoon with Rebecca. Squeezed in a haircut.

May 20: Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal kickoff. Letters were mailed to all communicants in the diocese. Celebrated and preached at St. Martin's, Metairie, followed by a lovely reception.

May 21-25: Early morning flight to Asheville, NC, then on to Lake Logan Episcopal Conference Center, Canton, NC, to attend my final week of College for Bishop training, Living Our Vows, from Monday through Friday. I am grateful for the training and support. It has been very beneficial in helping me understand my calling as a Bishop.

May 26: No meetings today.

May 27: No visitation.

May 28: Memorial Day – diocesan offices are closed.

May 29: Day off.

May 30: Weekly staff meeting, followed by a meeting with the Rev'd Canon Scott Albergate. Met with Dean David duPlantier for an update on Christ Church Cathedral. Annual consultation with the Rev'd Ralph Howe in the afternoon. Met with Lee Crean, Chair of the Racial Reconciliation Committee for updates and direction.

May 31: Day long CCDP visit with the Rev'd Harry Jenkins, Christ Church, Slidell. Had lunch with Harry and his wife, Gina. Time spent getting to know Fr. Harry's ministry is rewarding. Drove home.

June 1-3: Worked on a sermon in the morning then drove to the conference center for a meeting of the Deacons' Council. The Community of Deacons began with evening service in the chapel and continued through mid-day on Sunday where I celebrated and preached. The weekend with our deacons was a joy! I was very energized by the conference speaker. Dedication of the columbarium at St. Andrew's Church, New Orleans with a Committal Service for four people.

June 4-8: Traveled to Kanuga for a meeting of the Province IV Bishops, followed by Province IV Synod in preparation for General Convention.

June 9: My anniversary to the Ordination to the Priesthood. Presided over the funeral service of the Rev'd Ralph Byrd at St. Augustine's Church, Metairie. The Rev'd Richard Easterling preached an exceptional sermon.

June 10: Celebrated, preached, received and confirmed at St. Paul's Church, New Orleans, followed by a lovely reception. Conference call with the Diocesan Executive Board in the evening.

June 11: Morning off. Afternoon conference call with the leadership of Episcopal High School and Diocesan Chancellors.

June 12: Pastoral meeting with Mrs. Patricia Faust, widow of the late Rev'd Frank Faust. Annual consultations with Deacon Quin Bates, the Rev'd Julianna Gray, the Rev'd Fred Devall, the Rev'd Bill Terry and the Rev'd Peter Gray. Also squeezed in a brief visit with the Very Rev'd David duPlantier.

June 13: Weekly staff meeting, followed by a pastoral meeting with a parishioner, Charles Dorhauer. Drove to Baton Rouge for the annual consultation of the Rev'd John Senette, followed by a telephone call with Edgar Cage about Scotlandville's Mobile Pantry. Attended a special meeting of the Commission on Ministry. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

June 14: Breakfast meeting with Canon Mark Stevenson for updates and planning. Phone call with the Rev'd Drew Rollins. Annual consultations with the Rev'd Mary Ann Garrett, Deacon Camille Wood and the Rev'd Craig Dalferes. Luncheon meeting with Bishop Charles Jenkins at the City Club. It was great to spend time with +Charles. Met with the Diocesan Standing Committee in the afternoon, then drove home.

June 15: Writing day — worked on a sermon.

June 16: Holy Land trip meeting at St. Augustine's, Metairie in the morning. Rebecca and I attended the beautiful wedding of T. J. Hudson and his fiancé, Kelly at Trinity, New Orleans. T. J. is the son of the Rev'd and Mrs. Henry Hudson.

June 17: Father's Day. Celebrated, preached, confirmed, received and reaffirmed at All Saints, Ponchatoula. Open dialogue during coffee hour. Rebecca and I journeyed home for a quiet, relaxing afternoon and evening.

June 18: Morning off. Attended the Commission on Ministry's meeting via video conference between the Baton Rouge and New Orleans offices at noon.

June 19: Annual consultation with the Rev'd Anne Maxwell. Met with Nell Bolton, Canon Stevenson, Deacon Elaine Clements, Stephanie Mabou and Agatha Townsend about

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

disaster preparedness. Met with Amelia Arthur for updates about plans for the continuation of Youth and Young Adult Ministry during her upcoming maternity leave. Dashed home for a brief lunch break, followed by annual consultation with the Rev'd Jay Angerer. Met with David Musser, nominee to the priesthood. Final meeting of the day was with Nell Bolton for updates about ECSLA.

June 20: Weekly staff meeting then drove to Baton Rouge office. Met with Deacon Cindy Obier, Deacon Linda Armstrong and the Rev'd Kirkland "Skully" Knight for their annual consultations. Met with another nominee to the priesthood, Peter Kang, about plans for attending seminary. Dined with Deacon Mark Hudson and stayed another night in Baton Rouge.

June 21: Met with the Rev'ds Drew Rollins and Ken Ritter for their annual consultations then drove to the office in New Orleans for calendar scheduling with Agatha.

June 22: Worked on a sermon, then off for a haircut. Luncheon meeting with Diocesan Chancellor, Cove Geary. Telephone interview of an applicant. Rebecca and I had an enjoyable evening dining with friends.

June 23: Presided over the priestly ordination of the Rev'd Joseph Anthony Wallace-Williams at Trinity, New Orleans. The Rev'd Richard Easterling, Master of Ceremonies, coordinated a beautiful service. Fr. Joseph has accepted a call to serve at Grace-St. Luke's in Memphis, Tennessee, beginning in July. He will be missed by many in our diocese and we certainly wish him well. Later, I drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

June 24: Met at 9 a.m. with parishioners at Trinity, Baton Rouge for informal open dialogue. Celebrated, preached, baptized and confirmed at the 10 a.m. combined service, followed by a delicious reception.

June 25: Day off with the exception of an interview with a job applicant.

June 26: Met with the Rev'd Edward Gleason of Trinity by the Cove, Naples, FL, who was in town visiting with family. Annual consultation with the Rev'd Paul Bailey, then met with Agatha for appointment scheduling. Our staff luncheon celebrated the upcoming birth of Mike and Amelia Arthur's child, and we also sang Happy Birthday to Harriet Murrell. Annual consultation with the Rev'd Canon Steven Roberts in the afternoon. Met with the Rev'd A. J. Heine and the Rev'd Olga Barrera, a priest from Church of the Holy Spirit in Tela (Diocese of Honduras) who is also head of their bilingual school. St. Augustine's has worked with her and visited Tela for the past three summers. This year, they decided to invite her to come here in order to further the relationship

between our respective parishes and schools. Later, Rebecca and I welcomed Lexington friends whose children will be attending Loyola this fall.

June 27: Drove to the conference center for a daylong update and planning retreat with Canon Stevenson, which included his annual consultation. Luncheon meeting with Les Bradfield at Gallagher's restaurant in Covington. Drove back to New Orleans in the afternoon.

June 28: Met with the Board of ECSLA via video conference between the Diocese's Baton Rouge and New Orleans offices. Met with postulant to the priesthood, Duane Nettles, about plans for attending seminary. Later, drove Rebecca to the airport for her flight to visit with our son, Trey and his wife, Emily in Alexandria, VA.

June 29: Writing day — worked on a sermon. Drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

June 30: Presided over the priestly ordination of the Rev'd Alina S. Williams at St. James, Baton Rouge. Master of Ceremonies the Rev'd Canon Chad Jones did an outstanding job.

July 1: Celebrated, preached, confirmed and received at St. Augustine's Church in Metairie. Blessed & dedicated Byrd Hall (Parish Hall), followed by a very nice reception.

July 2: Day off. Met with intern from Riddley House, Cambridge, UK at St. Anna's Church, New Orleans.

July 3-13: Rebecca and I journeyed to Indianapolis, Indiana for General Convention. Rebecca returned home on July 10th and our son, Trey, joined me for the remainder of the convention.

July 14: No meetings today. Peaceful day at home resting from General Convention.

July 15: Met with confirmation candidates in the chapel at Christ Episcopal Church, Covington. Celebrated, preached, confirmed, and received, followed by a lovely reception and then a delicious meal prepared The Rev'd Anne Maxwell and her husband Bill. Returned to New Orleans and dined with the Rev'd Canon Anne Mallonee, Fr. Matt Hyde and Ms. Maggy Charles, from Trinity, Wall Street, along with leaders of All Souls, New Orleans.

July 16: Day off. Stopped by the office briefly to work on calendar scheduling with Agatha and to sign documents.

July 17: Breakfast meeting with community leaders. Met with the staff of ECSLA to discuss Nell Bolton's departure as Executive Director and to explore desired skill sets of her successor.

Celebrated Holy Eucharist at Lambeth House, followed by a fine luncheon with residents. Phone call with Frank Hall for updates on the conference center. Phone call with the Rev'd A. J. Heine to discuss the agenda for the planning day of the ECSLA's Board on Friday. Met with the Rev'd Canon William Barnwell to discuss prison ministry.

July 18: Weekly staff meeting, followed by a drive to Hammond. Luncheon meeting with Bill Rhodes and Skip Scoggin, who provided feedback from this year's Mens Retreat and discussed plans for next year's retreat. Drove to the Baton Rouge office and met with the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson for updates on the search for rector of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge. Later, annual consultation with the Rev'd Patrick Edwards, followed by a meeting of the diocesan Executive Board. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

July 19: Working breakfast with Canon Stevenson for updates and planning. Annual consultations with the Rev'd Peggy Scott and the Rev'd John Miller. Pastoral phone call with the Rev'd Rob Courtney. Met with the diocesan Standing Committee in the afternoon, then drove to New Orleans airport to pick up the Rt. Rev'd Dabney Smith for an overnight stay with us.

July 20: Early morning ride to the conference center for the planning day of the ECSLA's Board. Then, Bishop Smith and I drove to Shreveport for the rehearsal and dinner leading up to consecration.

July 21: Bishop Smith and I served as examiners for the Consecration of the Very Rev'd Dr. Jacob Owensby as the 4th Bishop of the Diocese of Western Louisiana. Afterwards, we drove back to New Orleans, arriving late in the evening.

July 22-August 4: Stayed at home for the first week of vacation, then off to the beach for the second week.

August 1-4: Rebecca and I are enjoying a fabulous vacation at the beach with family!

August 5 & 6: Pre-postulancy interview with Hal Roark at the conference center before the Ministry Conference started in the afternoon. Monday began with Morning Prayer and breakfast, followed by a meeting of the Standing Committee and Commission on Ministry. Returned to New Orleans for a meeting with a newly formed committee of priests to discuss and prepare guidelines and training for same sex blessings. Later, met with the Rev'd Harry Jenkins and two aspirants to discuss the diaconate process. Agatha and I worked on the calendar in the late afternoon.

August 7: Met with the Rev'd Rob Courtney for annual consultation. Phone call to a rector, followed by annual consul-

tation with the Rev'd Stephen Holzhalt. More work on the calendar with Agatha before lunchtime. Annual consultation with Deacon Maggie Dawson, then a conference call with the Rev'd Matt Hyde and Ms. Maggy Charles, Trinity Wall Street, about their support and work with All Souls, New Orleans. Closed out the day with annual consultation of the Rev'd Spencer Lindsay.

August 8: Early morning drive to Baton Rouge. Met with Edgar Cage from St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Baton Rouge. Working lunch with Mr. Brod Bagert of Together, Baton Rouge. Wrap-up conference call with the diocese's deputation to General Convention. Exit interview with the Rev'd Joe Hermerding, of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, who has accepted a call to be Associate Rector at Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, Texas. His last Sunday at St. Luke's is August 19th and we wish him well on his new cure. Workday ended with a pastoral meeting with the Rev'd Kevin Kelly. I stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

August 9: Met with Mr. John Sherk to discuss the possibility of fundraising for EDOLA and ECSLA. Spoke with a candidate about the rector search for St. Luke's, Baton Rouge. Annual consultation with Deacon Charlie deGravelles. Lunch with Ms. Nanette Noland. Phone call to the Rev'd Giulianianna Gray about the requiem liturgy for Deacon Lydia Hopkins. Drove to New Orleans and met with the Rev'd Scott Albergate for his annual consultation. Rebecca and I attended St. Martin's Board Reception at the Southern Yacht Club.

August 10: Writing day. Worked on a sermon. Drove to the airport to pick up Bishop and Mrs. Scott Benhase of the Diocese of Georgia, who made a brief visit to New Orleans. Rebecca and I enjoyed their company over dinner.

August 11: Drove to the conference center for the SECC board meeting. Returned to New Orleans and gave the invocation for the Young Leadership Council's Annual Role Model Gala at the Hyatt Hotel.

August 12: Celebrated, preached, confirmed and received at St. Anna's, New Orleans, followed by a lovely reception.

August 13: Day off. Visit to the dentist then drove the Bishop and Mrs. Benhase to the airport for their return flight home after a wonderful weekend visit.

August 14: Breakfast meeting with community leaders. Canon Stevenson and I dined with a priest candidate for All Souls. The Rev'd Lonell Wright is retiring.

August 15: Drove to Baton Rouge this morning. Business lunch with Mr. John Noland at the City Club. Exit interview with the Rev'd Tim Heflin of Trinity, Baton Rouge, who has

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

accepted a call as Rector of St. Andrew's, Burke, VA. Fr. Heflin begins his ministry in Burke on September 9th and we wish him well.

August 16: Writing day. Went for a haircut before officiating at the requiem mass for Deacon Lydia Hopkins at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans. Lydia's love and willingness to work for the betterment of the beloved community will long be remembered.

August 17-19: Rebecca and I travelled to Lexington, Kentucky, where I officiated at the wedding of a dear friend of our daughter, Virginia, from when we lived in Lexington.

August 20: Day off.

August 21: Met with the Rev'd Rob Courtney and an aspirant to discuss the diaconate process. Celebrated Holy Eucharist in the Chapel with the Noland Center staff and the newly arrived Living With Purpose Fellows, followed by a brown bag luncheon in which the fellows were introduced. Annual consultation with Deacon Phil Wild. Met with Amelia Arthur for updates about the Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Annual consultation with Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus.

August 22: Weekly staff meeting. Annual consultation with the Very Rev'd Dr. Jean Meade. Weekly visit to the Baton Rouge office was cancelled due to an accident on I-10, so I spent the day catching up on correspondence and phone calls.

August 23: Light day in the office. Caught up on correspondence, phone calls and scheduling. Pastoral meeting with Deacon Jay Albert. Lovely farewell celebration for Nell Bolton who will be leaving as Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services effective August 31. She guided ECSLA through the transition that merged the Office of Disaster Response with the original ECS. The new ECS is now poised to move forward in supporting the social ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, in no small part due to the hard, prayerful work of Nell Bolton. She is truly loved and will be missed by many.

August 24: Writing day. Worked on a sermon.

August 25: No appointments.

August 26: Rebecca and I drove to Mandeville. I celebrated, preached, confirmed, received and reaffirmed at the 11 a.m. service at St. Michael's. Enjoyed a very nice reception, then Rebecca and I returned home for a quiet afternoon and evening.

August 27: Day off. Due to approach of hurricane Isaac,

Rebecca and I travelled to Baton Rouge for safety through the duration of the storm. The Very Rev'd Ken Ritter and his staff performed outstandingly caring for the residents of St. James Place under stressful times.

August 28: Cancelled today's appointments due to Isaac. The offices closed at noon and we hope to reopen on Thursday.

August 29: The hurricane left flooding and power outages throughout Louisiana. Still at St. James Place.

August 30: Another day of rainy weather and high winds due to the hurricane. Diocesan offices remain closed. Conference call with staff in the morning and with clergy in the afternoon for post-storm updates. Later, Rebecca and I travelled to Jackson, MS to be with family for the weekend.

August 31: Writing day. Spent time with family in Jackson.

The Bishop's Visitation Schedule

9/23: Christ Church, Slidell

9/30: Christ Church Cathedral

10/21: St. Luke's, New Orleans

10/28: All Saints', River Ridge

11/04: St. Matthew's, Houma

11/11: St. Mark's, Harvey

11/18: St. Andrew's, Luling

12/2: St. Mary's, Franklin

12/9: St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge

12/23: St. John's, Thibodaux

12/24: Christ Church Cathedral

Meet the Rev'd Dr. Charles H. Thompson



By Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist

I was introduced to Charles H. Thompson, D.D. by a Roman Catholic telephone friend who is passionate about nineteenth century Christian goings on in New Orleans. What a wonderful introduction it has turned out to be. The first black person ordained in the state of Louisiana,

a rector of St. Philip's Church (the predecessor of St. Luke's) New Orleans, and a leader among the congregations that developed in the city to serve people of color, Doctor Thompson is a fascinating person whom we all need to know and appreciate.

The time is the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The Rt. Rev'd Joseph P.B. Wilmer is the second bishop of Louisiana who shares the passion for evangelism of his predecessor, Leonidas Polk, the founding bishop of Louisiana. Economic conditions are very difficult. There are eight Episcopal churches and two missions in New Orleans but in rural areas, churches are remote and most are visited by priests or lay people who serve several congregations with memberships of fewer than twenty-five. Clergy pay is small, and their tenure short due to burn-out and resulting poor health. Hazards abound. Roads are poor or non-existent especially in inclement weather. Fires are frequent and devastating. Bishop Wilmer, in a journal entry, expresses his gratitude for stage coach drivers who protect his safety with more sensitivity than the local law enforcement officials. Priests would probably have expressed the same sentiment.

It is into this environment that Charles H. Thompson is introduced. A free man of color, he was born in Pennsylvania in a town just above the Mason Dixon line in 1826. He grew up in an educated Presbyterian family who were active participants in the underground railroad. He attended Oberlin College in Ohio and served several Presbyterian churches in New York City and New Jersey before coming to New Orleans in 1871 as pastor of a Congregationalist church and founder of a Presbyterian church five years later. Nothing is known at this time about his conversion to Episcopalianism but on the twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity 1877, Charles H. Thompson is ordained deacon and put in charge of St. Philip's colored mission at the corner of Camp and Calliope Streets with a membership of three men and ten women.

Bishop Wilmer had organized the congregation in 1873 with the expectation that the clergy of New Orleans would rotate week to week in serving these newly freed people. Just before he ordained Charles Thompson deacon, he bought a congregational church to house them. The annual report

that year states "the first congregation of colored people has been organized in New Orleans, in connection with our own Church. In St. Philip's already the Rites of Ordination and Confirmation have been administered, and we look hopefully to the hearty services conducted there by the deacon in charge".

Two years later, April 1, 1879, Deacon Thompson is ordained priest by bishop-elect J.H. D. Wingfield, Missionary Bishop of California. The ordination was covered by the April edition of "The Louisianian" with a glowing report on the Thursday morning event. The report concluded by saying, "We congratulate Dr. Thompson on the brilliant success attending his efforts, and the high and distinguished elevation to which he has attained among his brethren of the robes; and we congratulate the Diocese of Louisiana on the acquisition to its councils of one of our race, of whom we can feel proud".

In the ten years Dr. Thompson served at St. Philip's, the membership grew to a high of 76 adults with many more children (called scholars) in Sunday School. The church was contributing \$533.90 to the support of the diocese. Continued success was elusive. The congregation lost its church and rectory and was meeting in the Thompson home.

Dr. Thompson, in his parochial report of 1889 reported that he was having to raise money "up north" to support the work of the congregation. One year later, Dr. Thompson is no longer listed in the clergy roster and Bishop Gallaher in his report expressed regret that Dr. Thompson had moved to Mississippi (St. Mary's Church, Vicksburg).

After short periods as a priest in Mississippi, Michigan, Georgia, Ohio and Kentucky, he returned to New Orleans as a professor at Straight University then as president of Alcorn State University in Mississippi. He ended his association with New Orleans as president of Southern University from 1882 until 1883.

Dr. Thompson died November 11, 1902 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was buried at St. Luke's Episcopal Church there. In a photograph, we see a thin man with close cropped hair, a full beard that covers his collar, wearing pince nez glasses and a serious expression, in surplice and stole. What is he saying to us as we thank him for his gift of himself to the Episcopal Church, the city of New Orleans and the generations of disciples touched by his presence?

The Episcopal Church's 77th General Convention shaped by "Marks of Mission"

By Ed Starns, Lay Delegate to General Convention

The Episcopal Church's 77th General Convention, the largest bi-cameral legislative body in the world, met at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, July 5-12, for eight days of legislative sessions, committee meetings, public hearings, daily worship and fellowship all developing a focus around the "Five Marks of Mission."

The Marks of Mission are:

- to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- to teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- to respond to human need by loving service
- to seek to transform unjust structures of society and
- to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Simultaneously the Episcopal Church Women met at the nearby Westin Hotel for their 47th Triennial Meeting featuring keynote speakers, workshops and a first-ever fundraising Five-K race on July 8. Another first for the ECW was the election of their first clergy president, the Rev. Janet Crawford of Oregon. (Sharon Edmon of Baton Rouge was honored as a Distinguished Woman from Louisiana.)

The convention hosted some 840 clergy and laity in the House of Deputies and about 165 bishops in the House of Bishops. Adding in the convention alternates, ECW delegates, a host of Church Center staff, exhibitors, local volunteers, guests and press, the total in attendance rose to well over 2,000 people.

This was the first General Convention for Louisiana's Bishop Morris Thompson to be seated in the House of Bishops. He noted that since the House of Bishops gathers twice every year

and is smaller in number, its members are able to form a stronger bond of collegiality than the House of Deputies. The bishops are seated at the same round table each time they meet. These features make the legislative process somewhat easier for the House of Bishops. Bishop Thompson served on the Committee for Social and Urban Affairs.



EDOLA deputies, from left to right: The Rev'd Ken Ritter, Canon Mark Stevenson, Canon Chad Jones, Ann Ball, Ed Starns, Canon Scott Albergate, Bishop Thompson, Harriet Murrell and Jennifer Dalferes.

Deputies and Bishops Consider Over 420 Resolutions

Over 420 resolutions were distributed by the web and in print to the deputies and alternates months in advance of the gathering. This convention relied heavily on electronic communication in all its forms. Nonetheless, huge notebooks were in front of every deputy containing the resolutions in print and the "consent" calendars that ruled the activity of the twice-a-day, two- to four-hour legislative sessions.

Many dioceses had discussed and taken action in diocesan conventions on matters that were known to be coming before the General Convention.

Church Passed \$111.5 Million Budget

A proposed \$111.5 Million triennial budget for 2013-15 was distributed about a month ahead of the meeting. The Presiding Bishop also put forward a proposal in a format which adhered to the Marks of Mission and the text accompanying the budget as passed began with listing the Five Marks of Mission and then listed the related priorities:

- block grants for new work in each of the Five Marks of Mission
- reducing debt resulting from the renovation of the Church Center
- grants from unrestricted assets to create and sustain a Development Office
- restoration of funds for the work of [Christian] Formation and Vocation.

The final budget as presented and adopted blended the two proposals and seemed to recognize the ongoing concern that the church's structures and budget priorities had been more reflective of "maintenance" rather than mission. This attitude was summarized in one of the many buttons deputies chose to attach to their name tags, "Will You RE-IMAGINE GC with me?" Thus, the cost, the length, the proliferation of standing committees, commissions and boards related to General Convention and the overall administrative structures of the church manifested itself in a resolution which calls for a 24-member task force to present a plan to General Convention 2015 for the reformation of the church's structure, governance and administration. When this resolution passed (C095) there was rejoicing.

The elections of officers to assume leadership after adjournment of the Convention in the House of Deputies reflected endorsement of the priorities. The Rev. Canon Gay Jennings of Ohio was elected the new president of the House of Deputies. Both the House of Deputies and House of Bishops approved the 19 percent annual asking from Dioceses for the upcoming triennium.

The Five Marks of Mission replaced the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as the focus for ministry but with the .7 percent annual grant to Episcopal Relief and Development being renewed. ERD's "Nets for Life" distribution of mosquito netting to combat malaria will continue to be a priority for ERD in addition to their response to other crises around the world.

Resolutions of Note

- Lifelong Christian Formation was another phrase added to the vocabulary at General Convention. The church affirmed that our journey as Christians does not end at baptism or confirmation but continues throughout our lifetime.
- Action on the proposed blessing of same sex unions (A049) was scheduled for late in the Convention so that public hearings and discussion could be held. The text was approved with little discussion on the floor in both houses. The implementation in each diocese will be directed by the bishop, in accordance with the civil laws that prevail locally. Implementation date cannot precede Advent season for 2013.



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori preaches at the United Thank Offering Ingathering and Festival Eucharist during General Convention.
Photo: Lynette Wilson/ENS

- The Evangelism Committee heard resolutions moved by two dioceses that would basically nullify the requirement that an individual be a baptized Christian before he or she could receive Holy Communion. After lengthy discussion involving a diverse cross-section of Episcopalians, the committee chose to send C029 "Access to Holy Baptism and Holy Communion" to the House of Deputies rewritten in an attempt to satisfy doctrinal concerns. A last sentence was added urging a generous pastoral response to those congregations already practicing an "Open Table." The resolutions passed narrowly in the House of Deputies. The House of Bishops then chose to altogether omit the language dealing with "Open Table," and eventually passed C029 as a reaffirmation of Holy Baptism as the ancient and traditional entry point to the Christian Church.

Continued next page.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Continued from previous page.

- Nearly 50 different dioceses moved resolutions in advance of General Convention calling for a radical restructuring of the operations of both the Convention in particular and the Episcopal Church as a whole. Resolution C095, as passed, calls for such work to begin in the coming months with the formation of a special task force charged with bringing a comprehensive set of recommendations to the next Convention for action.
- The implementation period was extended for schools to comply with Lay Employee Pension Plan (C042). It passed with amendment and gives our Diocesan schools structured steps to compliance by 2018.
- Resolution B026 allows dioceses to extend the time for parity in cost sharing under the Denominational Health Plan until 12/31/15.
- Resolution D049 directs The Episcopal Church to start a program of student loans for seminarians with a mechanism for loan forgiveness after specified supervised ministry in our underserved areas.
- Resolution A025 passed calling for all congregations to adopt web sites.
- Resolutions fighting human trafficking (D0042) and elder abuse, neglect and exploitation (A152) passed.
- Some resolutions were presented that asked both Houses for affirmation without mention of funding. These represent opportunities for expression of concern only: poverty, religious groups in African countries, immigration policies, climate change control are examples.

All legislative resolutions may be found on the church's General Convention website: www.generalconvention.org.

Observations

The House of Deputies is becoming more informal in dress and demeanor although the President of the House of Deputies enforced her Rules of Order expectations consistently. Translators and signers for the deaf were present. There seemed to be excellent accommodation for people with physical handicaps.

The youth presence and voice was clearly evident the days they were in the House of Deputies. There seemed to be more Native Americans in attendance, reflecting the region of the country in which we were meeting.

Daily Eucharist was traditional with subtle illustrations of diversity in combining English and Spanish or Native American voices in liturgy and preaching.

Our relationship with others in the Anglican Communion was not the strident topic it has been.

Sky walks between hotels and the convention center spared participants from facing the 100-plus degree heat and drought.

The Louisiana deputation appreciated the opportunity to serve. Members of the Deputation are willing to visit any congregation or group to which they are invited to discuss the Convention in more detail.

Our state was properly represented in the House of Deputies at General Convention.



The Rev'd Lydia Hopkins Has Died

By John Pope; reprinted with permission from the Times-Picayune

Deacon Lydia Elliott Hopkins, a longtime activist who plunged into volunteer work after Hurricane Katrina, died August 8 of a heart attack while on vacation with her family at Grayton Beach, Fla. She was 63.

Shortly after the storm struck in August 2005, Deacon Hopkins organized volunteers at St. George's in Uptown New Orleans, where she was a member, and set up a program to provide free meals to people uprooted by the storm.

In 2008, she started working at All Souls Episcopal Church in the Lower 9th Ward, which had been especially hard-hit. Deacon Hopkins, a skilled cook and baker, organized food and housing programs and taught classes in creative writing and Bible studies, said Jessica White-Sustaita, one of her daughters.

"She was all about championing the underdog and reminding people to help each other," White-Sustaita said. "She wanted to remind people of the Christian left as opposed to the Christian right."

Deacon Hopkins — she was ordained in 2005 — was born in Chicago. She earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a master's degree at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Both degrees were in English literature, with an emphasis on utopian literature.

She lived in New Orleans twice: from 1973 to 1979, when she moved to California, and from 1989 on, her daughter said.

During her second stint in New Orleans, Deacon Hopkins taught at St. Anthony of Padua School and the University of New Orleans.

After growing up in the Unitarian Church and converting to Catholicism, Deacon Hopkins joined the Episcopal Church.

Throughout Deacon Hopkins' life, "she needed to be serving," White-Sustaita said. "She started getting more and more active in the church and realized that the community-organizing spirit was still in her. She wanted to be on the ground, as deacons are, feeding people and ministering to them."

In addition to White-Sustaita, who lives in Austin, Texas, Deacon Hopkins' survivors include her husband, Patrick Rogan; another daughter, Amanda Rachael White; two stepsons, John Rogan of Newport News, Va., and Davis Rogan; two stepdaughters, Alcena Rogan of Cleveland and Ama Rogan; and six grandchildren.



The SECC Approaches Its Twentieth Year

The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center will commemorate its 20th birthday with a celebration on Sunday, April 7, 2013. The Diocese of Louisiana invites you to a Bluegrass Eucharist and Picnic at the SECC from 11 am until the sun goes down, and the day will be an occasion for family fun and fellowship and to honor those who made the SECC's ministry a reality. A Birthday Celebration Committee, composed of two volunteers from each of the deaneries, has been working this summer to plan a celebration to be remembered:

- Regional musicians will participate at the Eucharist with Bluegrass music
- Altar Guild Memorials designed for the SECC will be dedicated during the Eucharist

- The picnic menu is extraordinary: entrees prepared by the Christwood, Lambeth House, and St. James Place chefs and sides by area restaurants and delis.



Entertainment for all ages will include a fishing rodeo, 5K race, crafts, rocking on the porch, and a surprise or two.

Every church is encouraged to come as a "family", and a headcount would be most appreciated by March 25th. Please contact any committee member with your questions or visit our site: solomoncenter.org/events.

Your input is of great value to the committee and you are invited to share your ideas, memories, and to volunteer your help. You will be contacted by the device of your choice!

Our Diocese and Hurricane Isaac

By the Rev'd Elaine Clements, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator and Deacon of ECSLA

Hurricane Isaac, with hurricane force winds extending 125 miles out from its center, struck south Louisiana on August 28, 2012. Rainfall amounts of 20" were recorded in some areas, causing further evacuations when rivers overflowed their banks. With windspeeds of a Category One hurricane, the storm also had a significant storm surge, causing flooding of homes, schools and businesses over a wide area. A storm surge of up to fifteen feet from the Gulf of Mexico impacted Jefferson, Lafourche and Plaquemines parishes while Lake Pontchartrain caused significant flooding in St. Tammany and St. John the Baptist Parishes. It is estimated that over 13,000 homes were damaged in south Louisiana by the storm. Power outages were widespread and for some, lasted more than a week.

Fortunately, most of our churches throughout the area suffered little or no damage. However, the damage to their communities is often daunting. For example, approximately 30% of the homes in Laplace, home of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, flooded, with some as little as 2 inches but some as much as 2 feet. Large areas of homes in several Slidell neighborhoods near Christ Church flooded, some as much as 5 feet.

Additionally, the area that the storm impacted is one of the poorest in the country, with a federal poverty rate of approximately 20% and a functional poverty rate of approximately twice that. More than 26% of the area's children live in poverty. For poor people, the impact of the storm can go well beyond wind and water. Power outages caused loss of precious food in refrigerators and freezers. People who could not work for days because of the storm conditions and evacuations didn't get paid. At the same time evacuating and preparing property for a hurricane costs money. People throughout the area, even people whose property was fine, find themselves short of funds, having to make choices about paying the rent or putting food on the family table. For families who live on the edge of disaster, a disaster such as this can push them over the edge.



Hurricane Isaac visited St. Matthew's, Bogalusa and left a very large sweet gum tree on the roof of the church's rectory. Thanks to the quick response and efforts of Senior Warden Alan Wilson and his crew, the tree was removed and a plastic covering put over the roof the next day. Permanent repairs will follow.

Episcopal Community Services has been contacting our churches throughout the affected area to determine what needs they are seeing. Pete Nunnally, Diocesan Volunteer Coordinator and I have visited storm-impacted neighborhoods in LaPlace and Slidell to talk to clergy, relief workers and storm survivors to get information on the scope of the impact. Reports are that there has been already an increased need for funds for rental assistance, food, utility bills and other expenses related to loss of income and an increase in expenses caused by the storm.

Therefore, Episcopal Community Services is seeking donations to respond to this crisis. Requests have gone out on

national listservs and through various online media outlets such as the EDOLA and ECS websites, Facebook and Twitter. Episcopal Community Services has already secured a \$10,000 emergency assistance grant from Episcopal Relief and Development. The purpose of the grant is to meet these unmet needs for monetary assistance throughout the storm-affected area. Episcopal churches in the impacted areas have agreed to act as a distributor of these funds to those in need. A portion of the grant will also be used to fund part of the cost for St. Anna's Medical Mission van to make weekly trips to impacted areas to provide free medical services such as blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol screenings.

In addition to Episcopal Community Services' work, the church is responding in a variety of ways in a variety of places. For example, St. Augustine in Metairie has deployed church volunteers to help out their parishioners in St. John the Baptist parish who were flooded. Louisiana Episcopal Deacons delivered several large loads of school supplies in Laplace, supplies collected from many of our churches throughout the area that generously and quickly gave when the need became apparent and urgent for children being relocated from flooded schools.

To donate to the relief effort, send checks to ECSLA, 1523 Seventh Street, New Orleans, LA 70115 or online at ecscla.org.

Christ-Centered Prayer at Trinity, NO

By the Rev'd Peter Gray, Trinity, New Orleans

On Saturday, October 6, Trinity Church, New Orleans will welcome the Reverend Sandy Casey-Martus for a one-day, introductory workshop on Christ Centered Prayer, a form of contemplative prayer. Participants will be invited to learn about the practice, try it out for themselves, and find ways to incorporate it into their personal rhythm of prayer.

About Christ Centered Prayer, the Reverend Casey-Martus writes, "Receiving, cultivating, and maintaining Jesus' gift of 'peace that passes understanding,' is foundational to Christian discipleship. Our Christian contemplative prayer practices aim to facilitate a posture of alert receptivity. As one such method, Christ Centered Prayer builds upon previous contemplative practices without reliance on sacred images, breath, thoughts, or words. It is easy to learn and fulfills Jesus' invitation to, 'Come and find rest for your souls.'"

Over time, with determined practice, the fruits of Christ Centered Prayer manifest. Love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, meekness, gentleness, patience, and self-control begin to express themselves naturally in daily life. As individual expressions of Divine love these fruits testify to God's purifying, loving, and healing presence. With Jesus as model, scriptures as reference, tradition as custodian, sacraments as celebration, and selfless service as mission, Christ Centered Prayer finds its source, sustenance, and direction."

Sandy Casey-Martus has studied various forms of contemplative prayer for over thirty years. In addition to serving as a parish priest, she writes, travels, and teaches Christ Centered Prayer to individuals and groups. She is currently Associate Rector of All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara.

The workshop begins Saturday, October 6th at 9 am in the Parish House of Trinity Church. We will share a catered buffet lunch of fresh, local foods from Nolavore, and we will conclude our time together at 3 pm. A fee of \$30 covers the cost of food and materials. Financial assistance is available. To register, contact me at **504.670.2584** or pgray@trinitynola.com.



Contemplative Living Seminar



The Rev'd Dr. Tilden Edwards, Episcopal priest and founding director the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation and author of numerous books including *Living in the Presence* and *Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth*, presents "Coming Home: Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth". This well-known spiritual mentor will share some theological and contemplative practices

for deepening the spiritual journey.

The seminar is sponsored by the School for Contemplative Living (thescl.net) and will take place February 22nd (6-9) and 23rd (10-3) in New Orleans. The cost is \$60.

For more information, contact Dr. William Thiele at **504.899.3431** or william.thiele56@gmail.com; or Deacon Maggie Dawson at **504.837.0877** or mgdrake@juno.com.

Hope of Jesus Coffee Ministry

by Christine Brasseaux, Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge

In James 1:27 it tells us "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." Would you consider joining me in doing just that? The Hope of Jesus Children's Home in La Esperanza, Honduras, is taking care of God's most needy children. In order to raise revenue for this home, full-time missionaries, Mike and Kim Miller, also oversee a farm in which they grow coffee and other produce to help support the ministry. I do not make any profit from this and the missionaries raise their own support. Therefore, all proceeds from the coffee sales go directly to the care of these needy children.

Would you consider allowing me to set up a table following one of your church services or church functions in which I might sell the coffee to help raise funds for these orphans?

I would be happy to meet with you to tell you more about this ministry or to give you some of this delicious coffee to try! For more information, visit hopeofjesus.org and hopefarmcoffee.com or contact me at **225.773.6077** or HopeFarmLa@gmail.com.

Bonnie Ball Sweeps Indianapolis

By the Rev'd Mary Frances Schjonberg / Reprinted with permission by Episcopal News Service.



In a come-from-behind victory, the Rev. Lowell Grisham, deputy from Arkansas, will go down in the record books as having trounced all competition to win the only game in the first season of Bonnie Ball.

A large number of the deputies in the 800-plus-member house, and some staffers, scored points during the eight-inning game — one inning per day of convention. The umpire scored the plays, whose point values were based on players using buzzwords during deputies' debate or engaging in certain activities while the house was in session. There were 28 possible ways to earn points.

Grisham beat out the Rev. Canon Gregory Straub, the Episcopal Church's executive officer and secretary of the General Convention, in the final inning. Straub had been leading for most of the game. At the stroke of final gavel, Grisham had scored 71 points to Straub's 60.

Outgoing House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson, after whom the game was named, placed ninth in the final standings with 24 points.

The player who was listed in the standings as "The Spanish Translator who yelled into Deputy Salazar's earphones" rounded out the top 10 with 20 points.

The identity of the game's umpire and the umpire's helper had been known only to their bishop, a technical assistant back home and, as of 7 a.m. July 12, an ENS reporter to whom they offered an exclusive interview to be released after the end of the game.

The umpire was incarnated in two people: the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson, canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Louisiana and a deputy, and the Rev'd Chad Jones, another Louisiana deputy. The umpire's helper was Kenn Elder, diocesan communications director, who updated scoring on the website from back home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, based on decisions Stevenson sent him four or five times a day.

The idea for the game germinated during a lunch Stevenson and Jones had a few months ago.

"We'd been talking about what had happened at the last few conventions; how we'd seen people doing crazy things ... people going to the microphone with headgear on," Stevenson said.

They asked Elder on June 28, just a few days before the July 5-12 convention began, to help them create a digital way to

keep track of plays, scoring and standings. It was meant to be some "good, clean fun" among a few deputies and their friends, according to the umpire.

During the course of the game, the umpire took the moniker of the Rt. Rev'd William White, first bishop of Pennsylvania from Feb. 4, 1787, until his death July 17, 1836. White e-mailed about 11 others on July 8, the halfway point of convention, inviting them to view the action online.

By the next afternoon, the umpire heard deputies and others talking about the game in the House of Deputies. During Straub's traditional announcement time at the end of the day's sessions or perhaps the next day (real times seems to morph during convention), he read a note from Massachusetts Deputy Samuel Gould about Bonnie Ball, which required Straub to announce that he was the frontrunner. Gould finished the game a distant second to Straub.

"The next thing we knew, in our tiny little sphere of the Episcopal Church, it was viral," said Jones.

Anderson released the deputies from the July 11 afternoon session wearing a funny hat and added that she hoped she had just scored points in Bonnie Ball.

As the newest virus began to spread through convention (earlier in the convention there were outbreaks of upper respiratory and stomach bugs), Jones suggested that "if people are going to be going [to the website], we need to do something special."

The Bonnie Ball website urged players and fans to make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development's NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund.

Stevenson is on the Episcopal Relief & Development board of directors and Jones suggested adding the fund's logo to the Bonnie Ball website with the suggestion that people donate in name of the game.

"That was one of the best things we did," Stevenson said. "This started out as something just for us to have a little fun with and then when people started catching on, we said if people are going to go there, we need to make it matter."

The umpire said scoring the game has not been a distraction from deputy responsibilities. "This is the third convention I have attended and I have paid more attention to this convention, I have paid attention to what everybody's said," Stevenson said, due to the need to keep track for scoring purposes.

"The truth of the matter is we can quote back to you large chunks of debate because we've been playing such close attention," Jones said.

He periodically e-mailed a list of scoring plays back home to Elder, who updated the website. There were no live updates to the site "because we're deputies for the Diocese of Louisiana and that's our primary role," the umpire said.

Despite the fact that the House of Deputies is equipped with two huge television screens, the game does not provide for instant replays. "But the only rules [in the game] are decided by us," Stevenson said, "and we can change whatever we want to change."

"It's completely arbitrary," Jones agreed.

Not even the umpire's fellow deputies knew their secret identity. In fact, Stevenson's seatmate at the deputation table marveled at the meticulous notes Stevenson took during debate, and urged him to lighten up.

"Every time a person gets up to speak, I write their name down because you never know if they're going to commit a play," Stevenson explained to ENS during the seventh-inning stretch between the July 11 play and the final inning on July 12.

"We're so glad that this has been taken in the spirit in which this was meant," said Stevenson. "We were committed to stay out of the political. It was not a political engine; it wasn't to be mean-spirited. It's just good, clean fun" that was devised as a way "to blow off steam" that sometimes accumulates during General Convention."

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16th Annual Women's Creativity Retreat

The 16th Annual Women's Creative Process Retreat: CPR for the Soul will take place October 11th through the 14th at the SECC. This year's theme is *Basic Elements—Basic Prayer*.

"Our Father who art in heaven" . . . the words roll off our tongue without thought, and yet the feelings associated are often rich with meaning and history. One of the very first prayers many of us learned, it is often laden with baggage as well as comfort. It is time to explore our responses to this prayer through art and dance, word and prayer.

As it is the most basic of our prayers, we will use the most basic elements of earth, water, wind and fire to deepen our exploration. Come experience this prayer with us. We will create a healing and sacred space for participants' natural, God-given creativity to emerge. The focus is always on the process and never on the product, so please don't worry if you believe you are not very creative. All are welcome! New-comers especially welcome!!

A single room is \$348 for the weekend, a double is \$279. For more information, contact Lisa Holden at

lholden7234@aol.com. To register, visit **solomoncenter.org**.



Saying Farewell and Thank You to Nell Bolton



In a June letter to the ECSLA board of directors, Nell Bolton, Executive Director, resigned. "I am sincerely encouraged by the momentum that ECSLA has gained towards establishing and fulfilling its multifaceted mission, and am heartened by the wonderful leadership we have on our team, both at the staff and board levels. It is from this place of enthusiasm that I regretfully share with you my intention to resign the position of Executive Director", she explained.

The decision, Bolton said, came "after much prayer and discernment. While I am not eager to leave ECSLA, I also feel that it is time to heed my deepest vocational call, and return my full-time focus to working for peace and justice in the world. Though the two are related, the commitment and priorities called for by the role of Executive Director are different from this vocation."

"Nell returned to her hometown of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, responding to a desire to help rebuild her beloved city. Many of you have shared that journey with her and have been an invaluable part of our recovery", Bishop Thompson said. "She guided ECSLA through the transition that merged the Office of Disaster Response with the original ECS, whose mission was to distribute Gaudet funds in accordance with the mission of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet. The new ECS is now poised to move forward in supporting the social ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, in no small part due to the hard, prayerful work of Nell Bolton."

We thank Nell for her dedication, service, fellowship and friendship. May God bless her as she continues her work for justice and peace.

Please consider making a financial contribution in honor of Nell to support the work of ECS. Your gift will allow us to continue

the good work that was begun in this Diocese in the latter part of the 19th Century by Frances Joseph Gaudet and that has continued into the 21st Century with the work of Nell Bolton, the work of two remarkable women who heard the cry of the least among us and responded without hesitation. Your gift will be the foundation of an endowment that will begin to be built in 2013. Visit ecsla.org/donate.



Bishop Thompson reads a letter at Bolton's farewell party, as Nell, Marsha Wade and the Rev'd A.J. Heine look on.

Gaudet Community Grants

Does your church or nonprofit have a ministry that creates, manages, and expands educational opportunities for African American children within the Diocese of Louisiana? If so, the Gaudet Committee of the ECSLA Board is encouraging you to submit an application for the 2013 grant cycle. The November 1st deadline is quickly approaching. Go to ecsla.org/gaudet-fund to download an application and learn more about the Francis Joseph Gaudet.

Welcoming New Class of LWP Fellows

by Pete Nunnally, Program Director, Living With Purpose Fellowship

We are proud to welcome the third class of the Living With Purpose Fellowship! It is always a blessing and great responsibility to host young adults in our diocese and walk with them for a year, helping to discern their call while serving the poor. This year brings with it the added blessing of a second LWP house.

Building on the successes of our first two years, LWP has partnered with St James, Baton Rouge to establish a new LWP house on the church campus in Baton Rouge. This massive outreach effort by St James allows LWP to live into the mission of Episcopal Community Services by serving across our diocese and out of New Orleans.

The 10 LWP Fellows completed an Isaac-interrupted orientation August 31, and began their year of service to vulnerable communities at their site placements September 4th.

The themes of their first month together are Investment, Balance, Vulnerability, and Community. Each week the LWP Fellows meet after work for a chapter meeting to engage these themes, NOLA on Tuesdays and BR on Wednesdays.

Please welcome our new fellows!

Baton Rouge

Nina Field, working at Volunteers in Public Schools
Courtney Parmer, working at O'Brien House
Ashley Yohman, working at Kids' Orchestra

New Orleans

Maggie Birkel, working at Eden House
Forrest Cook, working at Habitat for Humanity
Eli Coppock, working at Jericho Road Housing Initiative
Cassie Favrot, working at St Thomas Community Health Center
Allie Kochanski, working at Habitat for Humanity
Colleen Morrissey, working at Jericho Road Housing Initiative
Lauren Sepe, working at Trinity Loaves and Fishes



*Living with Purpose is part
of the Episcopal Service Corps.*

Social Justice Issues in Louisiana

Starting in October, ECSLA will bring you a year-long campaign lifting up the outreach ministries of our diocese. Each month we will highlight a social justice issue and share stories of ministries working in that area. We invite you to join the conversation on the Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana Facebook page as we raise awareness of and share best practices when ministering to the poor, feeding the hungry, addressing the social justice issues of our society, and preparing for and recovering from disasters. The Asset Map of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana will be released in the coming months.

October: Hunger Ministries

November: Healthcare, Mental Health and Thanksgiving-themed Ministries

December: Ministry Development and Christmas-themed Ministries

January: Equality and Racial Reconciliation

February: Children's Education

March: Ministering to Other Cultures; Mission Trips

April: Housing & Community

May: Disaster Preparation and Recovery; Coastal Restoration

June: Prison Ministries

July: Summer Learning Programs for Children

LEARN MORE ON ECSLA'S FACEBOOK PAGE!

Introducing Our 2012-2013 Fellows

How did Jericho Road get so lucky?! We are absolutely thrilled about the opportunity to work with six young people dedicating a year of service to community development work at Jericho Road! We want to start out by saying thank you to the organizations that have partnered with Jericho Road this year to place these six fellows in meaningful work: Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana, Grinnell College Grinnell Corps, The National Coalition for the Homeless and Louisiana Delta Service Corps.

Each of these programs has their own requirements of their participants but the one thing they all have in common is that they each make an attempt to match the talents, energy and idealism of their participants with the needs of a local community (got those great words from Grinnell's web page – thanks Grinnell!).

So, the residents of New Orleans and specifically Central City will receive the gift of the work and dedication from these six individuals for the next 11 months. And here they are:

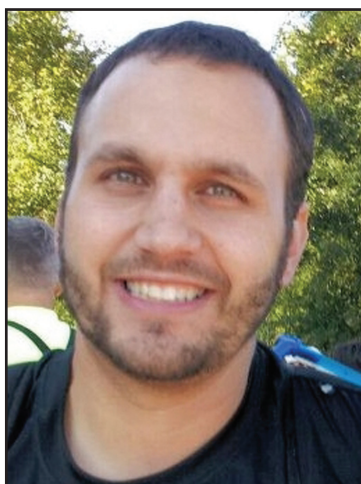


Caitlyn Baylor, Grinnell Corps

Caitlyn Baylor recently joined Jericho Road as the 2012-2013 Grinnell Corps Fellow. She graduated last spring from Grinnell College with a B.A. in English. This is Caitlyn's first real experience with community development work, and she is very excited to begin supporting the resident community as a Neighborhood Coordinator. Originally from Rockford, Illinois, Caitlyn hopes eventually to use her experience to do similar work in her community back home.

Sumi Dutta, The National Coalition for the Homeless

Sumita Dutta joins Jericho Road as a National Coalition for the Homeless AmeriCorps fellow for 2012-2013. She grew up in Durham, North Carolina and recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville with a degree in Gender Studies. Sumita is excited about working as the Homeowner Outreach Coordinator at Jericho Road and recognizes access to affordable housing as a link between several social justice issues. She spent the last two years volunteering as a full spectrum doula in a women's clinic in Asheville, NC and studying Sociology in Hyderabad, India. Sumi will be working with potential and new Jericho Road homeowners.



Kenneth Roques, The National Coalition for the Homeless

Kenneth Roques is a native of New Orleans and joins the Jericho Road team with an extensive background in sustainable building technologies and construction. After Katrina, Kenny was directly involved in all phases of community re-development from the physical (demolition, renovation, elevation, and new construction), to design (affordable alternative building solutions), and administration (planned community development). As a volunteer serving the needs of the community through outreach programs for over 15 years, he has firsthand experience in the impact of meeting basic needs and individual desire for advancement. Kenny believes in personal empowerment and responsibility with home ownership as a cornerstone to that goal and education being fundamental in that process. Kenny will be working with potential and new Jericho Road homeowners.

JERICHO ROAD EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE



Scott Webster, Louisiana Delta Service Corps

Scott Webster, our new Green Space Coordinator, will work to maintain Jericho Road's fruit tree orchard in Faubourg Livaudais and the Faubourg Delassize Community Garden. Born and raised in Virginia, Scott graduated from Virginia Tech in 2011 with a B.S. in Environmental Science concentrating in waste management. He spent last year with the Episcopal Service Corp, in New Orleans, doing construction and refurbishing homes with Habitat for Humanity. In the future Scott hopes to pursue a Masters in Groundwater Hydrology. In the meantime, he is excited to continue to build on the accomplishments within Jericho Road's green spaces.

Colleen Morrissey, Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana

Originally from the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, Colleen recently graduated from Boston University with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. In college, she co-chaired a non-denominational service and fellowship organization. Colleen looks forward to getting to know Central City and its community. She will be working closing with the community as a neighborhood coordinator.



Eli Coppock, Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana

Eli joins us as a Neighborhood Coordinator. Eli recently received a Bachelor's in History with a minor in Political Science from Gannon University in his home town Erie, Pa. He is passionate about community development and organizing and is excited to start working with the Jericho Road team this coming year. Eli developed an interest in community organizing while doing internships both with a local congressional campaign and with The Peace Alliance, a small non-profit which works to build alliances between peacebuilding organizations across the country.

Ecker Off to a New Adventure



Dear Friends and Supporters of Jericho Road –

I write to you today to let you know of my departure from Jericho Road as the Director of Vacant Land Management. In about a week, I will take up my post as a Princeton-in-Asia fellow with the Global Helmet Vaccine Initiative in Hanoi, Vietnam. Although I'm overjoyed to have been given an opportunity to live in this beautiful and historic city, and expand my work by focusing on an important urban issue in an international setting, it's with a heavy heart that I leave behind Jericho Road and New Orleans. As I've told my friends, family, co-workers, and colleagues, this moment can only be described in one way: bittersweet.

Launching our Vacant Land Management program a little over two years ago was a daunting challenge, but also a tremendous opportunity to creatively tackle one of the most complex problems facing not only Central City, but neighborhoods throughout New Orleans and many other American cities. With the support of Jericho Road and many of you, I was able to build up a program that addressed the issue on multiple scales: demonstrating positive uses of vacant lots at our garden and fruit tree orchard, greening our properties through fencing and landscaping, and working to educate

neighborhood residents, as well as the broader community, about the problem and potential solutions.

Yet, for everything I've been able to provide, so many of you have given so much to me. You've given me the confidence that much is possible with time and persistence; the ability to think in a big ways and therefore inspire many around us; and an understanding that real change does not always involve a straight course. The central philosophy of Jericho Road - that true community improvement requires issues to be addressed in a deep, systemic, and sustainable way – is a value that I will forever carry with me. Most of all, you've become my friends that I will always hold dear, and a community that I will always want to come back to.

All the best!

As of
8/31/2012

Church	City
Church of the Incarnation	Amite
Church of the Holy Spirit	Baton Rouge
St. Alban's Chapel	Baton Rouge
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge
St. James' Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge
St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal	Baton Rouge
Trinity Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Bogalusa
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Clinton
Christ Episcopal Church	Covington
St. Francis' Episcopal Church	Denham Springs
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Franklin
Grace Memorial Church	Hammond
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Harvey
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Houma
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Innis
St. John's Episcopal Church	Kenner
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	LaPlace
St. Michael's Episcopal Church	Mandeville
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Metairie
St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Metairie
Trinity Episcopal Church	Morgan City
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Morganza
All Souls	New Orleans
Church of the Annunciation	New Orleans
Chapel of the Holy Comforter	New Orleans
Chapel of the Holy Spirit	New Orleans
Christ Church Cathedral	New Orleans
Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. Anna's Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. George's Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. Philip's Episcopal Church	New Orleans
Trinity Episcopal Church	New Orleans
St. Paul's-Holy Trinity Church	New Roads
Church of the Holy Communion	Plaquemine
All Saints' Episcopal Church	Ponchatoula
All Saints' Episcopal Church	River Ridge
Church of the Nativity	Rosedale
Christ Episcopal Church	Slidell
Grace Episcopal Church	St. Francisville
St. John's Episcopal Church	Thibodaux
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	Zachary
Totals	

Assessment	YTD (Jan - Aug)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance
\$1,163.23	\$775.49	\$1,050.00	\$274.51
\$7,250.80	\$4,833.87	\$4,834.00	\$0.13
\$11,425.61	\$7,617.07	\$5,712.88	-\$1,904.19
\$2,510.50	\$1,673.67	\$1,674.00	\$0.33
\$79,918.75	\$53,279.17	\$27,467.68	-\$25,811.49
\$40,894.10	\$27,262.73	\$23,854.88	-\$3,407.85
\$11,058.40	\$7,372.27	\$7,372.12	-\$0.15
\$2,406.85	\$1,604.57	\$2,000.00	\$395.43
\$32,211.60	\$21,474.40	\$18,790.31	-\$2,684.09
\$3,406.45	\$2,270.97	\$2,270.64	-\$0.33
\$794.18	\$529.45	\$794.18	\$264.73
\$35,863.75	\$23,909.17	\$21,279.94	-\$2,629.23
\$5,548.95	\$3,699.30	\$3,701.00	\$1.70
\$5,253.03	\$3,502.02	\$2,617.50	-\$884.52
\$13,201.64	\$8,801.09	\$8,801.36	\$0.27
\$3,813.75	\$2,542.50	\$2,544.00	\$1.50
\$13,930.20	\$9,286.80	\$9,286.68	-\$0.12
\$2,588.10	\$1,725.40	\$2,500.00	\$774.60
\$1,142.10	\$761.40	\$0.00	-\$761.40
\$2,188.00	\$1,458.67	\$1,458.64	-\$0.03
\$13,085.30	\$8,723.53	\$6,542.52	-\$2,181.01
\$16,746.35	\$11,164.23	\$11,164.00	-\$0.23
\$19,275.30	\$12,850.20	\$12,850.00	-\$0.20
\$6,736.15	\$4,490.77	\$3,929.31	-\$561.46
\$510.45	\$340.30	\$510.00	\$169.70
\$2,525.00	\$1,683.33	\$800.00	-\$883.33
\$7,484.05	\$4,989.37	\$0.00	-\$4,989.37
\$4,137.20	\$2,758.13	\$2,413.25	-\$344.88
\$2,397.55	\$1,598.37	\$2,397.55	\$799.18
\$25,213.70	\$16,809.13	\$14,708.19	-\$2,100.94
\$2,743.62	\$1,829.08	\$1,829.30	\$0.22
\$15,943.15	\$10,628.77	\$1,328.58	-\$9,300.19
\$10,617.40	\$7,078.27	\$7,078.00	-\$0.27
\$16,421.55	\$10,947.70	\$10,948.00	\$0.30
\$9,348.24	\$6,232.16	\$6,232.08	-\$0.08
\$31,310.55	\$20,873.70	\$18,264.64	-\$2,609.06
\$9,464.75	\$6,309.83	\$6,312.00	\$2.17
\$110,851.70	\$73,901.13	\$73,901.24	\$0.11
\$3,773.20	\$2,515.47	\$2,200.99	-\$314.48
\$7,868.65	\$5,245.77	\$7,250.20	\$2,004.43
\$3,648.10	\$2,432.07	\$2,432.10	\$0.03
\$9,626.35	\$6,417.57	\$6,053.00	-\$364.57
\$1,938.20	\$1,292.13	\$1,938.20	\$646.07
\$9,655.15	\$6,436.77	\$7,528.74	\$1,091.97
\$24,263.40	\$16,175.60	\$16,377.84	\$202.24
\$6,192.10	\$4,128.07	\$4,644.02	\$515.95
\$7,582.80	\$5,055.20	\$5,056.00	\$0.80
\$655,929.95	\$437,286.63	\$382,699.56	-\$54,587.07

Ask	Pledge	YTD (Jan - Aug)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance
\$1,047.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$9,426.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$19,424.00	\$19,424.00	\$12,949	\$9,712.12	-\$3,237.21
\$2,259.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$135,862.00	\$102,664.00	\$68,443	\$33,393.32	-\$35,049.35
\$69,520.00	\$44,106.00	\$29,404	\$25,728.43	-\$3,675.57
\$18,799.00	\$1,880.00	\$1,253	\$1,253.24	-\$0.09
\$2,166.00	\$500.00	\$333	\$500.00	\$166.67
\$54,760.00	\$38,332.00	\$25,555	\$22,360.31	-\$3,194.36
\$3,066.00	\$1,394.00	\$929	\$929.36	\$0.03
\$715.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$60,968.00	\$24,136.00	\$16,091	\$16,090.64	-\$0.03
\$7,214.00	\$7,214.00	\$4,809	\$4,810.00	\$0.67
\$6,829.00	\$8,280.00	\$5,520	\$4,140.00	-\$1,380.00
\$22,443.00	\$22,443.00	\$14,962	\$14,962.00	\$0.00
\$3,432.00	\$13,930.00	\$2,288	\$2,288.00	\$0.00
\$2,329.00	\$2,329.00	\$9,287	\$9,286.68	\$0.01
\$1,028.00	\$514.00	\$1,553	\$0.00	-\$1,552.67
\$1,969.00	\$1,969.00	\$1,313	\$1,312.64	-\$0.03
\$22,245.00	\$1,200.00	\$800	\$700.00	-\$100.00
\$28,469.00	\$16,746.00	\$11,164	\$11,164.00	\$0.00
\$7,710.00	\$5,140.00	\$5,140	\$5,140.00	\$0.00
\$8,757.00	\$8,757.00	\$5,838	\$5,108.25	-\$729.75
\$459.00	\$459.00	\$306	\$459.00	\$153.00
\$2,273.00	\$2,273.00	\$1,515	\$0.00	-\$1,515.33
\$9,729.00	\$4,490.00	\$2,993	\$0.00	-\$2,993.33
\$3,723.00	\$3,723.00	\$2,482	\$2,171.75	-\$310.25
\$2,158.00	\$2,158.00	\$1,439	\$2,158.45	\$719.78
\$42,863.00	\$42,863.00	\$28,575	\$25,003.44	-\$3,571.89
\$2,469.00	\$400.00	\$267	\$400.06	\$133.39
\$27,103.00	\$13,552.00	\$9,035	\$1,129.33	-\$7,905.34
\$18,050.00	\$1,200.00	\$800	\$0.00	-\$800.00
\$27,917.00	\$13,959.00	\$9,306	\$11,166.80	\$1,860.80
\$12,153.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$53,228.00	\$26,614.00	\$17,743	\$15,524.99	-\$2,217.68
\$12,304.00	\$9,843.00	\$6,562	\$6,563.00	\$1.00
\$188,448.00	\$144,148.00	\$96,099	\$96,098.76	\$0.09
\$3,396.00	\$3,396.00	\$2,284	\$1,980.95	-\$283.05
\$10,229.00	\$4,091.00	\$2,727	\$2,386.60	-\$340.73
\$3,283.00	\$2,760.00	\$1,840	\$1,840.00	\$0.00
\$12,514.00	\$1,200.00	\$800	\$1,202.91	\$402.91
\$1,744.00	\$1,744.00	\$1,163	\$1,744.00	\$581.33
\$12,552.00	\$2,345.00	\$1,563	\$1,471.26	-\$92.07
\$41,248.00	\$41,248.00	\$27,499	\$16,377.66	-\$11,121.01
\$8,050.00	\$4,025.00	\$2,683	\$3,018.76	\$335.43
\$9,858.00	\$10,350.00	\$6,900	\$6,900.00	\$0.00
\$1,044,927.00	\$663,801.00	\$442,534.00	\$366,990.71	-\$75,543.29

The Diocese of Louisiana - Operations Budget 2012 - Analysis 08/31/2012 (Assessment and Program)		2012			OVER/ UNDER BUDGET
		TOTAL	YTD	YTD	
		BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	
REVENUE					
Subtotal - Revenues from Congregations		\$1,319,731	\$879,821	\$764,184	-\$115,637
Subtotal - Other Revenues		\$116,676	\$77,784	\$84,806	\$7,022
Subtotal - Targeted Donations		\$75,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE		\$1,511,407	\$1,007,605	\$898,990	-\$108,615
EXPENSES					
Total Diocesan Center		\$848,396	\$565,597	\$533,999	-\$31,598
Diocesan Property Reserve		\$7,500	5,000	5000	\$0
Episcopal Transition Reserve		\$7,500	5,000	5000	\$0
Total Academic Chaplaincies		\$284,123	\$189,415	\$223,299	\$33,883
Total Christian Education		\$2,000	\$1,333	\$0	-\$1,333
Total Commissions		\$11,000	\$7,333	\$5,080	-\$2,253
Total Communications		\$45,350	\$30,233	\$24,777	-\$5,456
Total Conferences		\$20,250	\$13,500	\$13,223	-\$277
Total Church Mission Ministry & Grants		\$87,500	\$58,333	\$39,409	-\$18,925
Total Seminarians		\$7,000	\$4,667	\$7,500	\$2,833
School for Ministry		\$13,000	8,667	7,117	-\$1,549
Total Specialized Ministries		\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
Total Stewardship		\$2,500	\$1,667	\$1,000	-\$667
Total Work Outside the Diocese		\$159,925	\$106,617	\$107,009	\$392
Total Youth		\$84,655	\$56,437	\$54,835	-\$1,602
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,583,699	\$1,055,799	\$1,030,248	-\$25,552
NET INCOME / LOSS		-\$72,292	-\$48,195	-\$131,258	-\$83,063

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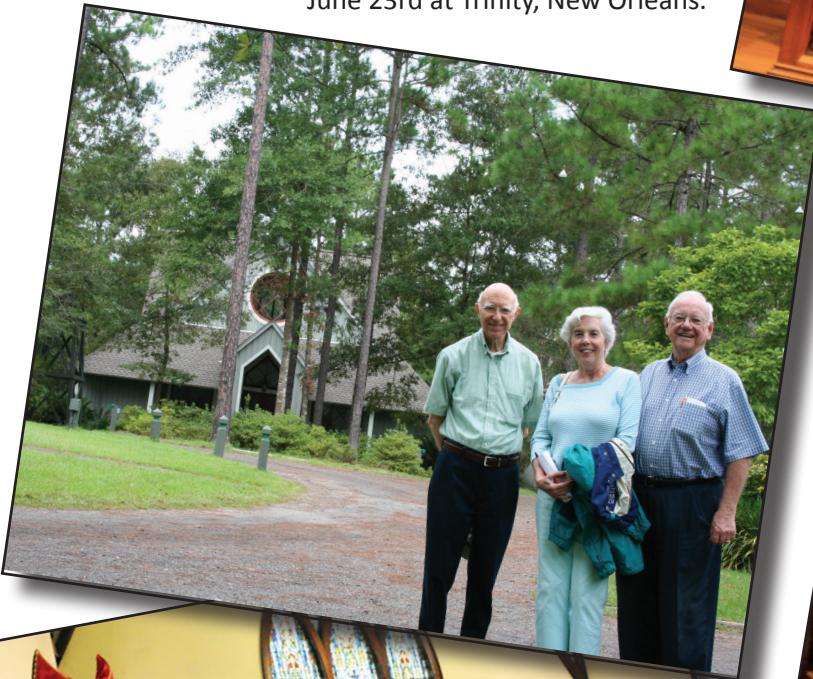
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Sr. Warden Dave Smith and Tony Bosco of St. Michael's, Mandeville recently collected hundreds of pounds of food which was distributed by The Samaritan Center to those in need in the Mandeville area.



Bishop Thompson pauses with the Rev'd Joseph Anthony Wallace-Williams at his ordination to the priesthood on June 23rd at Trinity, New Orleans.



Bishop Brown and Carol & Philip Wright of St. James, Baton Rouge visit after a meeting at the SECC.



The Rev'd Alina Williams responds to Bishop Thompson at her ordination to the priesthood at St. James, Baton Rouge on June 30th.



Participants of Mt. Olivet's ARTSOUL camp present masks they made this summer at the program's closing Eucharist. The kids learned to make masks, dance and drum, and also received reading enrichment.

