

# CHURCHWORK

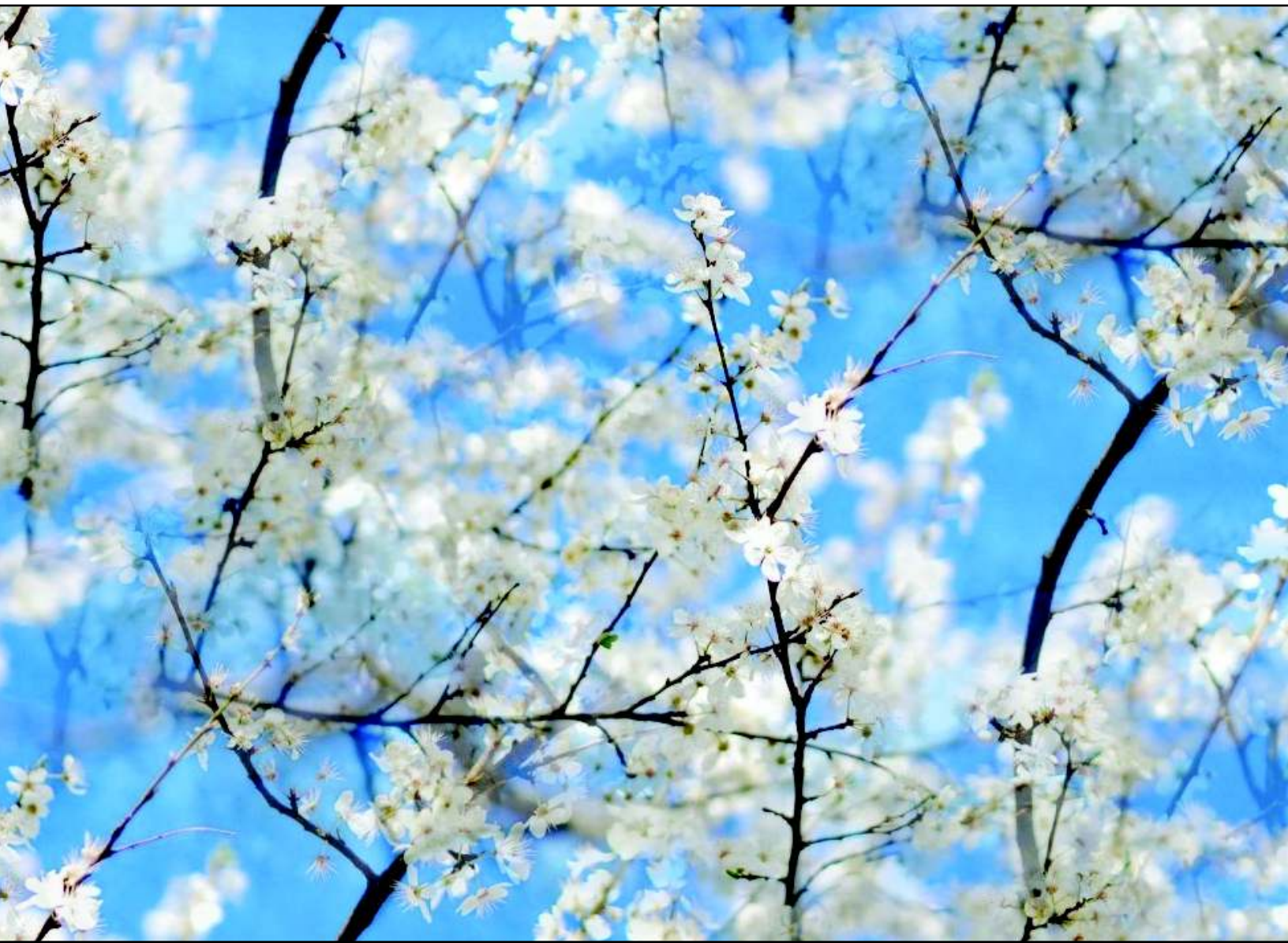
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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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LET US ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD; LET US PRESS ON TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM. AS SURELY AS THE SUN RISES, HE WILL APPEAR; HE WILL COME TO US LIKE THE WINTER RAINS, LIKE THE SPRING RAINS THAT WATER THE EARTH.

The seal of the Diocese of Louisiana is a large, ornate shield-shaped emblem. It features a purple border with the words "DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA" in gold lettering. Inside the shield, there is a central cross with a red center and gold arms. Above the cross is a white eagle with spread wings. Above the eagle is a crown. The background of the shield is divided into four quadrants by the cross. The text "www.edola.org" is centered at the top of the page.

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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.*

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

## **2014 Convention Address:**

Let us pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and make us alive.

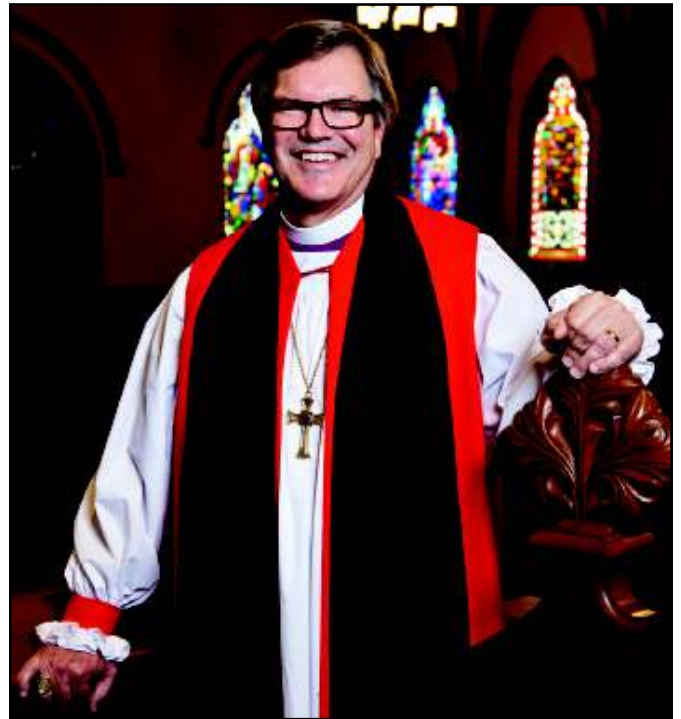
In your hands we rest; in the cup of whose hands sailed an ark, rudderless, without mast.

In your hands we rest; who was to make of the aimless wandering of the ark a new beginning for the world.

In your hands we rest; ready and content this day. Amen

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I welcome you to the 177th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. I am so happy to see all of you, working together in the love of God and one another.

Before I begin my address I ask that you indulge me with personal privilege. Many individuals have worked overtime planning and implementing this gathering. Firstly, I would like to thank Mr. Hugh McIntosh, Headmaster of Episcopal High School for his gracious invitation to meet in this place. As you are probably already aware, Episcopal's reputation in Baton Rouge is strong in academics, athletics, and Episcopal identity. I've had the privilege of taking part of Episcopal's graduation and baccalaureate celebrations and the quality of their graduates and where they are headed speaks loudly to the excellence of formation at Episcopal. I also want to thank the Rev'd Ralph Howe and the Rev'd Skully Knight, Laura Portwood and Renee Price for helping



coordinate this convention and Shawn Halliday who helped with the audio/visual and technical matters.

From St. Alban's Charmaine Kendrick and Nancy Ward who helped with food. Margaret Lawhon Schott from St. Luke's who rounded up the vendors and exhibitors. Also Jennifer Hirstius from St. James' Place and Nancy Seger from Trinity Baton Rouge, and Liz Shortess from our office who led the charge with registration.

We have two special people from outside the Diocese. James Holland and Joe Powell from my old church, St. James' Jackson, Miss. James and Joe are our voting consultants.

The planning committee consists of Chad Jones also known as Father Dispatch, who has held this job for the past 12 years. He is enthusiastically showing Mother Sharon

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# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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Alexander his tricks of the trade and training her to take his position next year. Fr. Ron Clingenpeel who is in charge of miracle stories you will hear throughout the convention and who also coordinated tonight's social. Fr. Paul Bailey is in charge of Liturgy and Dr. Caroline Carson from St. Paul's in New Orleans is in charge of music. The one who had the most difficult position is Marsha Wade. Her task was to make sure we actually had a convention. We can't say enough about Marsha's expertise in putting everything in a form that makes sense according to our canons and by-laws. Last but not least Canon Manning who jumped into her first convention with both feet as if she had been doing this all her life. If I have left anyone off I sincerely apologize. This convention is yours and many, many individuals were called upon to help and they responded kindly.

In my fourth year and fourth Convention as your Bishop I want to share with you the metaphor of painting.

Painting is something that has intrigued me for a long time. My father painted with oils and a friend of mine, Annie, prefers watercolor. When I've been on retreats for a week or so I have longingly watched people painting on easels out on the lawn. What a lovely way to express your love for God, on canvas. But painting requires risk taking. You place on the canvas what is in your heart for others to observe and judge. An artist must be willing to survive under the scrutiny of others. But if they truly believe in what they are painting, then risk they must.

My painting with the Diocese of Louisiana began with my election December 5, 2009 and my ordination and consecration May 8, 2010. On May 8, 2014 I will enter the fifth year of my consecration. These four years have been truly amazing. I have learned so much and you have been patient and instrumental in helping me find my way, from sucking crawfish heads to

fly fishing reds in the bayou, from celebrating baptisms, confirmations, receptions and reaffirmations to the Blue Grass Mass at the Solomon Center. And, we have wept together over the burning of St. Matthew's, Houma and at too many priests and deacons funerals. These experiences are the backdrop of our painting, the sharing of our lives in celebration and sorrow. The first coat of paint is full and rich, a good foundation on which to build a masterpiece.

One of the certainties of painting is that you are always free to change directions. Just because it is on the canvas doesn't mean you must stay the course. You really can change horses in the middle of the stream. Knowing this freedom permits freedom to explore, freedom to risk, freedom to test ideas. Freedom is what intrigues me the most about painting. The fortitude of an artist is magnificent. Three years ago we embarked on a program called CCDP, Clergy Congregation Deployment Program. Four congregations were willing to try something different and new. While not all were successful, the process proved informative. The three year commitment is coming to a close and we have learned so much. Some things we will keep and others we will definitely do differently next time. At this time in the life of the Diocese we do not have many churches that can participate, but the program is a tool in our bag for the future. Now we are looking at new ways to yoke congregations for a season with the hope that in three to five years they will grow such that each parish will be able to call its own rector. In some areas of the Diocese we have used a new method of placing a priest of my choosing with the vestry's approval for a period of two years. If they dance well together then we have a call. If not, well, it's back to the drawing board. But so far, our first two appointments are working very well.

I mentioned earlier that with paint one

can always redirect. This redirection in the Diocese took place mid year. It began with Fr. Mark Stevenson's going on a well-deserved sabbatical. The sabbatical gave me a chance to sit in his chair and witness the Diocese from another perspective. The Canon to the Ordinary is the person who runs the Diocese on a day-to-day base. Typically, first calls from parishes or communicants are directed to the Canon. While covering during the Canon's sabbatical, many times upon arrival at home in the evening Rebecca would say, "You have something hanging out of your ear." "Oh" I would reply, "it's just a phone." I didn't know anyone could talk as much on a phone. I began to explore ways to reduce the workload and spread the responsibilities to other areas in the office or on diocesan committees.

Somewhere around August, Mark visited me at home and announced that he was leaving to take a position with The Episcopal Center in New York working under my old Bishop, Stacy Sauls. Just a few months earlier the Diocesan Financial Officer, Billie Barbier, announced that she was retiring at the end of October. (Remember we are painting and throwing paint on the canvas is not permitted just yet.) Everyone who has ever been in the position of supervising others will tell you that a change in personnel has its ups and downs. You hate to lose good people and both Mark and Billie were very good. The flip side of change is an opportunity to explore with new eyes and new experiences. The canvas begins to take shape in ways that maybe the artist hadn't initially seen. New to the canvas is Chris Speed our Financial Director and the Rev'd Shannon Manning, Canon to the Ordinary. Both bring years of experience in church ministry and I am thrilled they were willing to risk and begin again with this Diocese.

One of the changes in our staff which has had a ripple effect on the operations of the

Diocesan offices is the placement of the Canon to the Ordinary. When I hired Canon Manning it was with the intention that she would live in New Orleans. I shared with her that my goal was to consolidate the two offices. While sitting in the Canon to the Ordinary's chair for a few months, I came to see how compartmentalized we were. The office in New Orleans knew very little about the operations in Baton Rouge and likewise in Baton Rouge. For example, if I wanted to look at a clergy's file, I either had to travel to Baton Rouge and retrieve it or have it sent down the next time someone from Baton Rouge was traveling to New Orleans. Or if someone needed a check, the request came from New Orleans but had to be printed in Baton Rouge then sent back to New Orleans. At times this was very frustrating. I made the decision with the blessing of the Executive Board to begin the process of moving all personnel under one roof, back to the See City of New Orleans. I will continue to travel to Baton Rouge as I do now and spend part of Wednesday and Thursday in Baton Rouge. St. James' parish has graciously agreed to provide a room out of which to work. We will continue to video conference Diocesan committee meetings in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The offer was made to our Baton Rouge staff to move to New Orleans but they declined. I am happy to announce that they have all found jobs in the Baton Rouge area. At the end of this month, the Baton Rouge office will be cleared of all personnel and the process of moving to New Orleans will begin. The move will take time and we have promised St. James' Church that we will honor our monetary commitment that will end in December of 2014.

In the early months of my election before I was ordained I observed meetings of the Standing Committee and Executive Board. I noticed one topic that frustrated these governing bodies. It was the conversation around what to

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do with the Grace Church property on Canal St. in New Orleans. One participant said with some tone of annoyance, "I've been on this board for four years now and we have dealt with this topic every meeting." Well, I've been here for four years and we are still dealing with it at every meeting as well as in between meetings. It is the grace that keeps on giving. However I want to share a bright spot with you.

Several months ago I shared with the Executive Board and the Standing Committee a conversation that had taken place with a couple of clergy. The conversation had to do with moving the Diocesan offices from our present location at the Noland Center on Seventh Street, to the property on Canal St. In the middle of last year, the organization leasing the property was unable to fulfill its obligation to the Diocese and vacated the property. Suddenly we were back at square one.

During an Executive Board meeting as we discussed the possibilities for the property we had a very frank and honest conversation about moving our offices to the property on Canal St. We discussed the construction of the new hospital just a few blocks away and the increasing property value in the neighborhood. The area surrounding the property is experiencing a resurgence of families and businesses. We recalled the early history of Grace Church as a gathering place for neighborhood meetings and other groups. The opera guild has long practiced in the nave because of the acoustics. The excitement grew and suddenly we were painting a picture of a place where we saw enormous potential. We could use the space like an incubator for ministries. A place where we would lease space to organizations that represent the kind of ministries that bring hope to the community. Providing space would help these entities establish their footing and then move out into the world. Because we will have more

room, a possibility might be to help give life to a church that needs a hand in forming a congregation. We can give them time to grow and then send them into the world and make room for another church to grow roots. What a joy it would be to be able to help people of God grow into their potential. A place where an idea or ministry can be dreamed of, and fine-tuned, and then redistributed into the community to give life is what we are about. Grace has space for these ideas and more. It has space for meetings that we simply cannot handle at the Noland Center. Someone even mentioned our convention could be held there. I'm not sure the space is that big, but who knows?

I can't think of a better place for the Diocesan offices to be than the heart of the city, providing opportunities and awareness to the community that "the Episcopal Church Welcomes All". Being a place of hope and resurrection in the middle of the city can be a powerful witness to the love of God. The opportunities of this painting are unlimited, daring, and a bit crazy, but this is the call of God's work in this world.

Another use for the Canal St. property will be to house the Living With Purpose fellows in the Rectory. That location provides good public transportation by streetcar and buses. Every year we struggle to find housing for seven to nine people. With some modification, this will be a real blessing for their living quarters. The property has parking for around 30 to 50 cars, and we will continue to refer to our offices as the Bishop Noland Diocesan Center.

As the Executive Board discussed the idea of moving to Canal Street, the question of what to do with the present diocesan property on Seventh St. surfaced. We do not wish to sell the property. It would be nice to leave the next Bishop a source of income to be used for mission around the Diocese. With that in mind, the

Executive Board is looking into leasing it to businesses. This could be accomplished with very little financial obligation. Another option would be to reconstruct the interior into apartments. The goal is to create income for ministries. Which brings me to the funding of the property on Canal St.

We are looking into tax credits since the property is on the Historic Registry. We will also be asking for gifts from around the Diocese. The goal is to fully fund the project by tax credits, private funding and if necessary with income from the current property on Seventh St.

The painting with which we began is filling up with opportunities for mission throughout our diocese. One of the ways we fund missions is through the Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal, (BAMA). Last year we split over \$40,000.00 with Partners in Mission, and the other half went to Mother Peggy King Scott for her work at Angola Prison. This year we will do something different. Through our baptismal covenant we are all called to serve Christ. We do this by telling our stories of coming to know Christ, or by lending ourselves to service for the poor, the broken, and the disadvantaged. This year we will again petition the diocese to give to the BAMA fund but instead of dividing it into two or three groups, we will return the gifts to the diocese in the form of missional grants. By missional I mean mission work that directly affects the lives of people in our community. In other words, you must get your hands dirty by going out and personally connecting to the poor. This money is not to be used to support an absentee ministry, such as giving to the homeless shelter unless you physically go and spend the night with the homeless. It can't be used for scholarships in our schools, but it can be used to establish a reading program in your church where parishioners help mentor students in reading. These grants are hands-

on-grants. We will establish a grant committee that will help create guidelines and distribute the funds that will become available at the end of this year, making the grants useable in year 2015. I look forward to seeing the many ways this Diocese chooses to connect with the least of these.

My friends, I have laid on the canvas some new and daring forms of being an Episcopalian in this Diocese. Every day we are given opportunities to witness the love of God we have come to know. Whether in our work, or home, or school, we have the opportunity to be the face of Christ to someone who needs hope. It may be a simple acknowledgment that we are concerned about a co-worker struggling with a broken relationship with a spouse or child. It may be a friend who is confused by heavy decisions that are knocking at the door. Whatever it may be, we are called to bring Christ to the world.

In an interview for Harvard Business Review, the poet Maya Angelou was asked about lessons she learned growing up, particularly from her mother. Ms Angelou said:

"I would say she encouraged me to develop courage. And she taught me by being courageous herself. And after years of leaving her and, I think, becoming courageous, I realized that one isn't born with courage. One develops it."

And you develop it by doing small, courageous things, in the same way that one wouldn't set out to pick up a 100 pound bag of rice. If that was one's aim, the person would be advised to pick up a five pound bag, and then a ten pound and then a 20 pound, and so forth, until one builds up enough muscle to actually pick up 100 pounds. And that's the same way with courage.

You develop courage by doing courageous things, small things, but things that cost exertion-mental and, I suppose, spiritual exertion.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring... This is our theme for this convention. It is taken from page 537 in our hymnal. Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal, with fervent prayer, with one accord, with joyful song. This is our charge as faithful, loving and broken people, to bring to the world a story that has no beginning, it has always been and will be. And, every human being is already in this story by being created in God's own image. This is not a physical image but the image of Love. God calls each of us to be courageous in pouring out the love God has showered upon us, to draw us out the love of others. This is missional work, it is evangelism, it is the most important work we will ever share.

I give thanks every day for your witness in the world. May God continue to bless each and every one of us and give us courage to do the work set before us.

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## Bishop's Visitation Schedule

**5/11:** Trinity, New Orleans

**5/18:** St. Paul's, New Orleans

**6/1:** St. James, Baton Rouge

**6/18:** Christ Church, Covington

**6/15:** St. Timothy's, LaPlace



# BISHOP'S JOURNAL: JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> TO APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>

**January 1:** The first day of 2014. I'm at home watching football and enjoying time with the family.

**January 2:** The office reopens. This is the first day Agatha is not in the office due to having both of her knees replaced. Morning communications strategy meeting. I'm still not pleased with the manner in which we keep the Diocese informed. Afternoon pre-planning meeting for the Executive Board meeting next week.

**January 3:** Work on my sermon for Sunday and other teachings. No appointments.

**January 4:** The ordination to the priesthood of Kit Sharp at Grace Memorial in Hammond. As this is Kit's home parish, the nave is overflowing. It is a wonderfully supportive celebration.

**January 5:** My annual visit to St. George's in New Orleans. It is a grand day for the congregation. The Celebration of New Ministry takes place transitioning Fr. Richard from Priest in Charge to Rector. We also confirm and receive members into the communion. Following the service there is a spectacular reception in the parish hall.

**January 6:** Day off.

**January 7:** Up early and driving to Baton Rouge for a meeting with Diocesan Clergy at St. Luke's. We have a good turnout. Time is spent checking in and reviewing important information for the

work of the ordained. We have lunch and gather again for a brief word and then depart for the day. Following I meet with the Deans of all the Deaneries. Later I drive to Angola where I confirm and receive three inmates. This ministry is so important to the Diocese and it is one of the highlights of my travels. I return to Baton Rouge for the night.

**January 8:** I meet Fr. Chad Jones in the Baton Rouge office for his annual consultation. Fr. Chad's church is undergoing construction. Good ministry is going on at St. Patrick's. The afternoon annual consultations are with Fr. Jerry Phillips, Church of the Nativity in Rosedale and Fr. Bryan Owens from St. Luke's Baton Rouge. Jerry is very involved in the Diocese. I enjoy hearing about his ministry in his picturesque community. Bryan is in his second year as the rector of St. Luke's and seems very relaxed and at home. From what I hear from his parishioners, all is well. I drive back to New Orleans late that evening.

**January 9:** Ms. Mary Brennan, our Diocesan Partnership Representative from Episcopal Church Center, is visiting us for the day. Mary is our connection to the Church Center. When I have questions she is the first person I call. The day is spent driving her around and showing the diversity of our Diocese. I've invited her to our convention in March.

**January 10:** Sermon work in the morning and then lunch with our new staff members, Canon Shannon Manning, Chris Speed, our Chancellor Cove Geary and Vice-Chancellor Susan Talley. There is a lot to learn. Following the lunch Chris, Shannon and I dash over to EJCH for Deacon JoAnn Garma's retirement party. JoAnn has been a faithful Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervisor. I have great respect for CPE Supervisors. I return to the office for a meeting with someone who wishes to be part of our discern-

ment process.

**January 11:** The Executive board meets via video conference. It is a good meeting.

**January 12:** I awake, do my usual stretches, and then my wacky back freezes. Not much I can do at this point. Rebecca and I drive to St. Andrew's Bayou du Large where I receive one communicant. I love the bayou countryside. Afterwards the vestry treats us to a lovely meal and then we drive back to New Orleans where I get in the bed to rest my back.

**January 13:** My day off and I stay in the bed to rest my back.

**January 14:** I work from home trying to get my back into shape.

**January 15:** The day begins with convention appointments and a meeting with Ann Ball regarding the Annual Gathering of ECW. Following is a meeting with Duane Nettles regarding his ordination tract. The afternoon meetings are with Canon Manning to do some catchup work and an intern at St. Martin's School.

**January 16:** The day begins with a video conference regarding the Diocesan Convention. This meeting is followed by a visioning/educational meeting with Lucius Butts our Treasurer and Canon Manning. This is a long meeting through lunch but I am energized at the end of the day by a pastoral meeting with one of my priests.

**January 17:** The morning is spent working on sermons and writing letters. Rebecca and I drive Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori from the airport to Commanders where we dine with Lee and Lynn Crean for a lovely night. The Presiding Bishop is in town to meet with youth and other leaders regarding racial reconciliation.

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**January 18:** I drive the Presiding Bishop to St. George's where she meets with youth and young adults over coffee. We are on a tight schedule and I drive her to the Cathedral where she and I met with the media for a press conference. The service, Seeking Christ in All People is a powerful witness to the city and Diocese. The Cathedral is full and the voices lift the spirit of new beginnings. The Presiding Bishop's words are strong and challenging. I am very proud of our work towards reconciling God's children to one another. My hat goes off to Lee Crean and his committee for the intentional work they have done and are doing.

**January 19:** My visitation to Mt. Olivet is wonderful. On the heels of the previous day's service of reconciliation, I can not help but notice diversity of the congregation. This distinction is not new to Mt. Olivet. I confirm, receive and celebrate. Following is a wonderful reception. I drive back to New Orleans so I can be interviewed by PBS regarding my views on race and the service we held the day before.

**January 20-22:** Rebecca and I drive to Jackson, MS to for some family business.

**January 23:** No appointments. Office catch up.

**January 24:** Sermon work and correspondence.

**January 25:** No appointments.

**January 26:** Rebecca and I drive to Houma for our visit to St. Matthew's, Houma. I preach and celebrate. Afterwards, a nice luncheon. Fr. Craig Dalfreres takes us on a tour of the construction of their new church. Things are really shaping up and getting closer to completion estimated to be by the end of summer. I am proud of this congregation who has endured through this time of homelessness.

**January 27:** Meet with Randy Maglone of Homeland Security regarding previous work at Grace Church, Canal St.

**January 28:** No appointments for the day. Time to catch up.

**January 29:** No appointments for the day. Spend time with new staff.

**January 30:** Meet with Bishop Brown in the morning. It is nice to have a colleague with whom to talk matters of the Diocese. Our son is in town and we go out to dinner.

**January 31:** Morning meeting with Cannon Manning. In the afternoon I work on my sermon.

**February 1:** No meetings.

**February 2:** My annual visitation at St. Philips goes very well. I confirm, preach and celebrate.

**February 3:** I meet with one of my priests over pastoral concerns and then with potential architects for the construction on Canal St.

**February 4:** Staff meeting early in the morning followed by a meeting with Duane Nettles, who is our Living with Purpose director. The afternoon is full of annual consultations with Deacon Alyce Jefferson and Deacon Debbie Scalia. Our Deacons are involved in many different ministries that aid the mission of the church. The day ends with my meeting the Commission on Ministry.

**February 5:** I drive across the lake for a meeting with Skip Scoggin and Bill Rhodes regarding the men's retreat to be held at the Solomon Center in May. On my way back I stop by St. Michael's, Mandeville. Later that afternoon I have a Constitution and Canons meeting and then drive across another bridge to Mt. Olivet to help celebrate

their 160th anniversary. The service and reception are grand. Mother Jean Meade is doing a fine job as their rector.

**February 6:** Canon Manning and I drive to Innis for the funeral of Fr. George Kontos. The church is overflowing and four Bishop's are present. Canon Manning can't stay for the reception and must return home to New Orleans for my meetings. I meet with a young man from out of town who is interested in the priesthood. The day winds down with a meeting with the Racial Reconciliation Committee.

**February 7:** I work on sermon material.

**February 8:** I travel to the Solomon Center for a board meeting. Following I drive to Franklin for my annual visitation with St. Mary's. I spend the night with Shannon and Jim Evans. They are so gracious in inviting me to stay with them when I visit.

**February 9:** My annual visitation at St. Mary's is delightful. I preach, receive one new parishioner and celebrate. This is followed by a very nice lunch. The day is a beautiful day and I enjoy the drive back to New Orleans.

**February 10:** Canon Manning and I fly out of New Orleans at 6 am. Who made these arrangements?! We arrive at Duke University/Seminary to visit Stephen and Amanda Crawford. Stephen is in his last semester of seminary and God willing will be ordained a priest this summer. While at Duke we interview several students for possible positions in our Diocese.

**February 11:** We fly to Virginia Seminary where we visit David Musser, first year seminarian. We also interview seminarians who might be potential candidates for positions in our Diocese. I am intrigued by the ages of those we interview. With

the exception of one student, the rest are in their twenties. A young group eager to serve the Lord. An extra benefit of going to Virginia Seminary is being able to visit with my son Morris, III and his wife Emily.

**February 12:** We have a couple more interviews and then drive to the airport. Upon arriving, due to the weather paralyzing the south and east, we find our flights cancelled. After a lengthy wait we are not going to be able to visit our last stop, Bexley Hall Seminary where Peter Kang is a seminarian. The best we can do is fly to Dallas, then Baton Rouge the next day. It is a long day.

**February 13:** We finally arrive in New Orleans. Next year maybe we should visit seminaries in the fall.

**February 14:** I have a pastoral meeting in the morning with one of my priest. The afternoon is spent catching up from being out for four days.

**February 15:** No appointments.

**February 16:** My visitation is with Church of the Annunciation in New Orleans. The church is full and I receive, confirm, baptize, celebrate and preach. Following the service we have a wonderful meal with the congregation.

**February 17:** I take the morning off. In the afternoon I travel to St. Michael's, Mandeville and meet with Mother Alexander and the vestry. I enjoy hearing all the good work taking place. They are growing and have a good spirit about them. I'm home by 9 pm.

**February 18:** The day begins with staff meeting and with Jennifer Hirstius announcing her departure from the diocesan office and hire to St. James Place. Following staff meeting my next

appointment does not show so I have time to prepare for the noon service at the Cathedral. I try to celebrate the third Tuesday of every month. Before service I have a phone conference regarding my visitation at Christ School in Covington on Friday. In the afternoon I have a meeting with Mother DeeDee Estes for her annual consultation. DeeDee is the chaplain at St. Andrew's school. I can tell she loves her job by the way she speaks of her students. It is a joy to observe her enthusiasm. I have a quick meeting with Amelia and then drive to Christ Church, Covington to meet with their vestry. The vestry has a joyful spirit and it does my heart good to witness.

**February 19:** I have an early meeting with Harriet followed by a meeting with Christopher Wells, Executive Director and Editor of the Living Church. I drive to Baton Rouge where I meet with Fr. Roman Roldan for his annual visitation. The church in St. Francisville is growing and Fr. Roldan is feeling the tug to keep up with the growth. That's a good problem to have. We are working closely to help find the right person to assist him in this ministry. That evening I have dinner with Hugh McIntosh, Headmaster of Episcopal High School. The school is strong and growing. I stay overnight in Baton Rouge.

**February 20:** The morning is filled with pre-convention planning. I have several drop-ins and don't get away until late in the afternoon. I miss a board meeting because of pastoral concerns. Balancing administrative and pastoral work is difficult at times.

**February 21:** I drive to Christ School in Covington where I hold three services. The first with the elementary ages, the second with middle schoolers and the third with the senior high students. The senior high students wrote out questions they wanted me to answer. A frightening position to be in at times, yet I found them genuine in

their inquiry and a joy with whom to be. I always have fun when I visit our schools. After visiting the students I meet with a couple of teachers to talk about Godly Play. In the afternoon I am able to enjoy a late lunch with Rebecca, our daughter Virginia and her friend.

**February 22:** I have the day off.

**February 23:** I drive to Grace, Hammond for my visitation. The visit begins with breakfast and updating the parishioners on events happening around the Diocese. This is followed by the service where I preach, celebrate and confirm. It was a very nice day that ended by having lunch with Fr. Paul Bailey and his wife Laurie. Paul's leadership is evident in the way he speaks to them. Paul is the Dean of the North Shore Deanery.

**February 24:** I have time to run some errands and return phone calls from the weekend.

**February 25:** The day begins with staff meeting followed by Executive Board planning. Fr. Don Owens arrives for his annual consultation. Don is in his twilight of chaplaincy at Tulane Medical School. He has been a faithful pastor to many students and also to St. Timothy's in LaPlace. My next meeting is with Fay Atkinson and Sharon Edmon to work on UTO grant applications and make a recommendation for submission. This meeting is followed by lunch with Canon Manning to review issues throughout the Diocese. In the afternoon I meet with a parishioner regarding ministry. I end the day by meeting with a subcommittee of the Gaudet Fund.

**February 26:** I'm in New Orleans for the day and spend morning catching up on writings. The afternoon is spent with friends in town for Mardi Gras. They are in for a treat!

**February 27:** The morning is spent in the office

returning phone calls and doing paper work.

**February 28:** I have the day off to work on my convention address.

**March 1:** No meetings today. Entertaining our out of town guest tonight.

**March 2:** No visitation due to Mardi Gras weekend.

**March 3 & 4:** The office is closed for Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras.

**March 5:** For Ash Wednesday, I celebrate the noon service at the Cathedral. The season of Lent is my favorite time of the year. The church shifts gears a bit and focuses on the deeper truths of death and resurrection. I have a couple of meetings in the afternoon.

**March 6:** The day begins with my annual visit with Fr. Rodney Roehner, associate at St. Paul's New Orleans. I have a pastoral visit with one of our deacons and then lunch with a prospective priest who might be moving to Louisiana. Later in the afternoon I meet with Lloyd Lazard regarding the National Slave Ship Museum. He is a remarkable individual who has a passion and drive to tell the story of Louisiana's slave trade. A visit with Fr. Michael Kuhn rounds out the day.

**March 7:** Busy writing my sermon for Sunday plus an interview with a prospective employee.

**March 8:** Executive Board meeting via teleconference.

**March 9:** Travel to St. Mark's, Harvey where I confirm, preach, and celebrate. They have a remarkable spirit to have been without a rector for so long.

**March 10:** Dentist appointment. Later, a conference call. I attend a forum at Trinity, New Orleans that evening.

**March 11:** I have my annual physical and it turns out as I expected, eat less! Staff meeting followed by my annual visit with Fr. Edward Thompson. Fr. Thompson is leading St. Luke's and All Souls congregations. My last morning appointment is with Archdeacon Maumas regarding issues within the Deacon community. The afternoon begins with calendaring with Agatha followed by Dean duPlantier's annual consultation.

**March 12:** I spend much of the day working on my convention address.

**March 13:** I spend the morning putting finishing touches on the address and going over other items for our convention. In the afternoon I have a phone conference regarding Bishops Against Gun Violence. By four o'clock I'm in Baton Rouge in Episcopal's auditorium where the convention will be held. In the evening I take the office staff out to dinner to thank them for all the good work they have been doing to get us ready for our convention. I receive word that my brother-in-law, John McMillian has died after a short bout with cancer.

**March 14:** The 177 Annual Convention is held at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge. I always look forward to seeing old faces and meeting new ones. It is a good beginning.

**March 15:** Convention continues with inspiring reports of how ministry has changed lives. Without the weight of resolutions, we are able to end at noon.

**March 16:** Early in the morning Rebecca and I fly to Philadelphia, PA to be with my sister and help

# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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plan the funeral for John.

**March 19:** I preach at John's funeral. The church was full, a testament to John affable and warm personality.

**March 20:** Rebecca and I travel back to New Orleans.

**March 21:** Due to the funeral, I am three days late attending the House of Bishop's meeting at Camp Allen, TX. I leave early and arrive around 3 pm.

**March 21-26:** House of Bishops.

**March 27:** Dentist followed by a phone conference regarding All Saints School in Vicksburg, MS. The Diocese of Louisiana along with Western Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas are the owning dioceses.

**March 28:** Cannon Manning and I drive to the Solomon Center for an Executive Board retreat. I enjoy getting to know the new members.

**March 29:** The retreat ends before lunch. I stay around to spend time with Frank discussing issues of the conference center then head home.

**March 30:** The morning begins by traveling to All Saints, Ponchatoula where I baptize, confirm, preach, and celebrate. It is a wonderful day and the spirits are high. In the evening I travel to Christ Church, Slidell where I officiate at the official calling of Harry Jenkins as rector. Fr. Jenkins has been the priest in charge under CCDP. Now he is their rector. I arrive home around 9:30 in the evening.

**March 31:** In the office to do a few things but not for long. That evening Rebecca and I have dinner with long time friends from our Ashland, KY days. It was nice catching up.

**April 1:** The staff meets with our architect to have a preliminary conversation regarding the Canal St. property. I stay for an hour or so but have to hit the road and travel to Montgomery, AL where I will lead a Lenten series at St. John's. I stay with my good friend Fr. Robert Wisnewski and his wife Mary Ward. Robert's parents were long time members of Trinity, New Orleans before moving to Montgomery.

**April 2:** My back goes out while getting ready to head to St. John's. After preaching the noon service and the evening teaching, I'm ready for the bed.

**April 3:** I drive back to New Orleans in time to check in at the office.

**April 4:** I drive Rebecca to the airport where she will fly to Virginia Seminary to participate in a panel discussion. The topic centers on the life of a clergy spouse. With 32 years under her belt, I wonder what she will say? I am very lucky to be married to someone who loves people and loves the church. I arrive early to the office where I meet with someone interested in leaving one denomination as an ordained minister and entering the Episcopal Church. Later in the day I interview an individual for a position in our office.

**April 5:** Drive to Baton Rouge in the evening.

**April 6:** I drive to Holy Communion, Plaquemine for my annual visit. I preach, confirm, and celebrate. Mother Karen Gay comes in for a brief time to say hello and to make sure I know what I'm doing. Karen has been on disability due to a very painful back and other issues. Following the service we have a very nice reception. I leave Holy Communion and drive to St. James, Baton Rouge where the annual Acolyte Festival is being held. I spend about an hour with the Acolytes answering questions and giving a bit of instructions. The service of commissioning and Holy Eucharist follows

and then a wonderful meal of fried chicken. St. James was a wonderful host.

**April 7:** Day off!

**April 8:** The day is going to be a full day. It begins with staff meeting followed by a meeting with representatives from Thrivent Financial, a Lutheran-based company. Later I have a conference call from Fr. Jim Morrison regarding the Racial Reconciliation Commission. In the afternoon I have meetings with Fr. Fred Devall. The day ends with a meeting with Fortunata Jefferson and Bob Willard regarding the Union of Black Episcopalians.

**April 9-April 12:** I'm up early to fly to Oklahoma City, OK to attend the conference on Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace. This gathering was born out of the conversations with bishops who are concerned with the escalating number of violent acts throughout the US and the world. It was a powerful event. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori addressed the crowd.

**April 13:** Palm Sunday. Rebecca and I travel to St. Andrew's, Luling. It was a nice service. Following, we were treated to lunch by Spencer Lindsay and Earl Woodard.

**April 14:** Holy Week. We host the clergy at the Cathedral for the annual Chrism Mass and Renewal of Vows. Following, we all share a nice meal. I gain so much energy from being around the clergy. I am very grateful for their ministry. In the afternoon I have a meeting with Fr. Dan Krutz.

**April 15:** I paid taxes! Staff meeting began the day followed by calendaring with Canon Manning and Agatha. The staff had lunch together and I had time to work on my sermons for Saturday evening and Sunday.

**April 16:** Canon Manning and I do some catch up work and then I have a phone conference with members of Bishops Against Gun Violence.

**April 17:** Morning meeting with Amelia and then lunch with Fr. Hill Riddle. The day ends with my celebrating the Maundy Thursday service at the Cathedral. Mother Bridget Tierney preached a fine sermon.

**April 18:** Good Friday. Rebecca and I attend the service at St. George's.

**April 19:** I drive to Trinity, Morgan City for the Easter Vigil. I confirm, receive, preach and celebrate. It was a wonderful Deanery gathering. I return late Saturday night.

**April 20:** I preach the Easter service at the Cathedral. The day was wonderful with superb music. Later Rebecca and I enjoy entertaining a few parishioners at home for lunch.

**April 21:** The office is closed.

**April 22:** I go into the office later in the morning. In the afternoon I have a meeting with the Cathedral's finance committee.

**April 23:** I drive to Baton Rouge for an early meeting with Bob Furlow who will lead the men's retreat in a few days. David Warrington and I have lunch to discuss some of the issues on which the Executive Board is working. In the afternoon Fr. Mark Holland visits for his annual consultation. This is followed by another annual consultation with Deacon Reese Wiggins. The day ends with a meeting with the vestry of Holy Communion.

**April 24:** The day begins with an early breakfast meeting with Deacon Mark Hudson. Later I have a phone conference with Priscilla Maumus regarding deaconal matters. Fr. Ken Ritter and I have lunch over matters of concern at St. James Place.

## OUT & ABOUT

He is doing fine work leading changes. Later in the day I have a board meeting at St. James' Place then drive back to New Orleans.

**April 25:** I have lunch with Nanette Noland and then make my way to the Solomon Center for the Men's Retreat. I'm looking forward to the week-end.

**April 26 & 27:** I'm at the Solomon Center.

**April 28:** The day begins with a meeting with the architects and then I head to Wisconsin to begin my coaching relationship with the new bishop of Fond du Lac, the Rt. Rev'd Matt Gunter.



**@ Christ Church, Slidell**

**Saturday, May 17**

**10 am to 4 pm**

**1534 Seventh Street in Slidell**

**For more info, call 985.643.4531  
or email  
office@christchurchslidell.com**

## Election Results From Convention

**Secretary of the Diocese:** Marsha Wade

**Treasurer of the Diocese:** Les Bradfield

**Standing Committee, Lay:** Rachel Whitley

**Standing Committee, Clerical:**  
The Rev'd Bryan Owen

**Executive Board, Lay:**  
Raul Esquivel & Gary Williams

**Executive Board, Clerical:**  
The Rev'd William "Bill" Terry

**Disciplinary Board, Clerical:**  
The Rev'd Watson Lamb, The Rev'd Jeff Millican,  
The Rev'd Minka Sprague

**Trustee - University of the South, Sewanee, Lay:**  
Ed Harold

**General Convention Deputy, Clerical:**  
The Rev'd Sharon Alexander, The Rev'd Fred Devall,  
The Very Rev'd A.J. Heine, The Rev'd Anne Maxwell

**General Convention Deputy, Lay:**  
Amelia Arthur  
Ann Ball  
Edgar Cage  
John Musser, IV

**Alternate General Convention Deputy, Clergy:**  
The Very Rev'd Ron Clingenpeel, The Rev'd Rob  
Courtney, The Rev'd Ed Thompson,  
The Rev'd Roman Roldan

**Alternate General Convention Deputy, Lay:**  
Caroline Carson  
Ed Starns

**Save the Date for the 178th Convention:**  
**February 27-28, 2015**  
**Trinity, New Orleans**

# Episcopal Health Ministries Visits Our Diocese

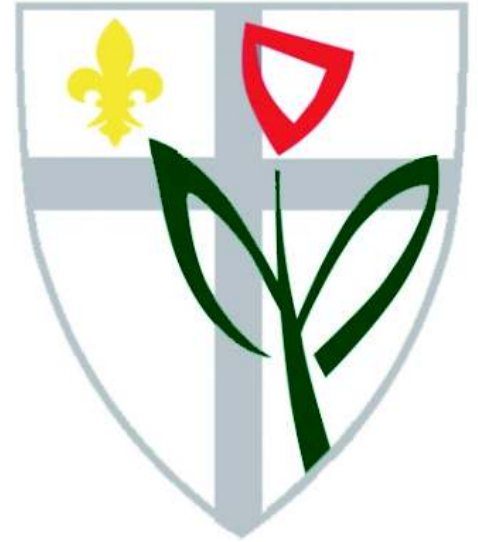
Episcopal Health Ministries' annual conference will be held in New Orleans from May 7-10 at the Hilton, St. Charles Ave. *Empowering Health Ministries* is the theme for the health ministers, parish nurses and others interested in health and spirituality.

Sessions range from Alzheimer and Dementia care to Recovery Ministry to Violence Prevention and Disaster Preparedness. On Thursday, May 8, G. Scott Morris, M.D., M.Div., CEO of Church Health Ministry, will present the Annual Jean Denton Keynote Lecture.

Matthew Ellis, CEO of Episcopal Health Ministries, says "Health ministries contribute to every parish and community. We're excited to share our experiences, learn from others, and create new partnerships in this great city!"

Becky Williams, of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, will be speaking on May 10th. Click [here](#) for more information.

New Orleans



May 7-10, 2014

## St. James, Baton Rouge Offers Outreach Grants

The mission of the Social Outreach Committee of St. James is to dedicate those funds that represent our tithe to the community-at-large to assist those in great physical or spiritual need.

As an integral part of its outreach mission to the local and diocesan community, St. James annually awards small grants to Baton Rouge area and diocesan charitable organizations.

Applications are now invited for the 2014 grant term. Applications must be submitted on the official form [available here](#), (or, in paper copy by request to the parish mail or phone, attn: Outreach Committee) and submitted no later than **May 15** to [church@stjamesbr.org](mailto:church@stjamesbr.org).



# St. Anna's, NO Introduces Urban Episcopal Academy



“Miracles of the Diocese” was a perfect platform for launching a dream and a prophetic possibility to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and that dream is St. Anna’s Urban Episcopal Academy. The launching point for the presentation was taken from the Gospel of Matthew 17:20, wherein a young boy was possessed of a demon and was unable to be exorcised by the disciples. Jesus’ reply to them was, “...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

The groundwork was laid and a nod of support was received from Grace Church, St. Francisville, St. James, Baton Rouge, Christ Church Cathedral New Orleans and several individuals. At Diocesan Convention, the case for the creation and support of an Episcopal Day School supporting children born into adverse situations was made. The facts presented were brutal. Included were the following:

- The target areas are Tremé/Lafitte, Iberville and 7th Ward neighborhoods in New Orleans.
- Projected population over 35,000
- Single mother households 65%
- Those living in poverty 63%
- Life expectancy in this area compared to adjacent zip codes: 18 years
- Children living in poverty 61%
- Families living in poverty NOT receiving food stamps 23-74% (based on location)
- Crime “Hot Spot”

Fr. Bill Terry, Rector of St. Anna’s, says that crime and particularly violent crime is linked to poor education, lack of opportunity, and poverty. That said, no child is born as a violent perpetrator, no child chooses to live

in poverty. These are variable beyond their control and we all pay the cost. He went on to say that the anticipated outcome and goal of the school would be to create Tax Payers of these children. It said a lot and in this singular vision communicated a universal hope which includes excellent stewardship.

A two year project in the making has thus far been licensed by the state. The school has joined the National Association of Episcopal Schools, and had a preliminary site location at the property currently owned by St. Anna's Church called Dodwell House Episcopal Community Center. The historic property is in dire need of restoration grants, funding, and development with potential abundant tax credits in the offing. Apart from that challenge Terry noted that operating income must be developed for this tuition sliding scale school.

"If 100 churches or institutions in the United States pledged \$4,000 per year for three years that would be enough to start operations!", Fr. Terry said.

#### Get Involved:

- Help Sustain the current after school program – it works.
- Pledge and become a school partner.
- Become a prayer and action partner.

#### Churches already engaged in this witness:

- Grace Church, St. Francisville
- St. James, Baton Rouge
- Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans
- All Souls, New Orleans
- St. Patrick's, Zachary

To become a development partner, donor, prayer support, or three year pledge member, please send inquiries to [fr.bill@stannanola.org](mailto:fr.bill@stannanola.org) or call 504.947.2121.



# Update on St. Matthew's, Houma

by the Rev'd Craig Dalferes, Rector

*A new steeple is placed on top of St. Matthew's*

On the 11th of November 2010, St. Matthew's in Houma lost its beautiful old cypress church to a devastating fire. In addition to losing the church building, we lost one of our school buildings, as well as our Parish Hall, which was actually part of the church structure. From that day, though — and every day since — we have been blessed with tremendous support, both financial and spiritual, from our wider community, as well as our Diocesan family.

I was privileged and honored to have the opportunity to update everyone at our recent Diocesan Convention as to the progress we've made. We are so pleased to share with our Diocesan family all that has been accomplished thus far by God's grace. We are hopeful that the rebuild will be complete in late summer of 2014. One of my colleagues at Convention said after viewing the slides: "that some nice new digs you got there!"

I mentioned at Convention that for me this event has been transformative. And I think this is true for many others as well. I quickly realized that I was at the limit of my capacity to "fix" it, and of necessity, had to be carried along by the grace of God — which came to me in part through my wonderful parishioners, our community, and all of you! I am grateful for the prayers and support which have been so generously offered and have meant so much to us. What we lost was truly irreplaceable, as it had stood for over a century — such a beautiful landmark in our community. But we have not been left desolate. God is bringing us through, and we have come to know more deeply that the church is not the building, but her people. And also, that God in Christ can and does give new life — and can raise us up even from the dust and ashes!



# Atrium Gallery Opening at Christwood

**Wine and Cheese Reception**  
**100 Christwood Blvd. Covington, Louisiana**  
**Saturday, May 10**  
**4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

*Local Landscapes by Louis Morales, Mary Monk, Claude Ellender, Carol Hallock and Auseklis Ozols.*

Exhibit open until June 28th.



**In February, Christ Church, Slidell held their 2nd Annual Double Dog Dare You Crock Pot Cook Off. Here, Hank Casserleigh, left, accepts the First Prize Golden Spoon for his Beer Basted Ribs from ECW president Rosemary Willis, with Father Harry Jenkins in the middle.**



**The children at St. Michael's Episcopal Education Center in Mandeville saved their money during Lent and collected \$555.63. The students voted to give the money to the St. Tammany Humane Society because they want to help animals who do not have homes. Here, the Rev'd Sharon Alexander is shown presenting the donation to Dr. Lisa Johnston of the Humane Society.**

# Seniors Heading to LSU?

*by the Rev'd Drew Rollins, Chaplain of St. Alban's, LSU Campus*

It's that time of year again! We at St. Alban's Chapel would like your assistance in making contact with any graduating seniors who will be heading to LSU in the fall. If you would be so kind as to send me names and contact information, someone from St. Alban's Chapel will contact them over the summer to introduce them to our ministries and programs. In the past, we've found that these first and early contacts can make the difference between a student giving St. Alban's a try or not. Currently, I have four very friendly student interns who are good at welcoming newcomers. So any information that you can give us will help (phone, cell phone, address, Facebook)! Thank you for your support!



**Click here** to get in touch with St. Alban's.

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## St. Luke's, NO Health Fair

*by April J. Williams*

After last year's success with their annual community health and fun festival, St. Luke's is proud to announce their 2014 Community Family Health and Fun Festival. The festival will focus on community health issues such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and HIV/AIDS awareness. There will be food, fun, and lots of activities for kids and adults.

We have found that we live in a city where family; community and health issues have been drastically overlooked. According to the latest statistic by the CDC, more than one-third of U.S. Adults (35.7%) are obese. Also, the prevalence of obesity in Louisiana is equal to or greater than 30%.

Through partnership with many local vendors and health organizations, we hope to address these issues in a very informative, and family- friendly environment.

St. Luke's is a predominantly African American and Caribbean parish that has served the New Orleans community since 1855. Our beautiful church and campus is home to a vibrant, diverse, and growing congregation who come from around the city and world. We believe we are blessed to be part of the continued rebirth of our beloved city and giving back to the community is our fundamental goal.

If you'd like more information about this event, please email [aprwilliams96@gmail.com](mailto:aprwilliams96@gmail.com) or call 504.717.1417.

**St. Luke's Community Family Health  
& Fun Festival  
Saturday, June 14  
10 am to 5:30 pm  
1222 N. Dorgenois St.**

# The 127<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ECW

by Sheila S. MacArthur, Diocesan ECW Memorials Chair & Annual Gathering Reporter



The diocesan Episcopal Church Women gathered on May 2-3, 2014 at beautiful Grace Memorial Church in Hammond and focused on the theme “Share the Vision - Shape the Mission”. Following prayer offered by Cecile Torbergsen, ECW Devotions chair, Ann Farrow, ECW Host Church Committee chair and The Very Rev. Paul Bailey, Rector of Grace Church, graciously welcomed 85 ladies during the two day event with fabulous hospitality and gift bags filled with all manner of reports and materials. Diocesan ECW Vice-President Ann Ball made announcements, introduced speakers and executed events with “bell” precision.

Friday events included: a song and a slide-show by Slater Armstrong, Missioner to Sudan, educating delegates on the desperate plight of the persecuted people of Sudan and South Sudan; a free-will offering of \$1,727 to “Joining Our Voices” was collected to provide aid to the people of the Nuba Mountains; time to peruse displays of other Mission companions; Rosemary Sullivan recognized Harriet Murrell (unable to attend on Saturday) for her many ministries and service in the 18th presentation of Honored Women in the Diocese of Louisiana; Evening Prayer led by The Very Rev. Paul Bailey; a Gala Reception at the home of Mrs. Maude Sharp and music by violinist Constanta Lungu of Southeastern Louisiana University.

Saturday’s session began with a substantial continental breakfast provided by St. Margaret’s Guild of Grace Church, another warm welcome by Ann Ball, and devotions by Cecile Torbergsen, Diocesan ECW President, Laurel McCartney opened the plenary session with the President’s report followed by Secretary Cintra Willcox’s Roll Call and approval of the Minutes of the 126th ECW Annual Gathering in 2013. Treasurer Ellen King presented the Treasurer’s Report for approval and the proposed 2014-2015 budget, and she explained the ECW Special Offerings for 2014-2015. The Treasurer’s Report, the proposed budget, and the Special Offerings all passed by unanimous voice vote. Past ECW President, Barbara Owens conducted the elections which were two-pronged. With no nominations from the floor, the slated officers were elected by unanimous voice vote. Elected officers were Recording Secretary Marilyn Hines and United Thank Offering Coordinator Dana Schuster. The second election concerned two delegates to ECW’s Triennial in 2015 at Salt Lake City, Utah.



Triennial delegates elected were Kathryn Johnson and Noretta Stackel. Appeals were made by Carolyn Douglas of the importance of returning information from Branch Churches for the 2014-2015 calendar Handbook and from Noretta Stackel concerning contributions to Church Periodical Club (CPC). With no further business, the plenary session was adjourned.

Ann Ball recognized former Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Louisiana, The Rev. E. Mark Stevenson and his wife Joy, welcoming them “home”. In his new position as Domestic Poverty Missioner, The Rev. Mark Stevenson is on the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and is based in Dallas, Texas. His keynote topic, “The Church Addresses Domestic Poverty”, was filled with personal encounters with poverty throughout cities in the United States and shocking statistics of the consequences of poverty. The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr., Bishop of Louisiana, reported on the State of the Church with churches in transition and highlighted the closing of the Baton Rouge office and the future use of Grace Church, New Orleans, as the diocesan office location. Rosemary Sullivan, Honored Women chair, described the devotion of two additional women for their service in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Fay Atkinson (Trinity, Baton Rouge) and Katherine “Kat-T” Bickham (Grace Memorial, Hammond). The Festival Eucharist with Celebrant The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Homilist The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, assistant The Very Rev. Paul Bailey and soloist Lynn Hines included the UTO Ingathering and the Installation of Officers. The offertory was dedicated to Episcopal Relief and Development for Hurricane Sandy relief.

Delegates were invited to attend two of four workshops on: “Episcopal Women with a Vision” (Laurel McCartney, Diocesan ECW President); “St. Anna’s Ministry in the Treme Neighborhood” (Deacon Joyce Jackson of St. Anna’s Church, New Orleans); “The Christian Mission Field - Near and Far” (Lay Missioner



Slater Armstrong, Missioner to Nuba Mountains, Sudan); "Seamen's Church Institute - Mission to Mariners" (The Rev. Winston Rice, Chaplain, The Seaman's Church Institute).

Both days of the ECW Annual Gathering, delegates generously donated camp supplies to the ECW's service project, G.R.A.C.E. (God's Really Awesome Camp Experience) CAMP, which is a summer camp initiative for children of incarcerated men and women. Used devotional booklets were donated for use at the Louisiana Women's Correctional Institute at St. Gabriel, LA, and used electronic items were collected for the diocese's Jericho Road Garden Project.

An invitation to the 128th Gathering was extended by Gail Duhé of St. Matthew's, Houma so that all may see the reconstructed church and rejoice in the celebration of the historic resurrection. Closing prayer was offered by Cecile Torbergson, ECW Devotions chair.

Though the theme was focused on MISSION at home and abroad, and they were difficult issues (poverty, persecution, inhumanity, isolation, genocide and the like), The 127th Annual Gathering of the Diocese of Louisiana's ECW was JOYOUS. Ladies experienced joy in worship, prayer, music, hospitality, fellowship, great weather, and speakers who demonstrated joy in service.

PRAISE BE TO GOD!

*[photos by Karen Mackey]*

# LAST LOOK

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The clergy of the diocese pause on the steps of Christ Church Cathedral after their Chrism Mass in April.

Please note the change in mailing  
address for all correspondence:  
Diocese of Louisiana  
1623 Seventh St  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
phone: 504.895.6634