CHURCHWORK

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 1

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA

SPRING 2011

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

REVELATION 21:5

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Subscriptions

ChurchWork is a free quarterly magazine published by and for The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. To be added to the mailing list or update your address, please email Liz Shortess at lshortess@edola.org.

Submissions

ChurchWork provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word; photographs should have a resolution of 300. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Rebecca Pitre at 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.

CHURCHWORK (ISSN NO. 0279-5132) is published quarterly by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. Periodicals postage paid at the Post Office, New Orleans, LA 70113 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO:CHURCHWORK, P.O. Box 5026, Baton Rouge, LA 70801.

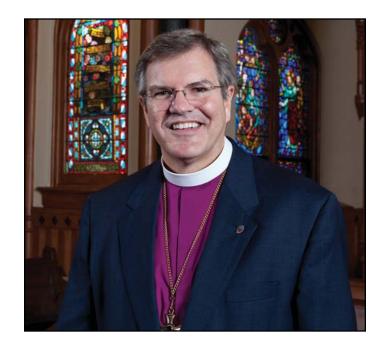
A Message From Our Bishop

Several years ago I discovered a little book titled, *Always We Begin Again*. The author, John McQuiston II, took the Rule of St. Benedict and paraphrased its teachings. What first caught my attention was the title: *Always We Begin Again*. Those four words articulated what was for me a new beginning in living more fully into the redemption of God's magnificent grace.

Life is about beginning again, and again. We make mistakes today and then tomorrow we wake up to begin again hoping to have learned from our actions of yesterday. Yet over time we seem to forget this grace of beginning again. Our inattentive behavior moves us in the opposite direction of grace to self-doubt, judgment, and just plain cynicism.

What we often forget is what McQuiston writes as the first rule. "The first rule is simply this: live this life and do whatever is done, in a spirit of Thanksgiving." What a wonderful word and vision of a way of being. Isn't this what Christ calls us to live more fully into? When we live out of thanksgiving our understanding is one of gratitude. For St. Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6&7: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Two events that are upon us and of which I am very grateful are Lent and the 174th Diocese of Louisiana Convention. Some may think these two are strange bedfellows but I see them as new beginnings. Lent begins with a beautiful prayer where we ask God to "make in us new and contrite hearts..." The season of Lent is a beautiful time for spiritual reflection that has the potential to lead us into a more meaningful relationship with God. The invitation is given and we respond according to our desire to experience God's grace. I pray you will say yes to God's invitation.



The other event is our Diocesan Convention hosted by Christ Church, Covington. Under the leadership of the Rev'd Tom Blackmon the committee has promised a weekend filled with good food, good liturgy and lots of laughter. Under the leadership of the Rev'd Chad Jones we are assured of a proficient agenda where our work of the Diocese will be marked by open, honest and respectful conversations. This will be my first convention as your Bishop. I am looking forward to sharing with you the great stories I am hearing and witnessing as I travel the diocese. We have our challenges to be sure but we are Easter people, we believe in the resurrection, in new beginnings. Life is full in Louisiana and it is good. For this I am very grateful.

May God continue to grace us with new beginnings and may we respond with thanksgiving.

I hope to see you soon.

Brave journey,

BISHOP'S JOURNAL: DECEMBER 16TH - FEBRUARY 13TH



December 16: Traveled throughout the day, then drove to Mississippi for an overnight retreat.

December 17: Returned to New Orleans in the afternoon.

December 18: No meetings today.

December 19: Preached at the 9 a.m. service at Christ Church in Covington followed by a Q and A session. Celebrated, preached, confirmed, reaffirmed and baptized at the 11 am service. I enjoyed lunch with the clergy at Rips restaurant in Mandeville.

December 20: Day off.

December 21: Pastoral meeting with a seminarian. Met with Canon Rich Clark and then lunch with a seminarian. Worked on a sermon.

December 22: Paperwork, then worked on a sermon.

December 23: Study and paperwork. Diocesan office closed at noon.

December 24 – January 1:

Bishop's staff away for the Christmas holidays.

January 2: No Visitation today. Worshipped at Trinity, New Orleans and had the privilege of hearing Joe Wallace, one of our seminarians, preach a moving sermon. Spent a relaxing afternoon with family.

January 3: Day off.

January 4: Drove to Baton Rouge. Working lunch with Canon Stevenson catching up and planning upcoming events. Attended Constitution and Canons meeting in the afternoon, then drove with Deacon Mike Hackett to the Chapel of Transfiguration at Angola, where I preached and celebrated. I was moved by the caring spirit of these men. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

January 5: Met with Dr. Charlie Frey, about psychological evaluations for the diocesan ordination process. Bishop's weekly staff meeting, followed by an update on Grace Church, New Orleans, from Canon Mark Stevenson. Met with the Rev'd Brien Koehler and a deacon aspirant. Lunch with the Council of Deans. Pastoral guidance with a deacon. Met with the Diocesan Convention planning group. Drove back to New Orleans.

January 6: Received updates from Canon Stevenson. Calendared with Agatha. Met with the Rev'd Rich Clark about youth ministry. Met with Diana Meyers about St. Anna's Mobile Medical Mission, followed by a meeting with Betty Zachary about Grace, New Orleans. Meeting with Deacon Lydia Hopkins. Met with the Standing Committee by video conference in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Rebecca and I witnessed our first Mardi Gras parade when we heard a bit of commotion, stepped out on our front step and saw the Phunny Phorty Phellows aboard a streetcar. We look forward to the many festivities of Carnival.

January 7: Worked on sermons during the morning hours. Lunch with the Rev'd Scott Albergate. Met with the new Archdeacon, Priscilla Maumus, about diaconate matters. Evening vestry meeting at St. Paul's, New Orleans.

January 8: No meetings today.

January 9: Preached, celebrated, confirmed at All Souls Church, New Orleans, followed by a wonderful lunch and tour of their rapidly transforming building. Evening drive to Baton Rouge for the celebration of new ministry of the Rev'd Ernie Saik as Rector of Church of the Holy

From the Bishop's Office

Spirit followed by a very nice reception. Returned to New Orleans.

January 10: Morning off, then met with Jericho Road's Executive Board. Quietly enjoyed the rest of the afternoon and evening.

January 11: Meeting with the Rev'd Rob Courtney, followed by a meetings with the Very Rev'd David duPlantier and the Rev'd Phoebe Roaf. Met with the Commission on Ministry by video conference.

January 12: Weekly meeting of the Bishop's staff. Met with Dr. William Thiele of Parker United Methodist Church concerning Richard Rohr's upcoming programs in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

January 13: Drove to Baton Rouge office. Had lunch with the Rev'd John Senette. Pastoral meeting in the afternoon, followed by a meeting of the Constitution and Canons Committee. Canon Stevenson and I drove to New Roads for mutual ministry review at St. Paul's/ Holy Trinity Church around a wonderful dinner. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

January 14: Worked on a sermon. Met with Ed Starns. Met with Katherine Martin, Executive Director of O'Brien House, and her visiting brother, the Rev'd Hallock Martin, a priest in West Palm Beach, Florida. Lunch with Bishop Robert W. Muench at the Catholic Life Center. Drove back to New Orleans.

January 15: Attended the outstanding performance of the play, "Taking a Stand" at St. Luke's, New Orleans. It was a reminder of the racial tragedy in Orangeburg, SC, the killing of three innocent college students from South Carolina State University. Drove to Baton Rouge that evening and stayed overnight.

January 16: Met with confirmands prior to the Confirmation service at Church of the Nativity, Rosedale. Feasted on a specially prepared lunch by retired chef, Joseph Major. Canon Stevenson and I left Baton Rouge for several days of seminary visits.

January 17 – 20: Seminary visits at Sewanee and Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Flights were cancelled so Canon Stevenson and I drove home from Texas.

January 21: Bishop's writing day – worked on sermons and got a haircut. *Churchwork* deadline.

January 22: No meetings.

January 23: Celebrated, confirmed, baptized and received at St Mark's, Harvey. Enjoyed a nice reception.

January 24: Day off.

January 25: Picked up Pastor Steven Grieser from airport and drove to the conference center. Pastor Grieser facilitated the Clergy Silent Retreat.

January 26: Clergy Silent Retreat, SECC.

January 27: Clergy Silent Retreat, SECC. Dinner with Pastor Grieser in New Orleans.

January 28: Day off with Rebecca.

January 29: Drove to St. Francisville. Dinner with the Rev'd and Mrs. Roman Roldan. Overnight stay with gracious hosts, Peggy and Joe Gammil.

January 30: Celebrated and confirmed at Grace Church, St. Francisville, followed by a very nice reception.

January 31: Day off. Bid a fond retirement farewell to Betty Evans' for 34+ years of faithful service to the Diocese. We will miss her presence.

February 1: Met with the Rev'd Scott Albergate. Caught up on paperwork. Nice lunch with Bishop Joe Doss. Met with the Rev'd Walter Baer and the Rev'd Fred Devall. Planning meeting for Diocesan Clergy Day scheduled for March 1st at the conference center. Evening meeting of the Diocesan Executive Board at the Solomon Center.

February 2: Working lunch with Canon Mark Stevenson and Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus. Met with Canon Stevenson and Agatha about diocesan Commissions and Committee assignments. Evening Ordination of Transitional Deacons, John Craft and Sharon Alexander at Christ Church Cathedral. Many thanks to the Cathedral staff and Harriet Murrell for coordinating such a fine ordination reception in Stuart Hall.



An Update on the Clergy and Congregational Development Program



By the Rev'd Canon E. Mark Stevenson, Canon to the Ordinary

In the previous issue of *ChurchWork*, I wrote about the new Clergy and Congregational Development Program (CCDP) initiative that will make its debut in our diocese in 2011. In a nutshell, this program of intentional mentoring for newly ordained priests and congregations in transition between pastors will provide training and formation for lay and ordained leaders alike. The CCDP has the potential to strengthen the mission and ministry of the Diocese of Louisiana in some very exciting ways.

We are making steady progress as we approach the July 1 official launch of programming. Excitement is building in the participating churches, seminarians are being interviewed, and a

curriculum is in development. The Executive Board has officially endorsed the program and designated funds to help lower the initial start up costs for the congregations. All the pieces seem to be coming together in a timely manner, a fact for which we should all be thankful.

A few of the specific developments are as follows:

- Four congregations have signed on to participate in the recruitment stage that is happening in the first third of the year: Christ Church, Slidell; St. John's, Thibodaux; St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; and St. Mary's, Franklin. A fifth congregation, St. Michael's, Mandeville, will also participate in the program with their newly-appointed pastor, Sharon Alexander.
- Bishop Thompson and I have been in conversation with six seminaries: The General Theological Seminary in New York, Nashotah House in Wisconsin, The Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Sewanee, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Wycliffe in Toronto. Two of these, Virginia and Wycliffe, do not have students available for the CCDP this year, but we will have visited and interviewed students at the other four by the end of February.
- We plan to bring six or seven candidates to Louisiana in mid March for interviews with the four congregations involved in the recruitment stage. If all goes as planned the bishop will pair up seminarians with congregations by the end of March.
- Three program teams are hard at work: The five clergy mentors who will work directly with the new interns have met with the bishop for his initial guidance; The Rev'd Anne Maxwell is chairing the program design and implementation team for the clergy portion of the program; and, the Rev'd Scott Albergate is chairing a similar team for the congregational portion. These last two groups are coordinating their work so that the two programs flow seamlessly over the three year cycle.

Please pray for all who are involved in this important ministry!

Bishop Thompson's Visitation Schedule

April 10: Christ Church, Slidell

April 13: St. Francis, Denham Springs

April 17: St. Stephen's, Innis

April 18: Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

April 23: St. Martin's School, Metairie

April 24: Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

May 1, AM: Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans

May 1, PM: St. James, Baton Rouge May 8: St. Martin's School, Metairie

May 12: EHS Baccaulaureate, Baton Rouge

May 13: EHS Graduation Ceremony, Baton Rouge

May 15: Christ Church, Covington

May 18: St. Luke's School, Baton Rouge

May 22: Trinity, New Orleans

June 12: St. John's, Thibodaux

June 26: St. Matthew's, Houma

From the Bishop's Office

February 3: Drove to Solomon Center to meet with Frank Hall, the new Executive Director. Afternoon meetings in Baton Rouge with a postulant for ordination and the Rev'd Jerry Phillips. Back to New Orleans.

February 4: Wrote sermons and caught up on paperwork.

February 5: Planning meeting of the Clergy and Congregational Development Program at Solomon Conference Center.

February 6: Celebrated and Confirmed at Mt. Olivet, New Orleans, followed by a nice reception in their lovely new parish hall.

February 7: Day off. A fabulous dinner party at Nuvalari's Restaurant in Mandeville organized by the Rev'd Anne Maxwell in honor of the Rev'd Canon Robert C. Wright, rector of St. Paul's Church, Atlanta.

February 8: Diocesan Clergy Day at Christ Church, Covington led by the Rev'd Canon Robert C. Wright. What an interesting and enlightening day. Pastoral meetings in the afternoon.

February 9: Staff meeting, followed by Jericho Road's Executive Committee meeting. Committee on Racial Reconciliation meeting with the Rev'd Keith Johnson. Discussion with the Rev'd Giulliana Gray and Canon Stevenson about campus ministries. Met with the vestry of Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans.

February 10: Wrote an article for *Churchwork* and caught up on paperwork in the morning. Exit interview with Arthur Johnson, ECSLA's Director of Development. Met with the Rev'd A. J. Heine and an aspirant for the priesthood. Evening meeting with Trinity Church, Baton Rouge.

February 11: Meeting at St. Michael's, Mandeville. Vestry retreat of Grace Church, St. Francisville at SECC. Spent night at conference center.

February 12: Morning prayer and breakfast with Vestry members, followed by a meeting of the SECC Board at conference center. Spent night at conference center.

February 13: Celebrated the closing Eucharist of Happening at SECC. Back to New Orleans.

Betty Evans Retires After 34 Years

After many dedicated years of service to the Diocese of Louisiana and to Episcopal Community Services, Betty Evans has retired. During her 34-year tenure, Betty faithfully supported our church's ministry to the children and communities served by the Gaudet Fund, to the poor and vulnerable, and in recent years to those affected by Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and the oil spill.

Betty started as the Executive Secretary of ECS and later helped the diocese by enrolling clergy and lay people into Church Life Medical and Life Insurance. Additionally she worked with retired clergy widows and spouses, and with the Chaplain to the Retirees Program.

After Hurricane Katrina, Betty was eager to return home to New Orleans and was offered the position of Administrative Assistant in the newly formed Office of Disaster Response.

Reflecting on her time with the diocese, Betty said that her fondest memory is working with the Gaudet program. "It made me feel like I was taking part in continuing Mrs. Gaudet's legacy", she said.

In her newfound retirement, Betty plans to enjoy visiting her grandchildren who are in college in two other states, taking one-tank car trips and taking classes in history, geography and other subjects.

Betty's presence and hard work are sorely missed already, but we are so thankful for her. From everyone at ECSLA and on the bishop's staff, we wish you a happy and healthy retirement!



At her retirement party, Bishop Thompson presented Betty with a proclamation in her honor.

Treasure in the Attic, Part II

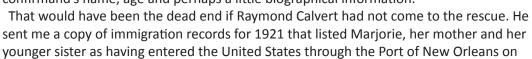


By Harriet Murrell, Director of School for Ministry and Diocesan Archivist

In the last issue of ChurchWork, Harriet was trying to uncover the details of an altar cloth she found in the Noland Center attic. It was given to the Rev'd Weed and signed "from your little friend Marjorie Stiles." Here is what she found.

I knew exactly where I needed to go to find information about the person who had made the altar cloth for the city missioner, the Rev. Dr. Caleb Weed. Moving silver trays and sliding plastic boxes to the side of the walk in the safe/archives depository at Trinity Church, New Orleans, I went through the card catalogue and found several generations of Stiles, including Marjorie Georgiana, the daughter of George Richard and Amanda Cathaver Stiles. Her confirmation date was Palm Sunday, April 9, 1922.

The record for that date listed 60 confirmands from Trinity and 7 from Waldo Burton Home, most of whom must have been young people because adults were noted as such. Hoping to find her age or more biographical information, I went to the diocesan records of Bishop David Sessums. In a bound volume entitled Official Acts written by hand, I found notations much like what we now see in Churchwork in the Bishop's Journal however no mention of socializing at the bishop's visit but only what the bishop did officially. In Official Acts since Bishop Jones' time, the confirmation list is submitted by the church with each confirmand's name, age and perhaps a little biographical information.



March 12, 1921 to join Marjorie's father who was living on Esplanade Avenue and working. Marjorie was 14 at the time. Raymond's research opened more avenues of discovery. Marjorie married at 21 at Trinity. She had at least two daughters with George Ulm. She also had a second marriage. There are indications that she moved out of state so it would take more sleuthing to complete a life story. However, I had found what I wanted to know. Chaplain Weed had received a beautiful gift of appreciation from a talented teen ager who wrote "...it made me glad to have you visit me when I was ill at Charity Hospital".





Clergy Transitions

In December, Bishop Thompson appointed Deacon Priscilla Maumus to be the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Louisiana. **Archdeacon Maumus** will assist the bishop in providing pastoral oversight for the Community of Deacons. Additionally, she will be a key advocate for the diaconate throughout Louisiana and the wider Church.

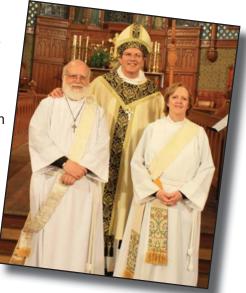
On February 2nd, Bishop Thompson ordained Sharon Alexander and John Craft to the diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral.

The **Rev'd Sharon Alexander** will serve at St.

Michael's, Mandeville and the **Rev'd John Craft** at Annunciation in New Orleans. God willing, both will be ordained priests later this year.



The **Rev'd Ken Ritter** resigned as Rector of Trinity, Baton Rouge in February and returned to his position as President and Chief Executive Officer at St. James Place Retirement Community in Baton Rouge. Fr. Ritter has more than 16 years of healthcare executive leadership experience plus a Master's degree in Health Administration.



A Warm Welcome from Christ Church

Dear Clergy, Lay Delegates, and Friends,

On behalf of our bishop, Morris Thompson, all of us in Covington are eager to welcome you to the 174th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. We are excited you are coming and we hope to provide worship, work, and play that will both strengthen our discipleship and enable us to enjoy one another's company.

All three of Covington's Episcopal ministries have been involved in planning our time together, along with other clergy and parishioners from North Shore congregations. Our thanks to them all! Here are the basics of what, where, and when:

- The Convention will meet to do its work in the gymnasium of Christ Episcopal School at the Christwood Boulevard campus where the lower, middle, and new high school are located. This is just south of the intersection of I-12 and La. highway 21. Overnight accommodations are just five minutes away. Christ School is in its 26th year, 550 students strong, and eager to introduce themselves to you.
- On Friday evening, Bishop Thompson will celebrate the convention Eucharist at Christ Church's central Covington campus in the brick sanctuary constructed in 1967. The church is situated adjacent to the Bogue Falaya River in a lovely and historic neighborhood. Our Chapel next door is the oldest continuous-use building in the city, surrounded by a lovely garden, and close to shops and restaurants.

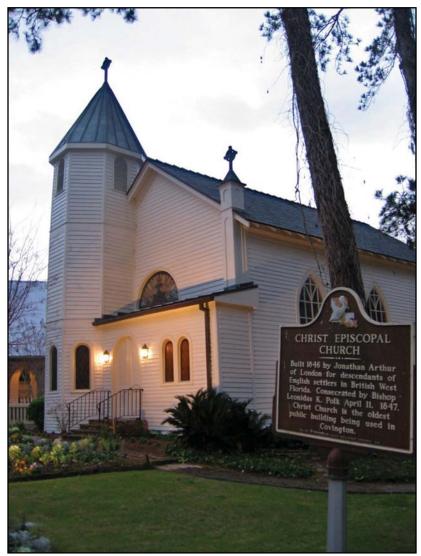


Photo courtesy of Paul McClure

- As you emerge from sacramental worship, you will walk into a supper party Friday evening for 300, spilling out from the steps of the main church and around the grounds. A sumptuous meal is being underwritten and presented by Christwood and its chefs, complete with music and we are confident lovely spring weather! Lenten Friday notwithstanding, we hope all of you will join us to feast on good food and fellowship.
- Saturday morning worship will feature the Godly Play work of some Christ School students and our lunch will offer a south Louisiana picnic. From 8 a.m. guided tours of Christwood will be available right next door for anyone interested in seeing this wonderful community. On both days, vendors, art work, committee rooms and relaxation space will be all around the campus.

Until April 1st, we wish you a festive Mardi Gras and a holy Lenten spring. If you have questions or concerns "local" to Covington, please call us at Christ Church: 985.892.3177.

Faithfully and expectantly yours, The Rev'd Thomas Blackmon

CONVENTION INFORMATION

The following elections will take place at Convention. The nomination period closed March 1st.

- Deputies to General Convention: 4 Clerical and 4 Lay
- Alternate Deputies to General Convention: 4 Clerical and 4 Lay
 - Secretary of the Diocese
 - Treasurer of the Diocese
 - Standing Committee: 1 Clerical and 1 Lay
 - Executive Board: 1 Clerical and 2 Lay
 - Ecclesiastical Court: 4 Clerical and 1 Lay

The registration fee for this year's convention is \$65 for delegates, alternate delegates and guests.

This fee includes Friday night's get together and lunch on Saturday.

Retired clergy and surviving spouses of deceased clergy may attend as the Bishop's guests, paying to the Bishop's Fund only what they can afford. Please indicate this in your registraiton.

If you have any questions regarding Convention planning or registration, please contact Jennifer Hirstius at 225.706.6634.

All convention forms and documents may be found at edola.org.

PROPOSED AGENDA

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2 PM Registration begins

3 PM Plenary Session

- Call to Order
- Prayers
- Welcome
- Elect Secretary and Treasurer
- Dispatch of Business Resolutions
- Take First Round of Ballots for Offices
- Take First Round of Ballots for General

Convention Deputies

Present Resolutions and Obtain

Seconds

4:30 PM Open Hearings and Committee Work

6 PM The Holy Eucharist

7 PM Social Time

Items for the Order of Business may not necessarily occur in the order printed in this document. Items may be inserted, deleted or rearranged as needed. The Proposed Order of Business is a working document. The Final Order of Business will appear in the Convention Packet and must be approved, along with the Rules of Convention, by a vote of the Convention.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND

8 AM 9 AM

12:10 PM

1:15 PM

Registration begins

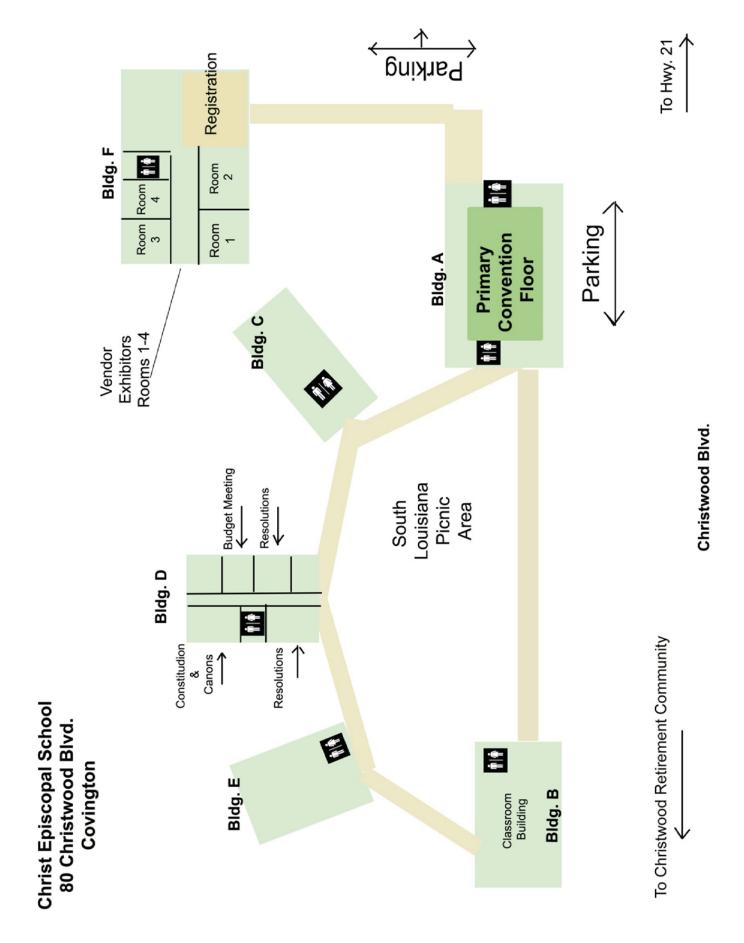
Reconvene

- Pravers
- Subsequent Balloting for Offices and General Convention Deputies
- Introduction of New Clergy
- Bishop's Address
- 1st Committee Reports (Resolutions)
- ECW
- Nomination of Alternate Deputies to General Convention
- Noonday Prayers

Lunch (Open Hearings and Committee Work)
Reconvene

- Balloting for Alternate Deputies to General Convention
- 2nd Committee Reports with Voting on Resolutions
- Courtesy Resolutions
- Invitation to 175th Convention
- Adjourn

CHURCHWORK SPRING 2011



Out & About

A Milestone for the Diocesan Family

By the Rev'd Gedge Gayle



"This is the most wonderful day in my life!" said Mary-Frances McKee as she shared in the celebration of her 100th birthday on January 20, 2011 at her Lambeth House residence in New Orleans.

This happy event was the second observance of a milestone in the Diocesan family. Mary-Frances was honored on Sunday, January 16th at St. Martin's Church, Metairie, where her late husband, the Reverend Hugh Crockett McKee had served as rector from 1951 until his retirement in 1976. Together, the McKee's played a significant role in the effective ministry of their parish church and also in the early development of St. Martin's Episcopal School. Hugh McKee came to the Diocese at a particularly critical time in the School's history. His steadfast faith and firm leadership was crucial as he and other leaders established the foundation for the School's success. Mary-Frances played a vital support role throughout her husband's ministry.

Natives of Kentucky, the McKees came to Metairie after Hugh's graduation from the School of Theology at Sewanee, TN, and five years of ordained ministry in Russellville and Bowling Green, KY. Prior to that time, Hugh had a career in journalism at The Louisville Times, and service as a World War II officer in the "Fighting 69th" Division of the US Army from 1942-1945.

Mary-Frances was well known for her hospitality and expertise in the kitchen. A Kentucky tradition they brought to Metairie was the Kentucky Derby Party hosted by Hugh and Mary-Frances each year. Hugh's authentic mint julep recipe fit well with the New Orleans tradition of excellence in food and drink! Another tradition among many was an annual Easter Brunch hosted by Mary-Frances to honor St. Martin's Church Choir.

Tragedy came to the McKees with the June, 1961 death in a traffic accident of their son, Hugh McKee III, just days before his graduation from St. Martin's School. He had been accepted at Sewanee for the fall term. The faith and witness of the McKee family during this difficult time gave all who knew them a special relationship of affection and respect.



The McKees moved to Martin's Landing at Lambeth

House in 2002, and Fr. McKee died later that year. Mary-Frances continues her attendance at Sunday worship at St. Martin's Church on a regular basis with the help of friends and the parish's Stephen Ministry. Mary-Frances was most gracious in expressing her gratitude to all who joined with her to celebrate her special birthday. Many happy returns from all of us!

Above left: Mary-Frances McKee poses with a cake commerating her 100th birthday.

Above right: Several of Mary-Frances' special friends from St. Martin's Church pose celebrated with her. They are (left to right) Frances Horton, Bonnie Rawlins, Sherry Gormanous, Cinda Richardson, Susan Gayle and Edie Wilson.

St. John's Celebrates 60 years of Its Twelve Step Ministry

by Deacon Charmaine Kathmann

St. John's in Kenner first hosted Alcoholics Anonymous group meetings in a rented church building sixty years ago. The present day church was built in 1953 at the corner of 17th St. and Williams Blvd. With the completion of the church and parish hall in 1953, there were continuous meetings twice a day, every day of the week, until the present time.

After hurricanes Katrina and Rita, St. John's church still offered AA and Narcotics Anonymous meetings as soon as the City of Kenner allowed people to return. Each week, St. John's offers space for about 350 people to attend Twelve Step group meetings to help those suffering from addictions.

Please pray for St. John's Episcopal Church and the celebration of her healing ministry.



A Tale of Two Churches

by Andrea Van Burkleo

On Sunday, January 30th, members of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge were treated to delicious jambalaya and wonderful hospitality from St. Michael & All Angels, Baton Rouge. The reason for the gathering stemmed from an action group that the two churches are involved with called Together Baton Rouge.

St. Michael's is located in north Baton Rouge where poverty, crime and high school dropout rates are high. St. Luke's is located in south Baton Rouge, where conditions are significantly better. So these two churches are building a relationship to help solve

some of Baton Rouge's tough issues.

Where do you start? Building relationships and trust is the first step. We had an intimate setting in the parish hall at St. Michael's. We had a presentation that showcased the two different 'tales' of Baton Rouge: one of poverty and one of prosperity. We broke out into smaller groups and got to know each other. We shared stories, listened to concerns, and began the process of building relationships.

Everyone agreed that they wanted to meet again. St. Luke's offered to return the hospitality and host the next gathering on Sunday, March 20th. We anticipate the beginning of a beautiful relationship!





OUTH NEWS



Senior Rally Recap by the Rev'd Rich Clark, Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Senior Rally 2011 was once again pretty amazing! 'OMG' was the theme. OMG is an abbreviation for 'Oh my God' and is commonly used by youth when speaking, texting or emailing. The weekend's four Spiritual Talks were about God in our lives and subject matter that makes youth say, 'OMG.' Talks were given by Amelia Arthur (Youth Minister, St. Augustine's, Metairie), the Rev'd Michael Hackett (Deacon, Kairos Prison Ministries, Angola and St. Augustine's,



Metairie), Jamey Graves (Music Leader for the weekend from Wilmington, NC) and Madeline Shelton (Intern, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans).



We closed Rally late Sunday morning with Eucharist, during which graduating seniors offered heartfelt talks about their involvement with diocesan youth ministries, friendships developed, spiritual growth, and love gained. It is great to listen to our youth tell in their own words how God is working in their lives!

Thirty youth attended Senior Rally this year, 12 of whom both participated and staffed the event. Also present were 10 Youth Ministers, adult volunteers, and parents from our churches. Special thanks go to everyone who gave their talent and time, their financial support, and their prayers for our young people to enjoy a special weekend at Solomon.

Upcoming Events

- Junior High Rally March 18-20 @ SECC
- Camp Hardtner Registration Ends April 1
 - Youth Week June 19-24 @ Kanuga
 - EYE June 22-26 @ Bethel University



The Road to Heaven is a One Way Slope

by Alyson Bell

This was the theme chosen by the youth of Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish for their Winter Retreat in Salida, Colorado, from December 18th to the 22nd, 2010. The youth knew well why they chose the theme. For them the phrase affirmed the uniqueness of Christ as the author of our Salvation at a time when the church awaited the birth of the Messiah.

For four days the ten youth and three chaperones prayed, skied, worshiped at the local Episcopal Church, and engaged in fellowship and fun. Fr. Roman Roldan, the Rector of Grace Church, stated, "This trip was the result of a year of fundraising, the generous support of various church members, and some support from our youth budget. I am very proud of all the work the youth did to make this trip possible and I remain very grateful for the ministry of our Youth Director and our youth volunteers."



St. Luke's, Baton Rouge Shares Shawls

by Becky Williams, St. Luke's Nurse

On Tuesday, January 25th, the eighth graders from St. Luke's School, Baton Rouge visited the residents at the Guest House as part of their Advisory Class. The Guest House is a nursing home in Baton Rouge, and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its residents and their families. The clergy of St. Luke's facilitates weekly services for the residents living in the facility and is committed to sharing God's love with them.

This was the second time the class visited at the Guest House, and enjoyed the time with the residents. This visit provided a special opportunity for the Shawl Ministry of St. Luke's Church to share shawls that they made. The Shawl Ministry is part of the Health Ministries department of St. Luke's. The members knit, crochet, sew, quilt shawls, or make them from fleece. The shawls are prayed over while being made and then blessed by the clergy before being sent on to those who need St. Luke's to wrap its arms around them.

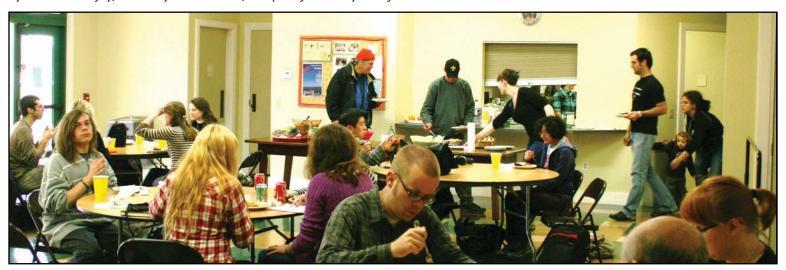
Hundreds of shawls have been distributed in the last year, with recipients being as young as newborns to the elderly. Shawls have been distributed locally, as well as being sent to St. Jude's in Memphis, TN and as far away as Washington state. The shawls are made in a pattern of three, which signifies the Trinity. The Rev'd Joe Hermerding blessed shawls the students would bring to the Guest House at the School Mass that morning; then the shawls were gift-wrapped for the residents. The students presented the shawls to the residents of the Guest House, and soon the room was filled with residents wrapped in shawls of all colors!

One student noted that the shawl he gave matched his new friend's eyes. The visit concluded with a sing-a-long led by Father Hermerding and the school Band Director, John Mlynczak. The 8th grade Advisory Class plans to make visitations to The Guest House a regular event.



Against All Odds, Student Ministry Blossoms on the New Orleans Lakefront

by Karen Montjoy, Advisory Board Chair, Chapel of the Holy Comforter



It's just after 11:30 on a Thursday morning at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter on the lakefront in New Orleans. Enticing aromas waft from the kitchen as the first students straggle in from their classes at the University of New Orleans and Southern University at New Orleans. Some wander into the kitchen to see if any help is needed. Others greet their friends and set their backpacks down on the tables.

The sign on the front lawn proclaims the Chapel as "A House of Prayer for UNO and SUNO," but you wouldn't just happen upon it. Anyone traveling on Elysian Fields Avenue, the main approach, would see only the back and side of the building. Politics had placed the Catholic student center in the heart of the UNO campus; as an afterthought, parcels of land somewhat removed from the campus were made available for student ministries of other denominations. Ten years ago the Diocese of Louisiana built and dedicated the Chapel of the Holy Comforter to serve students at UNO and SUNO, two nearby campuses separated geographically by little over a mile and philosophically by nearly fifty years of racial politics.

The first chaplain, whose salary and benefits were a part of the diocese budget, worked with a small but diverse congregation of mostly families and older adults, some of whom were faculty or staff at the schools to be served. But traction for student ministry at these urban commuter schools proved elusive. The arrival of a newly ordained chaplain in July of 2005 brought fresh energy to the pursuit of campus ministry. With renewed optimism, parishioners planned a welcome dinner for the students. The date was set for Sunday, August 28.

By that Sunday, however, all who could had fled the city ahead of hurricane Katrina's landfall. A month later when residents of New Orleans were allowed to return, the feast supplies in the refrigerators were, well, festering after a month without electricity. The UNO and SUNO campuses were shuttered by hurricane damage. UNO's 19,000 students had scattered around the country, and classes were relocated to the Jefferson Center in Metairie or converted to online courses in order to salvage the academic year. Chaplain Roger Allen and his wife Elisabeth, having lost their home in the floodwaters resulting from the levee breaks, moved into a FEMA trailer on the church grounds to carry out a ministry diverted to one of recovery. The diocese found its mission similarly redirected, and the dream of student ministry at the Chapel faded in the face of competing demands on dwindling resources.

After losing the Allens to the Diocese of Alabama, the Chapel relied upon a succession of supply priests (thank you, Richard Banks, Peggy Walker, Mark Gasquet, and Walter Baer for giving us long term commitments) to celebrate the Sunday morning Eucharist. The storm had caused many members to relocate, so the Chapel cut its budget to the bone and turned to rental income from civic groups and family celebrations to augment its income. An African American Baptist congregation, the New Orleans Bible Fellowship, approached the parish leadership with a proposal to hold their services at the Chapel for nominal rent, and an agreement was struck which allowed the two congregations to schedule their activities back to back. (True to our mission, musical events and meetings directly tied to the university are not charged rent.) The Chapel continued to be a place of ministry in the community, but there was no one to carry out the central mission of building student ministry. Holy Comforter took on the aspect of Monty Python's black knight, the character who continues to fight on despite losing essential body parts.

What happens to a dream deferred? In our case, the revival of the dream of student ministry came through the auspices

of Episcopal Community Services. We learned last spring that a new program would bring recent college graduates to New Orleans as interns in various aspects of community service, and we signed up for an intern to lay the groundwork for Episcopal student ministry at the two campuses.

Adrian Madriz (pictured at right), under the supervision of the Rev'd Giulianna Gray, was brought in to act as a relational evangelist, a relatively new concept that has had great success at other universities in giving students an incentive to get involved with campus chaplaincies. The seed money provided by ECS was supplemented by funds from the Chapel, and the Chapel's advisory board and members stood ready to help in any way needed.

The first order of business was to figure out what obstacles were preventing students from getting involved. It had been some time since we last had a full-time chaplain; there was very little programming going on to engage students, and any progress made before was lost in the yearly academic turnover. Consequently, there wasn't a single currently enrolled SUNO student (and only one UNO student) attending the Chapel by the time Adrian arrived. He recognized that the essentially commuter population of both campuses was going to be one of the biggest barriers to getting students back to campus in the afternoons, much less for Sunday morning services. The inconveniently located Chapel, made even less inviting by its being

partially hidden by some RVs and the Levee Board Police station, was quite a hike for UNO students. SUNO students were at an even greater disadvantage since they would need to drive to take advantage of the student center (something that wasn't reasonable to expect of them). There was also a generally complacent atmosphere on both campuses, with a very muted student life of any kind and a perceived unwillingness on the part of most students to get involved in any kind of extra-curricular activity, religious or otherwise.

Given these challenges, it was important to plan programming for the middle of the weekday (when students were most likely to be on campus), and that required some kind of outreach on the campus itself. Moreover, it was important to realize that some of the problems concerning student involvement were plaguing not just the Chapel but the rest of the campus as well. Addressing these challenges successfully called for a comprehensive approach involving the entire campus in the solution. By trial and error, Adrian reached out to engage the students. He arranged a few student-oriented religious services in the afternoons and evenings, complete with live jazz bands, but attendance was sparse at these (often expensive) initiatives.

Following four months of varied attempts to get the students involved, the Chapel has settled into a groove that works. Ev-

ery Thursday we supply the students with a free lunch in our student center. This has been our most successful program by far, and what began as an event that struggled to attract even a handful of students has now grown into a campus fixture averaging over of 30 students in attendance. In addition to feeding the students, the lunches provide us with an incredible opportunity to get to know these young adults in a relaxed atmosphere. They tell us about their hopes after college and their daily struggles as non-traditional students who often have to work multiple jobs and take care of young children in addition to handling full course loads. Yet, even though their lives are filled with all kinds of stress,

the students still express a willingness to get involved with the community in whatever way they can. Our various community service initiatives such as rebuilding houses, feeding the homeless, and tutoring children in impoverished areas have resonated with these students, so much so that, by virtue of the sheer number of volunteer hours put into these projects by our students over their month-long winter break, the Episcopal Campus Ministry at UNO has become one of the most active student organizations on the campus.

This semester, we are building on the success that the students have managed to accomplish. Adrian has been busy working behind the scenes putting together two new collaborative initiatives with the other

student organizations at UNO. The first is the Religious Life Council, a roundtable of advisors from all the major religious organizations that have successfully lobbied the administration for more opportunities to reach out to religious students on campus and have put together various service projects and free meal opportunities for the students to take advantage of. The second major collaboration is called the UNO Service Coalition, similar to the Religious Life Council, which brings together all the student leaders of the various organizations with an expressed dedication to community service. If the venture is successful, UNO will have a well structured and organized standing army of volunteers ready to tackle a major service project in the New Orleans community every weekend, and perhaps even every day. To reach out specifically to budget conscious commuter students, the Episcopal Campus Ministry is starting a project to provide daily information about the cheapest places to buy gas.

Having Adrian on board has been a wonderful experience for us. His energy, creativity, and outgoing nature are gifts that bring the ministry to life. We are amazed at the fruitfulness of his efforts, and we hope to carry that momentum into the future. Stepping out in faith to try new things has been a growth experience for us, and we are grateful for where God is leading us.

Native New Orleanian Performs Solo Piano Concert at St. Luke's

by Violet Bryan, Parishoner, St. Luke's, New Orleans

Courtney Bryan, a native of New Orleans and member of St. Luke's, presented a solo piano concert at the church on December 22nd, 2010. The music was largely her original arrangements of Negro spirituals and her own creations of spirituals from her CD, *This Little Light of Mine*. Donations from the concert went to the Frances Joseph-Gaudet Hall and St. Luke's Community Center Fund.

Bryan is a prolific and eclectic composer, pianist, and arranger. She performs throughout the New York area with her group, the Courtney Bryan Trio, and is the organist at Bethany Baptist Church of Newark, NJ, where, in June, she organized and moderated a symposium entitled "The Current Relevance of Negro Spirituals."

She was also featured this fall as a speaker in the conversation series of the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University in a talk/performance entitled "Composing in the Spirit: A Composer's Take on the Negro Spiritual."

Bryan has academic degrees from Oberlin Conservatory '04 (BM), Rutgers University '07 (MM), and Columbia University '09 (MA), and is currently pursuing a DMA

in music composition at Columbia University of New York. Her first CD, *Quest for Freedom*, was released in 2006. Please visit **lightofmineonline.com** for more information about the music, view art by Amy Bryan and Alma Bryan Powell, and participate in the discussion of spirituals.



EHS Student Named Louisiana's Top High School Youth Volunteer for 2011

by Dianne J. Madden, Episcopal High School

Passionate, caring, focused, mature, and a methodical problem solver are just a few terms that Carrie Ingerman's teachers have used to describe the Episcopal sophomore. Last May Carrie's nonprofit organization, "Cliks4Kidz" donated 10 laptop computers to Children's Hospital in New Orleans. The computers are used by children who are hospitalized for cancer treatment.

Carrie Ingerman has been named Louisiana's top high school youth volunteer for 2011 by the Prudential Spirit of community Awards. She received \$1,000 and an engraved silver medallion and will go to Washington, D.C., in

May for the naming of the America's top 10 youth volunteers for the year.

The computers that Cliks4Kidz donate help young patients to keep up with school work and stay in touch with family and friends, making the ordeal of a hospital stay that may last for weeks, much easier to endure.

Passionate about technology and wanting to help kids, Carrie and her family brainstormed and found the perfect solution. With continued support from her Episcopal class-



mates, Carrie's Cliks4Kidz has a goal to donate 120 laptops that will serve more than 43,000 patient days. "My parents have taught us that we can achieve anything with hard work and perseverance," said Ingerman.

Service is a vital part of Episcopal High School's mission as illustrated in the work of many of its students such as Sophomore Michael Clark who was recently recognized with a Power of 9 Honors for his countless hours of volunteer work throughout the Baton Rouge Community. Ninth grader Leyna Warren is the only teen serving on the Board of Directors for Friends of the Animals. Jo-Quisha Hilliard's

platform for 2011 Miss Black Louisiana USA Talented Teen is focused on anti-violence and youth empowerment. As part of her Honors Thesis, senior Derbigny Willis is working to prevent River Blindness in Africa. Abby Ter Haar and Clare Murrell are leading the Episcopal Upper School's "One Cause" service project dedicated to building a school in Cambodia, providing life-saving surgeries to African women through the Worldwide Fistula Fund, and to sending African girls to high school through The Campaign for Educating Girls.

Bishop Christopher Senyonjo Visits New Orleans

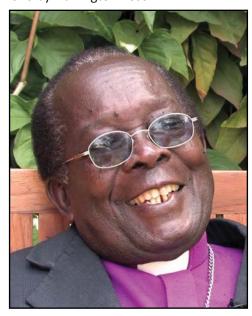
by Dr. Max Niedzwiecki, Executive Director of Integrity USA

The Rt. Rev'd Christopher Senyonjo and the Rev'd Canon Albert Ogle had a very busy trip to New Orleans from Saturday, December 4th to Monday, December 6th. Bishop Christopher (as he is commonly known) is the retired Bishop of West Buganda in the Anglican Church of Uganda. Canon Ogle is associated with St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, and serves as Integrity USA's Vice President for National Affairs.

Bishop Christopher's tour also included stops in Los Angeles, San Diego, Atlanta, New York, Washington, DC, and London, England. While in the U.S. he and the Canon met Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, senior officials of the U.S. Government and the United Nations, and many other decision-makers within and beyond the Episcopal Church. The main purpose of the tour was to build a wider base of support for the Bishop and his work at St. Paul's Centre for Reconciliation and Equality in Kampala, Uganda. This work focuses on Christian reconciliation, as well as providing education and sanctuary to people who are excluded from society because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

In Uganda, homosexual behavior is illegal. There have been efforts among some legislators to expand the law so that sexual behavior between people of the same sex would be punishable by the death penalty. The new law would also require that people — even family members and clergy — be jailed if they know about these "crimes" but do not report them to the police. Unfortunately, several leaders of the Anglican Church of Uganda, the Roman Catholic Church, and others have been vocally supportive of this new law. Bishop Christopher has stood virtually alone among Ugandan religious leaders in speaking out against the law. As a result, he has been ostracized by the Church, and had his means of livelihood taken away from him.

Although Bishop Christopher suffers ostracism and serious death threats in his home country, he is also building partnerships with a wide range of social justice advocates in Uganda and the United States. As he sees it, by definition, building reconciliation entails reaching across boundaries such as gaystraight, rich-poor, and black-white that often divide us. In recognition of this work, he was named one of the world's ten most important religious leaders of 2010 by Huffington Post.



On Saturday, December 4th, the Bishop and Canon attended a party to celebrate the anniversary of two Integrity members, David Kemker and Ben Paulino. They were accompanied at the party and other New Orleans events by Max Niedzwiecki, who serves as Executive Director of Integrity USA and is a parishioner at St. Anna's.

On Sunday, the Bishop preached at St. Anna's Episcopal Church in New Orleans. His focus was the importance of putting God's love before all else, loving one another irrespective of our differences, and the need to support and bless loving relationships, and some of the challenges faced in Uganda. Canon Ogle spoke

separately about the importance of the mission work carried out by St. Anna's, as well as encouragement to support Bishop Christopher's work. After the service, they met for a feast with St. Anna's parishioners. Several of them expressed a desire to find a way to support the Bishop and his work.

On Sunday afternoon, Peg Culligan, a St. Anna's parishioner, led the Bishop, Canon, and Max Niedzwiecki on a very informative tour of New Orleans. In the evening, they met Fr. Bill Terry (the rector of St. Anna's) and his wife Vicki for a true New Orleans feast.

On Monday, the Bishop, Canon, and Max Niedzwiecki met with Bishop Morris Thompson and, separately, with a group of Episcopal clergy. Conversation focused on reconciliation, making "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" a fully true statement for all people, promoting dialogue about human sexuality, the blessing same-sex relationships, the Anglican Covenant, and ways to support the work in Uganda.

This trip would not have been possible without the support of many people, including Fr. Bill Terry, who welcomed the Bishop and Canon at St. Anna's; Luigi Mandile, the Parish Administrator at St. Anna's, who made superb logistical arrangements; Mrs. Mary Dodwell of St. Anna's, who brought together a wonderful feast after services on Sunday; Peg Culligan of St. Anna's, who led the tour of the city; Pete Nunnally, who arranged for the Bishop and Canon to stay in diocesan housing; Bishop Thompson, who welcomed the Bishop and Canon to the diocese; and many others.

Bishop Christopher and Canon Ogle left New Orleans very grateful for the hospitality they had been shown, and optimistic about finding ways to work with their new friends in New Orleans.

Reflecting on Holy Week

by the Rev'd Richard Easterling, Chaplain, Trinity School, New Orleans

Of all the liturgies and rites observed throughout the Church year, there is no occasion as moving nor as confounding, so demanding and yet so often overlooked as the week immediately preceding the great feast of Easter. This great and holy week, beginning with the Procession of the Palms and ending with our Lord laid lifeless in the tomb, has for centuries served as cynosure of spiritual foundation and renewal for the faithful, a time of reconciliation for the penitent, and a consummation of catechetical preparation for converts to the Way. Though the cares and responsibilities of the world

would certainly prefer us to jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Day and remain fully productive workers in the in-between time, I would submit to you an invitation and a charge to take a more holistic approach to the events concerning our redemption. It is my contention that all people of good faith who are able to do so ought to make this week, especially the latter half, a time of

devotional retreat and exercise.

In a time of heightened expectations concerning individual productivity, concurrent with stagnated wages, the demands and rigor of Holy Week may seem foolishly indulgent and hopelessly exhausting. But again, if we constrain our religious development to fit times of secular convenience, ultimately we may find that we are serious workers but rather casual believers and I am not certain how this would serve us better in the long run. Holy Week is exhausting and it ought to be. At the end of the Lenten fast, as family gather around ham, or lamb or sculpted tofu; one should feel spiritually stretched and strained in ways that beget a pleasant, tired ache of soreness indicative that true growth has taken place. These holy days can and will change you as much as you let them

The Sunday before Easter Day is Palm Sunday. On this day, we commemorate our Lord's triumphal entrance into the holy city and his solemn procession to the Temple Mount.

The rite begins in a place removed from the church where palms are blessed and then carried by the people in procession while we all attempt (with varying degrees of success) to sing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" without accompaniment. While this in and of itself makes Palm Sunday worth attending, many of the faithful see the liturgy as a cover-all for the rest of Holy Week since the entire Passion Gospel is read. But taken another way, the ritual of Palm Sunday is made to set the scene and character of the coming days. We get the entire story at once so that having rehearsed it, we may begin

to break it down little by little. Today Jesus is hailed as the Messianic King of Judah, the Son of David who will liberate Jerusalem from the power of Rome. In five days time, the same people who were waving palms will be screaming for his blood and no one seems to recall that his procession ended at the Temple and not the Praetorium.

For the following weekdays, the

Church's color reverts from red to purple. Images and crosses remain veiled, and no concurrent holy days are observed (despite what the beer and liquor industry would have you believe). Starting on Thursday, in an odd throwback to earlier times, the morning offices are anticipated the day before; that is, Thursday's morning office is recited on Wednesday evening. This practice continues until Holy Saturday and has taken the Latin name Tenebrae or "darkness." As each lesson is read, a candle is extinguished until there are none. The service ends with a rather abrupt audible shock, signifying the convulsion of the cosmos at the death of the Son of God. The service is a bit longer than most would expect. For that reason most parishes that keep Tenebrae do so on Wednesday only and, for attendees, the final kaboom may be as much a wake-up call as a ritual movement, and whether jolted out of slumber or inner communion, the alarm has been sounded and the Three Holy Days are here. Tomorrow is Maundy Thursday.

The word "maundy" comes from the same Latin root as the word "mandate" or command. Though it is clearly a reference to our Lord's instruction in St. John's Gospel that we wash one another's feet, there are other commands worth giving thanks for on this night. The color of the Church is changed to white because it is the Institution of the Lord's Supper and herein is another command: "Do this in remembrance of me." The physical body of Christ, that is the Church, gathers to celebrate his mystical Presence among us still. And as broken and dis-membered as the body of Christ may seem at times, on this night most especially, we lay our divisions aside and re-member Christ to make him present again. These signs of foot-washing and Sacrament, ultimately point us to the greatest commandments that we love God and one another. Everything holy hangs on these.

In a striking drama, the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday Mass is the stripping of the Altar. The lights are dimmed as the Sanctuary is robbed of its splendor. Ornaments and furniture are done away, and the bare Altar is scoured with salt and water. At the same time, the Reserved Sacrament is processed to a place of repose and an all-night vigil is begun. The arrest and imprisonment of Jesus leaves the Church bereft of any glory or triumph and the people are dismissed by an anxious silence that will characterize the next day.

There is an austerity and dreadful beauty to Good Friday. The gradual vesting of the celebrant and redressing of the Altar, the Passion Gospel, the unveiling of the Cross, the Solemn Collects and profound prostrations all lend a sense of other-worldliness to this liturgy and create a palpable feeling of uncertainty and of being out of sorts. The Improperia or Reproaches swell the theme of disjointedness as they relentlessly echo what is perhaps the only acceptable prayer to make this day, "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One: Have mercy upon us!" Our Lord hangs, abandoned and dying, from a tree and we are complicit. He is our Passover lamb, sacrificed for us. And as we gaze on the Cross and see beyond it the Sanctuary, still laid bare, we realize that when this day is done, it's not the rich vestments, nor the precious metalware, nor the carved Altar that make the Church a thing of beauty, but the boundless love of God for his fallen creation. Holding tightly to the promise that Christ will not leave us helpless, the last of the Reserved Sacrament is consumed, the candle is put out, and the Church is shut like a tomb for the Sabbath.

We know that this story will have a happy ending but missing the drama is something like taking a shortcut during a marathon. It's not about getting there first, but the process and experience of going the distance. I pray that we all may have a productive and (to some degree) difficult Holy Week. I pray that it may challenge us, try us, and ultimately transform us, so that we may greet the Feast of our Lord's Resurrection tired (yes!), tested (yes!), but also renewed, strengthened, and confirmed for the work God has given us to do.

New Service at All Saints, Ponchatoula



"Where families meet friends and friends become family" is the theme of the new service at All Saints in Ponchatoula. The vision is for a service that is accessible in a variety of ways. To attract young families and singles, mothers and fathers who find it difficult to get the family together for worship early on Sunday morning and young adults and teenagers who find an early Sunday service does not fit a lifestyle that includes late Saturday night activities, the church will offer a service at 4:30 pm on Saturdays.

To further ease accessibility to worship, the Holy Eucharist will follow a modified form of the Anglican Church of Kenya projected on a screen. This rite will be familiar to Episcopalians but with more interaction between the celebrant and the people to keep the newcomer engaged.

Contemporary, Cursillo-style, music will liven the worship experience. The Rev'd Roy G. Pollina, vicar at All Saints, described his hope for the service, "This is not a casual service or a simplified service. It will be profound, serious worship that is accessible. We will leave as-is our 9 am Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II which is the heart of this congregation, but in order to fulfill our call to this community to spread the Gospel, All Saints Episcopal Church is doing something new to make the good news more accessible In Tangipahoa Parish."

Episcopal Community Services

Community Dinner Program Grows

by Arthur Johnson, ECSLA

Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECSLA) is pleased to announce the success of its community dinner program. The program got its start in 2010, when ECSLA, partnered with Bayou Grace Community Services, was able to support five such events in lower Terrebonne Parish. Dinners took place at the Ward Seven Community Center in Chauvin and the Dulac Community Center in Chauvin and Chauvin Center in Chauvin and Chauvin Chauvi



ECS Executive Director Nell Bolton (left) and the Rev'd Laurie Brock at one of the dinners.

nity Center in Dulac. ECSLA was on hand at these dinners to provide spiritual care to these Louisiana residents who were mightily affected by the BP oil spill in April 2010.

Participants were treated to a delicious home-cooked meal and allowed the chance to fellowship in an open, hospitable setting. Speakers on topics of interest were present, while ECSLA staff and volunteers circulated to provide a listening ear and words of encouragement. In promoting these dinners, ECSLA hopes to help Gulf Coast residents to "counter the tendency we have in stressful situations to isolate, or pull apart, and instead to come together as a whole," according to Executive Director Nell Bolton, who believes that these dinners help to support community resilience and to foster well-being among the individuals and families who participate.

In November, ECSLA was excited to learn that they were in receipt of a new grant from Catholic Charities that would

allow them to continue our work with Bayou Grace to host 15 dinners in 2011. In addition, ECSLA is making some improvements to the program, including expanding it by adding the Montegut Recreation Center in Montegut, Louisiana as a location for the dinners. Bayou Grace is already lining up relevant speakers for this year's events.

Likewise, ECSLA will continue to provide spiritual care for attendees, and will coordinate additional wellness care providers as requested by the community. The program will be structured somewhat differently this year to allow for increased participation from those that they serve; space has been created for community involvement in setting an agenda, assisting with the event planning, and sharing new ideas for improvement. This year, ECSLA hopes to provide activities for children, as well. All are excited about what 2011 will bring, and hope that these dinners continue to be a success.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

ECSLA has taken its charge to coordinate the diocese's disaster preparedness and response efforts very seriously. VISTA volunteer, Shonda Collins-Smith, has been assigned to assist in implementing a strategic plan that involves building disaster response teams at both the parish and diocesan levels. These teams will help strengthen parish-based disaster response capacity. Parish-based preparedness and planning allows us to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. Through pre-event planning, teams can work together to help reduce injuries, loss of lives, and property damage. Parish-based preparedness can also enhance the ability of communities to reduce their emergency needs and to manage their existing resources until additional assistance is available.

The strategic plan calls for meeting with the rector or parish leadership of various churches to discuss their disaster preparation and response plans. The following are a few disaster plan elements proven to be beneficial:

- A current list of active disaster response team members that list the name, contact information and function each team member will perform should an unfortunate event occur.
- A list of potential hazards such as fire, hurricanes, floods, etc. and then a plan to mitigate the risk or impact of these hazards.
- A directory that includes primary and alternate phone numbers and possibly text and email addresses. Also, a method of communicating with parishioners, the diocese's office and emergency support that takes into consideration damage to landlines.

Episcopal Community Services

We have gotten great feedback from the parishes visited thus far. Many have taken the opportunity to either update an old disaster plan or create a new more responsive plan that identifies volunteers to check on the shut-in and more vulnerable parishioners in the aftermath of a disaster. Surveying the disaster response plans has also brought to light some simple mitigation actions such as updating property inventory lists; making sure insurance information is kept in a secure location both onsite and offsite; planning for the protection of vital archives and records. Creating or updating a plan is not very time consuming, but it can be a valuable tool in time of crisis. A diocesan disaster response team has been assembled and their first meeting was in early February. If you are interested in being a part of the team please contact Shonda Collins-Smith at disasterprep@ecsla.org.

Service Corps Taking Applications

NOLA Service Corps, a member of the Episcopal Service Corps, is now accepting applications for interns and potential site placements for the 2011-2012 year. NOLA Service Corps is a rigorous leadership program based on service, spiritual formation, and purposeful living in Christian community. Applicants should be 18-30, and express a desire to serve others, grow their faith, and accept challenges.

Interns will serve 40 hours a week and complete a curriculum of readings, discussions, and journaling together on issues around social justice, poverty, race and class. The interns live together in one house, and are expected to participate in spiritual formation to deepen and explore their faith. NOLA Service Corps provides housing, utilities, health insurance, grocery stipends, and a \$300 monthly personal stipend. We are looking for adventurous, passionate people who want to make a difference! Apply now at wwwepiscopalservicecorps.org, and select NOLA Service Corps!

We are also looking for potential site placements in the greater New Orleans area. If your organization needs extra help, we may be the answer! NOLA Service Corps interns are elite leaders and undergo background checks and complete Safeguarding God's Children training. They receive leadership training and complete a curriculum of education and spiritual formation throughout the year. Site placements

must engage the intern in meaningful service and incorporate the intern into the organization.

Current site placements include:

- Crew chief in Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana's home rebuilding program
- Program director of a mobile feeding ministry
- Program coordinator of after school activities and community center
- Relational evangelist and volunteer coordinator for students at UNO and SUNO
- Assistant on a mobile medical unit and with a ministry to Hispanic residents.

If you are interested in becoming a site placement for the NOLA Service Corps, please contact Program Director Pete Nunnally, at pnunnally@ecsla.org.



Spreading Cheer in Bayou duLarge

Families from Bayou duLarge got an extra helping of Christmas cheer this year, thanks to St. Andrew's annual Santa on the Bayou!

Even though the weather was grey and chilly, many families turned out to participate in this community event. Families were able to watch Santa travel down the bayou on a shrimp boat that was decked out with Christmas lights and laden with toys. Afterwards, Santa made a special appearance at St. Andrew's Church, where boys and girls got to sit on Santa's lap, tell him their Christmas wishes, have their photo taken, and receive a gift! 40 families in need were sent home with baskets of food, and everyone in attendance was treated to plenty of warm gumbo and chili.

Everyone had a blast, and it was a wonderful opportunity for community fellowship. Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana and Trinity Church Morgan City's ECW were excited to help co-sponsor this event with St. Andrew's Church in Bayou duLarge.

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The Diocese of Louisiana	2010		
OPERATIONS BUDGET	2010		_
	ANNUAL		OVER/
(Assessment and Program) Unaudited Budget Analysis as of 12/31/2010	BUDGET	ACTUAL	UNDER BUDGET
REVENUE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	UNDER BUDGET
11010100	¢4.250.024	¢4 240 070	¢0.056
Revenues from Congregations Other Revenues	\$1,359,234	\$1,349,878	-\$9,356
	\$182,159	\$119,916	-\$62,243
Targeted Donations	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,631,393	\$1,559,794	-\$71,599
EXPENSES			
Diocesan Center			
Subtotal - Bishop	\$199,106	\$165,211	\$33.895
Subtotal - Canon to the Ordinary	\$126,805	\$126,855	-\$50
Subtotal - Diocesan Center Payroll & Operations	\$560,700	\$529,328	\$31,372
Total Diocesan Center	\$886,611	\$821,394	\$65,217
Diocesan Property Reserve	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
Episcopal Transition Reserve	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
Academic Chaplaincies			
Subtotal - LSU - St. Albans Chapel	\$133,319	\$118,985	\$14,334
Subtotal - Tulane - Chapel of the Holy Spirit	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$0
Subtotal Hammond - Jackson Student Center	\$4,000	\$1,969	\$2,031
Subtotal - Chapel of the Holy Comforter	\$20,200	\$20,200	\$0
Subtotal Epis. Ministry to Medical Education	\$65,850	\$69,275	-\$3,425
Total Academic Chaplaincies	\$312,869	\$299,929	\$12,940
Total Christian Education	\$1,750	\$0	\$1,750
Total Commissions	\$1,730	\$7,848	\$7,750
Total Communications	\$54,700	\$50,819	\$3,881
Total Conferences	\$20,800	\$20,148	\$652
Total Church Mission Ministry & Grants	\$69,769	\$51,268	\$18,501
Total Seminarians	\$7,000	\$2,500	\$4,500
Total School for Ministry	\$14,904	\$12,846	\$2,058
Total Specialized Ministries	\$4,250	\$3,550	\$700
Total Stewardship	\$3,200	\$1,350	\$1,850
Total Work Outside the Diocese	\$139,936	\$139,936	\$0
Total Youth	\$103,000	\$103,245	-\$245
	\$100,000	ψ.130,E40	-φ240
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,649,189	\$1,529,832	\$119,357
Net Income/Loss	-\$17,796	\$29,962	

MARCH

I2th

Executive Board Meeting

8th

Mardi Gras

9th

Ash Wednesday

I0th

Standing Committee

15th

Commission on Ministry

18th - 20th

Jr High Rally

APRIL

1st and 2nd

Diocesan Convention

9th

SECC Board

I2th

Commission on Ministry

24th

Easter

29th

Deadline for Summer Issue of *ChurchWork*



I0th

Commission on Ministry

I4th

Executive Board

19th

Standing Committee

27th - 29th

First Camp at Camp Hardtner