

# CHURCHWORK

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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Spring 2013



...TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR  
THE NAME OF THE LORD...

1 KINGS 8:17

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## On the front cover:

The Rev'd Craig Dalferes breaks ground at the site of St. Matthew's, Houma. Read more about rebuilding the historic church page 20.

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

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

It's a new year, and we've made some changes to

# CHURCHWORK

Starting with this issue, the magazine will be exclusively digital — and we're going from four issues a year to six.

You'll be able to interact with the magazine:

- Click anywhere on a page to zoom
- Turn pages using arrow keys
- Click on any word that is underlined to visit a link
- Share it with friends, download it and more

Please visit [churchwork.edola.org](http://churchwork.edola.org) to sign up to receive *ChurchWork* by email and to view our archives.

If you would like to submit an article to ChurchWork, email Rebecca at [rpitre@edola.org](mailto:rpitre@edola.org).

# BISHOP'S JOURNAL: DECEMBER 1ST – FEBRUARY 22

**December 1:** Rebecca and I enjoyed a lovely evening with Jim and Shannon Evans, and stayed the night at their home in Franklin.

**December 2:** Celebrated the Holy Eucharist and the First Sunday of Advent at St. Mary's Church, Franklin, followed by a wonderful lunch with many parishioners. After returning to New Orleans, Rebecca and I went to the beautifully decorated home of Regina Matthews for the Integrity Christmas Gathering.

**December 3:** Day off.

**December 4:** Met with Amelia Arthur for updates on the Youth and Young Adults Ministry. Met with the Rev'ds Blackmon, Heine and Devall to discuss the Vestry Training event scheduled for February 23, 2013. Met with the Rev'd Bill Terry and Darryl Durham regarding educational possibilities. Met with Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus for an update on the ministries of the deacons. Met with Karla duPlantier about ECSLA.

**December 5:** Weekly staff meeting then a visit to the physical therapist. Drove to Baton Rouge for an evening dedication of the chapel on the 3rd floor of the St. James Ministries building. Then drove back to New Orleans.

**December 6:** Physical therapy in the morning, then met with Lee Crean, Chair of the Racial Reconciliation Committee, to discuss the diocese-wide workshops taking place in January about the legacy of slavery and how we can reconcile today. A screening of "Traces of the Trade" will be shown at Noon on Monday, January 21, Dr. Martin Luther King Day, at St. Paul's Church, New Orleans. Met with the Rev'd Edward Thompson of All Souls Church, New Orleans. Later, I celebrated the Holy Eucharist and the Rt. Rev'd William H. Love, Bishop of Albany

ordained to the sacred priesthood the Rev'd Rodney Roehner, Curate at St. Paul's Church, New Orleans.

**December 7:** Worked on a sermon. Several aspirants to the ordination process and I met at the conference center for an overnight retreat. The time spent with these individuals was very beneficial.

**December 8:** Bishop and Aspirants Retreat concluded and I attended the meeting of the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center Board. Drove to New Orleans to pick up Rebecca and we drove to Baton Rouge and dined with Nanette Noland. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

**December 9:** Met with vestry members at St. Margaret's Church, Baton Rouge, followed by celebration of the Holy Eucharist and confirmation. We were treated to a delightful lunch in the parish hall. Rebecca and I traveled back to New Orleans for Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral followed by a festive holiday reception at the home of the Dean and his wife, Karla.

**December 10:** Day off. More physical therapy.

**December 11:** Met with the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson and Agatha Townsend to discuss potential names as appointees to commissions and committees at Diocesan Convention. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon with the combined diocesan offices and ECSLA staffs. Met with Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus and Dr. Tom Ryan of Loyola about deacon formation.

**December 12:** Physical therapy session. Met with Karla duPlantier to discuss Episcopal Community Service of Louisiana (ECSLA) and the Living with Purpose program. Severe back pain so went home for the afternoon.

**December 13 – 16:** Physical therapy session on Thursday morning followed by a phone call with the Rev'd Dr. Julia Gatta to prepare for the Clergy Retreat at the conference center, January 23-25, 2013. Rebecca and I traveled to Lexington, Kentucky.

**December 13 – 16:** for the Ordination of William Douglas Hahn as the Seventh Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington.

**December 17:** Met with Karla duPlantier, the Rev'd Henry Hudson and the Rev'd Mark Holland, to review and discuss the Living With Purpose program. Attended the welcome luncheon for Fr. Maximos Pafilas, Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans. Attended the ECSLA Board meeting in the afternoon.

**December 18:** Physical therapy before work. Study time afterward. Celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at Christ Church Cathedral, followed by a brown bag luncheon with staff. Met with the Rev'd Richard Easterling in the afternoon.

**December 19:** Drove to the Baton Rouge office. Exit interview with the Rev'd Canon David Seger, interim priest in charge at St. Luke's Church, Baton Rouge. Diocesan Executive Board meeting in the evening, followed by a meeting with the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson then dinner with Deacon Hudson. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

**December 20:** Breakfast meeting at the Camelot Club. Annual consultation with the Rev'd Karen Gay. Drove back to New Orleans.

**December 21 - January 1:** Physical therapy, then worked on a sermon. The Bishop's offices closed at Noon on Friday, December 21 for the Christmas holidays. I celebrated and preached at the 5pm Christmas Vigil at Christ Church Cathedral. Preached at the 9pm Christmas Vigil at the Cathedral. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Glory to the Newborn King!*

**January 2:** Called in for jury duty for the first two weeks of January. Back to the office after a restful

break over the Christmas holiday. Staff meeting in the morning and phone calls and correspondence throughout the day.

**January 3:** Met with the Rev'd Canon William Barnwell for updates on St. Luke's Church, New Orleans, and his desire for deacon training for several parishioners. Updates with Canon Stevenson by phone. Caught up on more paperwork. Met with Karla duPlantier for updates on ECSLA.

**January 4:** Writing day – worked on a sermon and made several pastoral phone calls.

**January 5:** Relaxing day at home with Rebecca.

**January 6:** Celebrated, preached, baptized and reaffirmed at St. George's Church, New Orleans, followed by a nice reception. Today was Fr. Richard Easterling's first Sunday as Priest in Charge of St. George. Quiet afternoon at home with Rebecca.

**January 7:** Day off.

**January 8:** Met with Amelia Arthur for updates on Youth and Young Adult Ministry as well as the Living With Purpose program. Correspondence and phone calls in the afternoon.

**January 9:** Drove to the conference center for a day with the director, Frank Hall. He is making needed changes.

**January 10:** Drove to All Souls Church, New Orleans, for a morning with the Rev'd Edward Thompson for updates. Met with Caroline Carson, Director of Music Ministry, St. Paul's Church, New Orleans, to discuss her ideas about overhauling the Liturgy & Music resource page on the diocesan website – job well done. Pastoral meeting with the Rev'd Susan Gaumer.

**January 11:** Writing day – worked on a sermon while repairs were made to the air conditioning/heating unit of the Bishop's residence. Met with Karla duPlantier in the afternoon to discuss ECSLA.



## FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

**January 12:** Diocesan Executive Board meeting. We are blessed with good lay and clerical leadership.

**January 13:** Celebrated, preached and received at St. John's Church, Kenner, followed by a lovely reception. The congregation presented Rebecca and me with two beautiful fleur de lis serving platters.

**January 14:** Day off, at home with plumber. Last night the faucet to turn off the hot water broke. Thankfully my grandfather was a plumber and I knew what to do. Cold baths are not fun!

**January 15:** Updates with Canon Stevenson by phone. Prep work for upcoming clergy gathering. Met with Harriet Murrell for updates. Celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Cathedral, then enjoyed a luncheon gathering with Katie Mears and ERD Disaster Response Trainers, as well as Noland Center staff members. Annual consultation with Deacon Debbie Scalia. Spoke at the evening gathering of young adults at God and Guinness.

**January 16:** Drove to Baton Rouge in the early morning. Meeting with the Rev'd Kevin Kelly and Skip Smart, Sr. Warden. Luncheon gathering with Marsha Wade and members of the Contextual Scripture Study group. Annual consultations with the Rev'd's Ernie Saik and Jerry Phillips. Evening Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev'd Bryan Owen, St. Luke's Church, Baton Rouge. Overnight in Baton Rouge. There is an energetic spirit at St. Luke's.

**January 17:** Very pleased with the turnout for the Clergy Gathering at St. Margaret's Church. Good conversation and collegiality in the Diocese. Welcomed several new clergy. We surprised Agatha Townsend with a huge red velvet birthday cake and well wishes for many more birthdays. Agatha does so much for me and the diocese.

**January 18:** Writing day – worked on a sermon. The plumber returned to enhance emergency water turnoff. Rebecca and I drive to Baton Rouge later that afternoon and stayed overnight.

**January 19:** Ministry Conference at Trinity Church,

Baton Rouge. Attended a cocktail party in honor of the Rev'd and Mrs. Bryan Owen's arrival at St. Luke's Church, Baton Rouge.

**January 20:** Preached, celebrated and confirmed at St. Philip's Church, New Orleans followed by a nice reception.

**January 21:** MLK holiday - office is closed. Preached and celebrated at St. Paul's Church, New Orleans, for the Racial Reconciliation Committee's honoring of Dr. Martin Luther King. Over a hundred people in attendance for the viewing of the film, Traces of the Trade. A powerful documentary followed by honest and thoughtful conversation. Later, visited with the Rev'd's Peter and Giulianna Gray and their son, Joseph in their home.

**January 22:** Day off. Met the Rev'd Dr. Julia Gatta at Louis Armstrong Airport. She stayed overnight with us in preparation for the Clergy Silent Retreat.

**January 23:** Conference call with the Rev'd Tom Brackett, Missioner for Church Planting, Ministry, Redevelopment and Fresh Expressions, to chat about Mission Enterprise Zones (MEZ) that exist in our diocese and around the church. MEZs are defined within Resolution A073 as a "geographic area, as a group of congregations or as an entire diocese committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement. They wanted to learn more about how new life is bubbling up in EDOLA. Conference call with Mission Partners of Trinity Church, Wall Street. The Rev'd Dr. Julia Gatta and I drove to the conference center where she facilitated the Clergy Silent Retreat.

**January 24 & 25:** Clergy Silent Retreat all day Thursday till midday Friday. Dr Gatta was pastoral and scholarly with her teaching. The clergy were responsive to her. Friday drove our facilitator to the airport for her flight back to Sewanee.

**January 26:** No appointments today. Worked on a sermon.

**January 27:** Celebrated, preached and received at the Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans, followed by a nice reception. Later in the evening attended a reception for the ISAS/SAES accreditation team at St. Martin's School, Metairie. I am impressed with the faculty and staff turn out. I'm learning more and more about our schools and the impact they have on our communities.

**January 28:** Attended the Living With Purpose Fellows retreat at Trinity Church, New Orleans. They are energetic and inquisitive. Living with Purpose fellows have much to teach us about their generation. Met with the ISAS/NAES evaluation team at St. Martin's School, Metairie to discuss our governance and to answer any questions regarding my role as Bishop. Pastoral phone call with the Rev'd Don Owens. Later, Canon Stevenson and I met with the Vestry of Chapel of the Holy Spirit to discuss the departure of the Rev'd Giulianna Gray.

**January 29 - February 2:** No appointments. Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge for a flight to Washington D.C. along with other guests of Ms. Nanette Noland for Mardi Gras in D.C. with the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians. Just when you think you have seen everything you come face to face with another experience. The Washington D.C. Mardi Gras was one of the most amazing events Rebecca and I have ever attended.

**February 3:** Rebecca and I returned from Washington in time for the Super Bowl. Even with the lights going out, the game was exciting.

**February 4:** Canon Stevenson and I flew out of Baton Rouge to visit two of our seminaries. Firstly, Sewanee, where we landed late and it was cold. I was grateful to be able to get to bed quickly.

**February 5:** We began the day joining the seminarians for Morning Prayer followed by a good conversation with their new Dean, the Rt. Rev'd Neil

## FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Alexander. We interviewed a couple of students and then the Dean treated us to lunch. We interviewed more students that afternoon and then took our seminarian, Jim Morrison, out to dinner. It was good seeing Jim and hearing how well he is doing.

**February 6:** Breakfast with long time friends the Rev'd Ann Meyers and her husband Dixon. Back in the car, we drove to Nashville to catch a plane to Nashotah House where we dined with their Dean, the Rt. Rev'd Ed Salmon. He was gracious and treated us to a fine meal.

**February 7:** Woke up to snow and I realized I was not in New Orleans. Off to Morning Prayer and then we began interviewing seminarians. Lunch with the students and then back to the interviews followed by Mass. We took our seminarian Duane Nettles out to dinner where I ventured out and had "pork belly." Didn't taste like chicken!

**February 8:** Up at 3 a.m. to catch our flight back to Baton Rouge.

**February 10:** No visitation, Mardi Gras weekend! Rebecca and I thoroughly enjoyed being on the parade route and having friends drop by.

**February 13:** Preached and celebrated at the Cathedral for Ash Wednesday. In spite of the rain there was a good crowd, a testament to their desire to begin their Lenten journey.

**February 14:** Lunch with Bishop Brown. It is always good to spend time with him, he knows the diocese so well. Pastoral meetings rounded out the day.

**February 15:** Met Ms Darlene Dufour at the office. She is making a leather crozier case that is more suited for me than what I am currently carrying. She can make anything.

**February 16:** Drove to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

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# The SECC Turns 20

By Heidi C. Lee

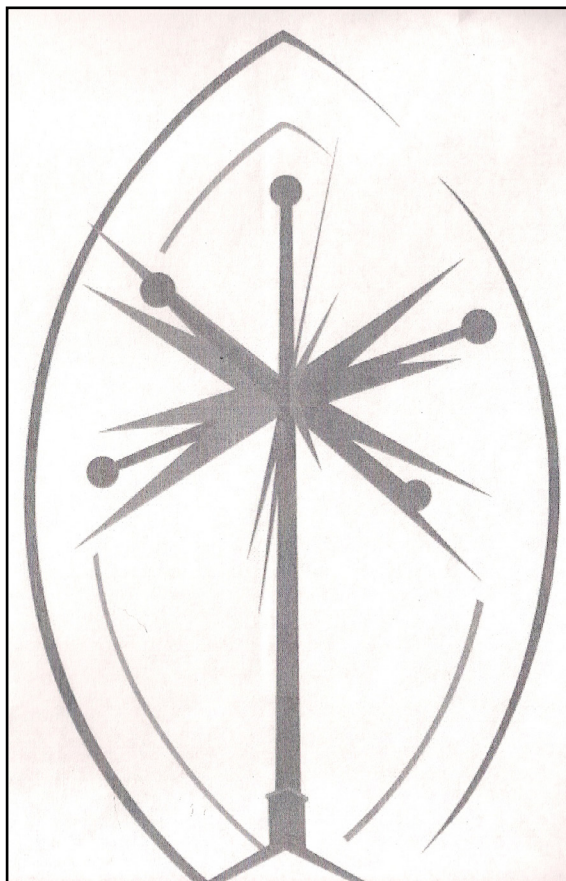
It had been overcast all morning, hinting at an impending rainstorm. That was not good news, because it was a costly endeavor to bring in the heavy crane needed to put the finishing touch on the building. Finally, the Chapel of the Holy Cross would be crowned with the custom-designed cross that is discernible from all four points of the compass. The cross had been delivered. The crane and its operator were ready. Bishop Brown and the Executive Director, Peter Claverie, watched anxiously as the cross was hoisted in place. The workmen on the roof positioned and affixed it. Sighs gave testimony to the relief of all parties. Finally, the chapel construction was done.

Between those sighs of relief and the next breath taken, the clouds opened and a shaft of light shot down from the sky, beaming unerringly on the freshly installed cross. It was an unexpected spiritual moment amidst the ordinary construction activities of the day. Faces upturned, no one looked away from the light that pierced the gloomy sky; making a radiant display of the chapel cross. All who witnessed it felt the extraordinary nature of that lone, brave sunbeam. Surely, the Lord had just blessed the Chapel of the Holy Cross at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center.

And to think there was some debate about which building should be next on the construction roster. Some thought it should be the dining hall and some thought it should be the chapel. The latter faction prevailed and the chapel was constructed prior to the dining hall. Perhaps God honored that decision that cloudy morning. Visitors who come to Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (SECC) today are rarely aware of the time and effort involved in the creation of this facility. In 1980, The Right Rev'd James B. Brown recognized the need for a retreat center within the boundaries of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. In 1981, a resolution was passed at the Annual Diocesan Convention. In 1982, Mr. Teddy Solomon embraced the Diocesan vision and agreed to gift the land and donate funds toward the construction of the much-needed retreat center. After a long and arduous process, the appropriate site for the future retreat center was found. That original 80-acre tract was acquired by Teddy and Doris Solomon in December 1988 and immediately donated to the Diocese. Eight years thereafter another 92 adjacent acres were acquired.

Development of the conference center began with the ground breaking ceremony on July 7, 1990. The first building to be completed was the lodge, subsequently named Bishop Brown Lodge. With several buildings yet to be developed, the facility was open for business on January 1, 1993, making 2013 its 20th year of operation.

To celebrate the milestone, Bishop Thompson invites the entire Diocese of Louisiana to the SECC 20th Birthday Party on April 7. This event will begin with a Bluegrass Eucharist at 11:00 a.m., to be followed by food and fun for hours thereafter.



Please join us in

# Celebrating 20 Years!

Sunday, April 7th  
Bluegrass Eucharist at 11 am

Followed by food, fun and fellowship!

Bring the whole family!

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# New Plans for the Diaconate



By the Ven. Priscilla Maumus, Diocesan Archdeacon

Many of you have asked over the past two years, "What's Happening with the Diaconate?" since we have accepted no new Aspirants in the past year. During that time, Bishop Thompson, the Deacons' Council of three deacons, two

priests and one lay person and I have been discerning how the Spirit is leading the diaconate to evolve in the Diocese. Two of these processes, the re-design of the discernment process (done as part of a Commission on Ministry Task Force) and the re-imagining of formation have now been completed. During the coming year I will be working with the Bishop and archdeacons around the country to discern the mission of the Deacons' Council. I will be reporting next Convention on that effort.

What's changed in discernment? First, there will be a regular schedule for discernment. The process takes two years from the initial interview with the Bishop through the second postulancy interview. Aspirants and their rectors/priests-in-charge are interviewed by the Bishop in September – December of Year 1 (September – August). If this step is successful, the Aspirant and their newly selected Discernment Committee will attend the Ministry Conference in January of Year 1, where the Discernment Committee will be trained before beginning their work and the Aspirant will have courtesy "getting to know you" interviews with the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee.

In February of the first year, Discernment Committees will begin their work. The work will be completed by August of Year 1. A report from the Committee and a letter from the Rector will be sent to the Bishop's Office. If the Discernment Committee decides that the Aspirant does appear to have a call to the diaconate, the Aspirant will be formally nominated by the Vestry and the Rector. Upon the Aspirant's acceptance of the nomination, he or she will apply for postulancy.

Between September and December of Year 2, the Bishop will meet with the Nominee and, if he approves, the Nominee will move forward. In January of Year 2, the Nominee will meet with the Commission on Ministry at the Ministry Conference for the first Postulancy Interview. He or she will also meet with the Standing Committee for another Courtesy Interview. Between February and May of Year 2, Nominees will have a second Postulancy Interview. If they are approved for Postulancy for the Diaconate, they will then begin the three year formation program the following August.

There are also significant changes in formation, designed to make diaconal studies and formation deeper and wider and entry into the program faster. One important change will be that Postulants will not have to wait three years before a new formation group begins. They may enter at the beginning of any academic year. Consequently, we will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year Postulants together for our monthly formation meetings. Since they will be taking different courses, those who are ahead will receive a review in our discussions and those who are coming behind will see better what lies ahead.

The formation program will consist of three parts. The first component consists of full semesters of Practical Theology, Clinical Pastoral Care, Old Testament, and New Testament, taken either on campus at Loyola University in New Orleans' Institute for Ministry Program or through a LIMEX extension site with a facilitator. Postulants will take these at a Certificate level, but may opt to take the courses at a graduate credit level towards a Master of Pastoral Studies.

The second component is online courses in diaconal and Anglican studies taken through the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. These 6 week courses are taught by experienced deacons and faculty members of CDSP and allow Postulants to interact with other deacon postulants, deacons, priests, lay people (and

sometimes even bishops) from around the country, giving them a much broader view of who deacons are and how they function within parishes and dioceses. The third and final component is the local one: monthly meetings with the Archdeacon or other deacon facilitator to discuss learning and insights and to receive specialized training in discerning spiritual gifts, leadership and organizing skills, the Canons of the Church and the Diocese, the proper and effective use of liturgical resources, anti-racism training, among others.

During their formation, Postulants will devise a diaconal project, and serve for a period in a parish other than their home parish. In the third year of their training, postulants will apply for candidacy. At the end of their training and before being approved for ordination, they will be an exit exam assessing their proficiency in the five areas of competence: academic studies, diakonia and the diaconate, spiritual development and discipline, and practical training and experience.

Several priests have expressed concern that they may not serve in their own parishes after ordination. There are two issues to be considered here: First, persons in ordained ministry are ordained for the Church, not a particular parish (Priests, for example, do not normally return to their own parishes.) Second, there is the practicality that, in rural parishes, it may be difficult for deacons to travel long distances to a parish other than their own. Ultimately, the bishop decides how deacons will be deployed, since they are under his aegis, but this is no reason for not putting forward those in whom you discern a possible call. We must trust God to lead us in this as in all things.

I hope this overview answers the many questions you have asked me or the bishop in the past two years. If you have any other questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at [deacon@cccnola.org](mailto:deacon@cccnola.org).

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**February 17:** Had a wonderful time at St. Stephen's, Innis. A very warm and hospitable community. They presented me with a beautiful book, *New Roads and Old Rivers*, Louisiana's Historic Coupee Parish. Not only is St. Stephen's Episcopal Church featured but also the Taylor Plantation owned by one of St. Stephen's parishioners.

**February 18:** Dentist appointment.

February 19: Full day of meetings. Celebrated the noon service at the Cathedral then brown bag lunch with the NOLA staff.

**February 20:** Meeting with Tronn Moller. I always leave our meetings feeling excited about my work. Traveled to Baton Rouge for more meetings and arrived at my apartment late in the evening.

**February 21:** Paper work early in the morning then drove to Covington to help plan the second annual Men's retreat for May 3-5. Drove to St. Martin's school for a board meeting and then on to The Chapel of the Holy Spirit for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship for The Rev'd Giulianna Gray. Giuliana, Peter and their son Joseph are moving to Greenwood, MS where Peter will be Priest in Charge of Nativity Episcopal Church. We know this parish well as it was Rebecca's grandfather's last parish when he retired. The Grays have given so much to this Diocese and we wish them God's blessings.

**February 22:** Writing day. Worked on sermon for Sunday and my address for convention. Made a couple of pastoral calls.



# 'It Has Been A Good Life'



By Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist

Can you remember the sinking of the Titanic, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, or St. Luke's Church located at General Taylor Street uptown? Recently I visited with Lawrence Brooks who can remember all three. At 103 years of age, he is the oldest active Episcopalian at St. Luke's Church, New Orleans, in the Diocese of Louisiana and maybe even the Fourth Province of the Episcopal Church.

Robust in appearance, he can see and hear well. He regrets that he has to use support for more than walking around the house and uses a walker with a seat so he can "put on the brakes and sit down" when he gets tired while strolling in the neighborhood. He blames a hip problem for his reduced stamina and speaks with enthusiasm about his "good life." He lived in rural Louisiana as a child, came to New Orleans at age 19 "to do for myself", was drafted into the military in World War II and enjoyed steady employment from discharge until his retirement in 1969.

All of his adult life he earned a living by driving a forklift truck, first for a creosote company and later for a company that made furniture near the river at Napoleon. As far as he can tell the only difference between forklift trucks then and now is the size and the safety features to protect the driver. He is proud to state that he was out of work only once for one month when the creosote company closed.

Since he was one of fourteen children, farming and producing most of the food they ate was important to his family. He can still remember ample summer harvests and pig slaughters in the fall that were scheduled so that many families could enjoy the meat bounty that sharing provided. For a while, his family lived in the Mississippi Delta then moved to Pica-yune, MS in order to be closer to Louisiana roots. On launching out on his own at nineteen, he relied on a freight train and a walk of many blocks to reach the home of an aunt in uptown New Orleans, "without two



pennies to rub together" in his pocket. Fortunately, the aunt welcomed the unexpected visitor, and good fortune provided a job at a service station on the corner of Freret and Jena streets. One of his jobs, in addition to pumping gas and fixing tires, was to drive a T Model Ford to deliver a can of gas to motorists who had run out of gas. He had not been in New Orleans long when he received a draft notice. He spent a short time in basic training, was discharged and then suddenly reactivated when Pearl Harbor was bombed.

A year after the war ended, he married his first wife and had a daughter. With his wife's death, he married again and had four children. He now lives with his youngest daughter and is delighted that four children live here in New Orleans. His one son lives in Los Angeles.

St. Luke's has been an important part of his adult life with the pattern of regular church attendance well established. He can name several rectors and smiles broadly when he names the rector Curtis Sisko and his dynamic personality.

Mention of hobbies brought a burst of enthusiasm. He announced that he loved ballroom dancing. He remembers one pair of dancing shoes that looked brand new or top but had holes on the bottom. Barrooms were the typical place to dance. Marriage and family responsibilities curtailed that hobby. His current way to participate in sports is to watch teams on television. He was rooting for the Ravens in the Super Bowl. He wishes he could ride on the new streetcar line on Loyola Avenue. Expressing that wish caused him to reminisce about all the street car lines in his young adult life and how easy it was to get all over town. Life is quieter now but memories and the presence of many who care about him makes him realize that life has been good to him — and he is grateful.

**At left: Lawrence Brooks at age 103, holding a picture of himself in his military uniform at age 29.**

## Do You Know a Deacon?

By the Ven. Priscilla Maumus, Diocesan Archdeacon

You may not have an ordained deacon in your parish, but there may be someone sitting in your pews right now who has a call to the diaconate he or she has not yet recognized. If you observe these characteristics in someone in your congregation, whether you are a lay person or a priest, consider speaking to that person about discerning a call and pray for and with them as they do so.

A person with a diaconal call is . . .

- A faithful Church attender who is visibly active in the life of the congregation
- Seeply aware of and responsive to the needs, cares and concerns of the world (the poor, the elderly, the sick, the addicted, the marginalized)
- Able to make others in the congregation aware of these needs and to motivate and organize them to respond
- Able to relate his/her need to respond in terms of Baptismal Covenant and the Gospel charge
- Able to communicate clearly in writing and speech (perhaps writes articles on the hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned for the newsletter or gives a program as part of a Lenten series)
- Able to work well with others in collaborative ministry (not a lone ranger)
- Has the available time to study during the three years of formation and to participate in Deacon meetings and events
- Has the available time at this time in his/her life to serve at least 8-10 hours a week in a diaconal capacity — in the liturgy, in staff meetings, and in ministry.

If you discern these characteristics in someone (or more than one) in your congregation, speak to them about the possibility of a call. If they feel so inclined, ask them to speak to the rector. Ask them to read and pray with the ordination rite for a deacon in the Book of Common Prayer. Pray for them — and add a prayer for vocations to your Prayers of the People.

Those who feel called to the diaconate will need to see the Bishop along with their rector/priest-in-charge between September and December of 2013 in order to be finished the discernment process for the term beginning in September 2015.



# The 126th Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women

By Ann Ball, Diocesan ECW Program Chair

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Louisiana are hosting their 126th Annual Gathering at historic St. George's Church on St. Charles Avenue in Uptown New Orleans, April 19-20, 2013. The Annual Gathering welcomes guest presenter, Katerina Katsarka Whitley of Louisville, Kentucky, an accomplished author, speaker and dramatist. Her theme is, "Many Paths, One Journey," a theme derived from the national Triennial Meeting last summer where Whitley served as a workshop leader. Whitley will be featured on both days of the Annual Gathering.

Friday's events on April 19 begin at 4 pm and include: a guided tour of St. George's, ECW exhibitors, Whitley's first presentation, and evening prayers led by St. George's interim rector the Rev'd Richard Easterling. A gala reception will follow at the home of the Very Rev'd Dr. Jean Meade and her husband Louis R. Koerner Jr. Special music promises to enhance the evening's fellowship.

Saturday's April 20 schedule begins at 8 a.m. at St. George's. Whitley's keynote presentation will take place in the morning. The Annual Gathering welcomes the presence of national ECW board members who join us to hear Whitley's address, take part in the Festival Eucharist and noon luncheon. National ECW President, the Rev'd Deacon Nancy Crawford of Oregon, will talk about churchwide ECW ministries during lunch. Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson will give a "State of the Diocese" overview. He also will preside at the Eucharist and receive the United Thank Offering. The Honored Women Program and small group sessions in early afternoon will round out the events the day.

Baby-sitting service will be available during the Annual Gathering but must be reserved in advance. For any additional information about the Annual Gathering contact your local ECW president for a registration form and schedule or contact me at 504.400.1217 or aball45@yahoo.com.



*Katerina Katsarka Whitley is a native of Thessaloniki, Greece. She immigrated to the United States at age 16 to study music and literature. She has taught university communication courses, has worked as a church journalist, and is an accomplished author of five books centering on liturgical themes.*

*Her creative endeavors include dramatic monologues that give voice to the women and men of our Christian faith, from ancient to more modern times. Her monologues bring her characters to the present so that we may experience them as people with the same kinds of thoughts and emotions we share today.*

# Deacon deGravelles Leads Students in 'Quest for Peace'



A Baton Rouge deacon will soon begin helping high school students wrestle with one of the most important and difficult issues of our time, the "Quest for Peace in a World of Violence." A chaplain and teacher at Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge, Deacon Charlie deGravelles is set to begin his new course in the fall.

"As we've left the last century, the bloodiest in history, and entered the 21st, the violence is unabated," deGravelles said. "The recent spate of mass murders that has so shocked our nation is only the tip of a very large iceberg which includes the two largest cities of our state — Baton Rouge and New Orleans."

As deGravelles puts it, he wants to take students "out of the classroom and into the courtrooms." A traditional approach to learning, he says, "is to take a textbook and a funnel, and pour knowledge into their heads, year after year, until we send them with a degree from college or graduate school out into a world where problems aren't solved on blackboards. After a decade of teaching, I know students learn better when they are given real-world problems and the tools to work them out. This is what this new course is all about."

"The course is unique in a couple of ways," deGravelles says. "I'm actively recruiting students strong in the different disciplines — hard sciences, social sciences, creative arts — and not only will we study the issue from all these areas, but students will respond from their strengths — painters will paint, poets will write, scientists will research and analyze data, etc. We'll start broad and narrow the focus until I get them out of the classroom and into the courtrooms, police stations, and government offices. From there we will figure out how to make a contribution — however small — to address this issue in our community."

The course in peace and violence will approach the issue from a variety of perspectives: theological, philosophical, psychological and historical. "The issue is very complex, a puzzle with many pieces. We'll be reading everything from Genesis to Gandhi to Dostoyevsky to Wiesel. We'll be researching the latest theories of psychology, brain research and criminology," deGravelles said.

DeGravelles has had deep experience in the criminal justice system. A prison minister for 22 years, he founded the Episcopal prison ministry at Angola, now the Episcopal Chapel of the Transfiguration, and has worked for many years helping ex-offenders transition back into the free world.



# St. John's, Kenner Begins Program for Returning Veterans

By Deacon Charmaine Kathmann



St. John's in Kenner has a tradition of men and women serving in the U.S. military. Throughout the last six decades, members of the church gave many years of service to our country. During the current Operation Iraqi Freedom war and Operation Enduring Freedom war, several of the youngest generation are fighting in the Middle East. With sadness, the members of St. John's congregation said a final good-bye to some of their loved ones. So the members of St. John's sought to give God's love to this new generation of warriors who are returning back home.

St. John's Episcopal Church and the City of Kenner, LA are joining together in a partnership to help veterans who are coming back to the USA without the luxury of a home to live in. The partnership will include grants to fund housing for soldiers, their spouses and their children. The program will include the City of Kenner providing a building to be divided into several apartment units to house families and married veterans. Single veterans are welcome too. While there are services available for male wounded warriors, often there are no programs for the entire family and this partnership encourages family unity.

St. John's will supply lots of love and attention to these wounded heroes and their families through hospitality and case management services. Service members will be provided with rides to medical appointments and anything they will need in order to heal after being deployed. St. John's will run the home and provide services until these young families can get back on their feet. Please say prayers for our returning veterans who often look young, but have the wisdom of older sages.

**Pictured above are Tony Maira & Tony Alouise, Korean War Veterans and St. John's parishoners.**

# St. James Place Announces New Venture

By Kaki Heiligenthal

St. James Place in Baton Rouge announced its newest venture in January, Spiritas Senior Services.

Spiritas Senior Services, a new senior living management and consulting organization, is owned and operated by the leadership of St. James Place of Baton Rouge. It is under current registration with the State of Louisiana and will serve as the new parent company to St. James Place as well as to a host of other senior-related services. The renaming of the parent company does not reflect a change in the organization's sponsorship or leadership, which will remain with St. James Church and the current Board of Trustees at St. James Place. Additionally, it will not include any changes to the name or care offered at the current St. James Place community located on Lee Drive in Baton Rouge.

"Our sole purpose in developing Spiritas Senior Services was to allow us to further our mission of helping others and bring our experience and expertise in quality senior care outside of our gates under one unified organization," said the Rev'd Ken Ritter, president and CEO of St. James Place. "St. James Place has been a pioneer in senior care since its establishment

of Baton Rouge's first Continuing Care Retirement Community 30 years ago, and this new venture is just the next chapter in that proud tradition."

Caring Companions, which is now accepting new clients, represents Spiritas' first service and one of the many personal services it will offer aside from their work with senior living communities. The senior companion service offers individuals in-home assistance with transportation, meal preparation, medication reminders, light housekeeping and more.

In addition to Caring Companions, Spiritas Senior Services will continue to roll out new services throughout 2013 including food and catering services; health and wellness services for seniors, home and community-based care; medication management; consulting; facility management; and project development.

For more information on Caring Companions, or to schedule a complimentary in-home visit, please call 225.767.5111. For more information on Spiritas Senior Services, please call 225.767.1555.

## Lenten Program at St. Mark's, Harvey

St. Mark's is holding a free Lenten program on Wednesday evenings during Lent. It will end with a Seder Meal on Wednesday, March 20th. Soup and Salad will be served at 6:30 pm with the program "The Cristeros of Mexico" starting at 7 pm. For additional information and to make reservations, please call 504.366.0123.

St. Mark's will also be holding Morning Prayer Monday through Saturday at 9 am during Lent and Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7 pm.



# The Renewal of St. Timothy's, LaPlace

By the Rev'd Donald Owens, Rector

With the flooding in LaPlace from hurricane Isaac, St. Timothy's had the chance to do something new! The church was flooded with six inches of water. The parish hall (Gano Hall) and school were spared the flood waters. On Sunday we got a call from Church Insurance saying they were sending Church Restoration out immediately to remediate the waters. Our Junior Warden, Jeff Lind, was on hand as the crew from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania took out the carpet, moved the Altar and the pews in the Sanctuary with the Bishop's Chair to the Gano Hall, took out the walls with the insulation, and set up the fans to evaporate the waters. Members of the Altar Guild were there to remove the vestments, sacred vessels, and linens to the parish office.

Then began the work of renewal. The plans were suggested to make a center aisle, lay porcelain tile instead of carpet, and cut the pews in half. Excitement was the atmosphere of the day. What at first looked like a disaster, now became the vision of renewal and making all things new. Our Junior warden spent many days and hours cutting the pews in half and working to recreate the nave. Ideas came from the members as they had hopes to change various aspects of the building. Out of this came a larger Narthex, the place for the Baptistry, and a new Sacristy. A contractor was engaged. Liam O'Brien Designs, who not only could make the needed cabinets and Sacristy, but do all the remodeling, further, the promise was made that we would have our first service in the New Church on Christmas Eve! This was a feat that seemed too good to be true.



of Advent we decorated the Church! Then we gathered on Christmas Eve in the New St. Timothy's. *O Come All Ye Faithful* never sounded so good! We would not yet be finished with the remodeling, but enough to have our hopes come to fruition. We have done a new thing — we stepped out not sure of what the future would hold. In Faith that the future is held by the One we have known in the past. In all truth we were being led by One whose hand could not be seen, yet was Present. We had come through the flood waters safely and with a new vision. For this we are more than thankful.

# ...And Their Flourishing Garden!

Four years ago Ruth Montgomery came to me and asked what I thought about St. Timothy's having a Community Garden. What a great idea! We have all this land next to us that is unused. We could offer something to the community, our neighbors, around us. Ruth and Ruby Oommen started to make the plans for the garden. When it was all done, the Vestry installed a sign, money had been secured to create the boxes for each plot, a plumber donated his time and equipment to install a water system, Jeff Lind (Junior Warden) and Ralph Babin (Clerk of Vestry) worked to create a cistern for watering the garden, and plots were bought by members of the parish and several neighbors.

Thus the St. Timothy's Community Garden was born!! Over the last three years the Garden has grown and increased in size. Two of our neighbors have taken special interest in the Garden and keep watch over it as well as having several plots. They make sure it is watered during the week and have brought in great soil for the garden plots. Each year the garden grows, not only with food, but in size.



This year we are looking at several new plots being created. We also have a mulch area where folk bring their vegetable scraps as well as grass trimming from the church grounds to create even more fertile material for the garden. The produce is large enough to share with members of the parish who do not have a plot, and one of the neighbors has planted two plots which are open to the whole community.

The Garden produces not only in the summer months, but also during the winter time. It is a year-round project and garden. Each Rogation Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Eastertide) we bless the Garden processing from the Church saying the Great Litany as we en-

circle the Garden and give thanks for God's gracious produce. We have been recognized by the local newspaper; helped by the local Agricultural Extension Agent; and given grants from local organizations to continue the work. St. Timothy's is becoming known beyond our school as a place that cares about the community. This has been a great use of the land, and there is plenty of room to expand. There are plans to break out and plow some areas for crops such as corn! If you have a chance and are in LaPlace, come by and see our garden.



# Rebuilding St. Matthew's, Houma

By the Rev'd Craig Dalferes, Rector



Exactly two years after fire consumed St. Matthew's Church and one of its school buildings on Nov. 11, 2010, the congregation gathered to bless the site in preparation for rebuilding.

Now the construction contract has been signed with Byron E. Talbot Contractors of Schriever and equipment is gathering on site to begin raising the structure from the ashes. Broadmoor Design Group partnered with Blitch Knevel Architects to design the project, which is comprehensive. The plans include a new church, a school building, and a church parish hall. All of the structures are connected into one large complex.

"We are so excited to begin this new chapter in the life of St. Matthew's. A great deal of hard work, lots of prayers, and generous support from our Diocese, congregation and community has brought us to this important milestone," said the Rev. Craig Dalferes, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School. "We set out with the desire to rebuild for this and future generations, and this we will do, by God's grace."

The new 4,400 square foot church will be built in the same Neo-Gothic style as the former historic structure, with a few changes to accommodate updated building codes and congregational growth. It was designed with ease of accessibility in mind, and every effort was made to make sure it will be handicap friendly. It will be situated more closely to the street corner than the previous church, which will make it the most visually dominant structure on the block. The parish hall will be rebuilt just adjacent to the church, and serve also as the cafeteria for the school children during the week.

The school building also will be rebuilt. It will be about 6,000 square feet and able to accommodate up to 189 students. It will consist of a science lab, and four spacious classrooms. The classrooms and lab will be outfitted with state-of-the-art technology. Access to the building will include a covered portico fronting Belanger, where school children as well as church parishioners can gain access to both the school and church in inclement weather.

Construction of the approximately 5.6 million dollar project is expected to begin very soon.

# Upcoming Events at Christ Church, Slidell

By Cecil Torbergson

## NORTH SHORE HUNGER WALK

Christ Episcopal Church Slidell is joining other North Shore churches in a 5K walkathon – a CROP Hunger Walk – aimed at "ending hunger one step at a time." Sponsored by Church World Service, the walkathon – open to all ages – will begin at the Abita Springs Trailhead on Saturday, March 9, at 10:30 (registration at 10:00 am).

Funds raised will benefit North Shore food banks (including Community Christian Concern here in Slidell) as well as worldwide hunger relief efforts. Christ Church, Slidell coordinators are Joe Campbell and John Harrington. If you wish to participate as a walker, a sponsor or a volunteer, please email us at [office@christchurchslidell.com](mailto:office@christchurchslidell.com).

## SAINT PATRICK'S EVE PARTY

Save the date! Join us on Saturday, March 16, from 7 to 10 pm, for dinner, music and an Irish-themed silent auction at Christ Church, Slidell! The cost is \$20 per person and tickets include all entertainment, food and drink; there's no charge for those 18 years or younger. Grammy-nominated Irish musician Beth Patterson will provide the evening's entertainment. The menu will include prime rib, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, special Irish desserts, green beer, other beer, wine and soft drinks.

Tickets are available in advance from the church office or by calling 985.643.4531. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for this family-friendly celebration of all things Irish.

# Diocese Partners With the Loyola Institute for Ministry

The Diocese of Louisiana has teamed up with the Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) to offer part of its deacon formation through Loyola University New Orleans.

Like deacon candidates, Episcopal laity can take courses toward certificates or master's degrees in a variety of lay ministry areas, including religious education, spirituality, youth ministry, Hispanic ministry, religion and ecology, pastoral care, marketplace ministry, Episcopal polity, etc. Courses may be taken on Loyola's campus, at extension sites around the diocese, or online.

The LIM model of theological reflection was developed by Dr. Charles Winters, an Episcopal priest who was instrumental in establishing the Education for Ministry (EFM) program. Like EFM, LIM's model of theological reflection is practical, transformative, communal, and strengthened by prayer.

For more information about the Loyola Institute for Ministry or this opportunity, click [here](#), or contact Eileen Chapoton at [chapoton@loyno.edu](mailto:chapoton@loyno.edu).





# Training Opportunities for Parishes

Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana will be providing training opportunities for parishes seeking to create sustainable ministries throughout 2013. This is a result of meeting with various vestry members and the development of the Diocesan Asset Map project.

A core component of ECSLA's mission is strengthening the capacity of our churches to better engage with and serve their communities. We pursue this aim in a variety of ways, including assisting church leaders to know the needs, strengths, and potential partners in their community, as well as to better understand the physical and human assets in their midst. Throughout 2013, ECSLA invites parishes to take part in workshops addressing the needs of church leadership and the congregation.

Parish-Based Case Management Training will provide laity and church leaders with the skills and tools needed to assess, plan, organize, coordinate, and monitor services and resources necessary to respond to complex needs following disaster-related losses. The classes are from 10 am to 2 pm.

- New Orleans Deaneries: March 5 & 6 at Christ Church Cathedral
- Baton Rouge North Deaneries: March 12 & 13 at St. James, Baton Rouge
- Jefferson Deanery: March 19 & 20 at St. Augustine's
- Southwest Deanery: April 16 & 17 at Trinity in Morgan City
- Northshore Deanery: April 23 & 24 at Grace Memorial in Hammond

[Click here](#) to reserve your seat for the free workshops. Lunch will be provided!

## ECSLA Merges Volunteer Program with St. Paul's Ministry

Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana recently consolidated its Volunteer Program within the Diocesan ministries to better serve the community. The Volunteer Program is now under the leadership of The St. Paul's Homecoming Center, a ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Orleans. ECSLA developed many strong partnerships in the community and we are grateful to have worked with so many dedicated and passionate organizations and volunteers.

# Hurricane Relief Updates

## HURRICANE SANDY

After Hurricane Sandy struck the northeast in October, many people answered our call to assist the people of a region who have supported our own recovery efforts over the past seven years. Together we raised more than \$17,000 for Hurricane Sandy Relief and those donations have been forwarded to Episcopal Relief and Development, our long-time partners in disaster recovery.

Episcopal Relief and Development sends their warmest thanks for your kind gift which is being used to provide emergency assistance grants throughout the ten dioceses affected by the storm. With these grants, churches are helping the victims of the hurricane by holding community dinners for those looking for a warm meal; distributing food cards or opening food banks to those struggling to replace food discarded after the long power outage; and/or providing rental assistance to those who lost income after the storm.

## HURRICANE ISAAC

Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana is continuing to work with parishes to bring relief after Hurricane Isaac. ECSLA has partnered with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Homecoming Center to provide relief services in Braithwaite; with St. Anna's and All Soul's to assist needy families affected by the storm in Orleans Parish; with St. Augustine's to provide relief in Metairie; with St. Timothy's in LaPlace; and Christ Episcopal Church in Slidell.

Over \$15,000 in assistance has gone directly to survivors of the hurricane, and another \$20,000 in assistance is scheduled. While much of that money has been through emergency relief grants from Episcopal Relief and Development, ECSLA also wants to thank the many churches that have responded so generously to the need of our brothers and sisters in south Louisiana. To further support this ongoing effort, donations may be made to Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana, 1623 Seventh Street, New Orleans, LA 70115. Please be sure to mark your check for "Hurricane Isaac Relief". To donate online, click [here](#).



The participants of Senior High Rally get together in the chapel at SECC.

[photo by Debbie Edens]



# A Letter From the Executive Director



By Nicole Barnes, Executive Director

As we embark upon Jericho Road’s seventh year, we reflect upon our previous efforts, growth as an organization and look toward the future. Since the organization’s founding in 2006, Jericho Road has made an investment of more than

\$6 million in Central City. Our Housing Development program creates healthy, energy-efficient, and affordable housing opportunities and to date, we have constructed 29 single-family homes. Through Community Development we foster the human capacity that can promote positive neighborhood change by connecting local residents, building resident leadership, and supporting neighborhood associations. These efforts have resulted in over 4,500 hours of community engagement activities! Finally, this past year has been one of significant growth and accomplishment for our Vacant Land Management program with the publication of the Vacant Land: Site Strategies for New Orleans booklet, the development of Saratoga Street Demonstration Project: GreenLot and the showcasing of these efforts at the National Vacant Property Conference in the summer of 2012.

As we look toward the future, Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative is planning two principal development projects, which will yield both single-family affordable homeownership units and affordable rental units.

### Single-Family Homeownership

Jericho Road will continue its single-family affordable homeownership development activities. The construction of an additional four (4) single-family homes is planned for the Saratoga Square subdivision (originally planned and developed by Jericho Road) in the hub of the O.C. Haley renaissance. Additionally, Jericho Road will also begin the rehabilitation of four (4) historic homes, two of which were relocated from the future VA Hospital site.

### Affordable Rental – Lease Purchase Homeownership

Jericho Road, Harmony Neighborhood Development, Gulf Coast Housing Partnership and Alembic Community Development (the “Partners”) are collaborating to redevelop blighted and vacant properties into affordable rental housing in two clustered areas of Central City, New Orleans. The Project’s objective is to move targeted blocks from stabilization to revitalization by addressing blighted properties and vacant lots, and includes the development of approximately 80 rental units for households earning below 60% of the area median income. These homes will provide high quality rental units in the short term but are anticipated to evolve into affordable, lease-to-purchase homeownership units in the long term!

### Community Development

Jericho Road has augmented its community engagement activities by assigned fellows to work exclusively in each of our three target neighborhoods.

### Vacant Land Management

Jericho Road will be working in partnership with NORA and the Tulane City Center to expand the Vacant Land Management Strategies demonstration project to develop solutions for the neighborhood and city-wide problem of blight and vacant land through high-impact lot greening, urban agriculture, and advocacy initiatives.

I am more than excited about the possibilities in store for community members of Central City! And I am thrilled and honored to be leading Jericho Road into another year of dedicated service to community revitalization! Join me in our passion! Stay in touch and stay informed: sign up for Jericho Road’s monthly news, follow us on Twitter or FaceBook or reach out to us directly if you want to know more!

Thanks to anyone and everyone who has contributed in any way to the revitalization of Central City...there is more work to do, and we’re off and running!

# Another House at Saratoga Square Close to Completion

Jericho Road has been fortunate to have Neighborhood Stabilization Fund 1 (NSP1) funding through New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) and Neighborhood Stabilization Fund 2 (NSP2) funding through Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) to contribute to the cost of construction for a unique development in the Faubourg Lafayette neighborhood of Central City, New Orleans called Saratoga Square.

Fourteen new homes clustered all within one square block, Saratoga Square is located in the block bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., South Rampart Street, Thalia Street and South Saratoga Street. All of these homes have or will be sold to low income working families. Strong allegiance to the traditional architectural style of New Orleans, universal design elements and green building practice was made in design and construction. However, the homes built with NSP2 funds have even greater opportunity to reduce the operating costs and emissions as well as providing a healthy environment for their residents because of the higher standards placed on green building requirements by NSP2.

Saratoga Square is just one of many community improvements that are underway in the Faubourg Lafayette neighborhood of Central City.







In January, Paul Steiner welcomed his neighbors from Third St. and Baronne St. to his home for a Neighbor Circle. Over a light dinner provided by Jericho Road, lead organizer Michael Robinson facilitated an exercise designed to encourage participants to share their personal stories and to recount why they live in their neighborhood. One by one, the neighbors used stickers to label places where they had lived on world, U.S., New Orleans, and Faubourg Livaudais maps. Afterwards, the neighbors discussed what they liked best about the neighborhood, and most said they enjoyed the friendly atmosphere on their blocks and the access to cultural events like Mardi Gras parades and second lines. All in all, the neighbors enjoyed coming together to talk as a group and look forward to planning events like block parties in the future.



Click on the icons above!

Jericho Road owns 27 lots that are vacant and awaiting development or that may never be developed on. These lots are maintained on a regular basis, some are fenced just to provide basic boundaries, two function as active green spaces that residents have access to and one has a sampling of vacant land management ideas installed on it for demonstration purposes.

Jericho Road has an entire programmatic arm dedicated to Vacant Land Management. It is beyond important for owners to be attentive to the condition and the future plans of lots that sit empty for extended periods of time. The result of paying no attention is usually blight which often leads to undesirable activity in a neighborhood and most definitely creates an eyesore for a neighborhood.

Learn more about Jericho Road’s approach to Vacant Land Management, click [here](#).



James and Joyce McDuffie are some of the first homeowners in Saratoga Square! Mr. McDuffie is a professor at a local university and is very excited about the investment that he believes buying in Faubourg Lafayette is right now...sort of “getting in on the ground floor” in an area where there is so much revitalization. They have already established great relationships with their new neighbors and are active in their pursuit to contribute to the resurgence of this part of Central City.

Jericho Road is thrilled to provide an opportunity to bring such treasured community members like the McDuffies to Central City!





**Read about Canon Stevenson's trip to  
Zambia in the next issue!**

**[photo by Canon Mark Stevenson]**