

CHURCHWORK

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SUMMER 2011

AND THEY PARTOOK OF FOOD WITH
GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS, PRAISING GOD.

ACTS 2:46-47a



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DIOCESAN EVENTS

7/9: CCDP Congregational Workshop

7/13: Exccutive Board Meeting

8/6: Alexander Ordination

8/7: Commission on Ministry Retreat

8/10: Celebration of New Ministry,
St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge

8/13: SECC Board Meeting

8/17: Celebration of New Ministry,
St. Mary's, Franklin

8/24: Celebration of New Ministry,
Christ Church, Slidell

8/27: Craft Ordination

9/8: Standing Committee Meeting

9/10: Executive Board Meeting

9/18: SECC Sunday

9/24: CCDP Congregational Workshop

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Thomas Keating writes; "One of the chief factors that tend to destroy relationships among people and nations is the emotion of fear. It also destroys the relationship between us and God. To be afraid of God, or to be afraid of other people, makes us defensive."

The other day as I was standing in the check-out line at Home Depot, I witnessed a man in distress. He was arguing with the cashier. He believed he was correct about an issue and she seemed just as confident in gently helping the customer with his misunderstanding.

The customer walked away to go retrieve what he perceived to be his evidence of truth. The cashier motioned for me to be checked out for which I obliged, hoping I would have my "ducks in a row" to successfully leave without embarrassment. Just as I was paying the previous customer returned and said, "I found it."

At this point all I wanted to do was to receive my change and bag and run out before you-know-what broke loose. What happened next gave me much to ponder.

The customer had remarked that he had found it and I believed he found the evidence that would prove himself right, a sort of victory. What he said was, "I found it. I was wrong, you were right. My mistake." I left the store with more than what was in my bag. What I witnessed was a gift.

The customer who seemed at first to be smug in his assumption was in fact only seeking the truth. When he found the truth and it was different than what he supposed, he had the strength and courage to return and make things right. His strength was in the truth. He was indeed wrong and his courage was in his returning to acknowledge being incorrect. The customer had no fear of the truth. The truth set him free to return and accept whatever attitude the cashier had to deliver.



Recognizing the humble attitude, the cashier simply smiled and said, "Don't worry about it. We all make mistakes."

What a difference we could make in our world if our fear were given to God daily. What if in our daily devotions we trusted God enough to negate our need of being correct? In this posture our desire would be a reverence for God's goodness, grace and love. With this attitude we would be free to say to our spouse, our neighbor, our children, I'm sorry, my mistake.

May God grant us the courage to rest in the presence of Love that draws us into returning love to the world.

Brave journey,

+ *Melvin*

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

BISHOP'S JOURNAL: FEBRUARY 14TH - APRIL 30



February 14: Celebrated the closing Eucharist of Happening at SECC. Back to New Orleans.

February 15: Morning prayer with school students at Trinity, New Orleans, followed by an interesting tour of school and facilities. Met with the Rev'd Bill Terry and an aspirant to the priesthood. Meeting with the Rev'd Canon Steven Roberts. Calendared with Agatha.

February 16: Met with Jericho Road's Board of Directors. Met with the Rev'd Susan Gaumer to discuss the Ecumenical Commission. Development meeting with Mr. Gary Solomon. Deacon Sharon Alexander and I met with the clergy and Vestry of St. Michael's Church in Mandeville.

February 17: Drove to Baton Rouge office. Updates from Canon Stevenson in the morning. Discussed prison ministry at Angola Penitentiary with Chaplain Peter Kang. Met with Deacon Michael Hackett to discuss new prison ministries at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW), and Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC) in St. Gabriel. Dinner and evening meeting with the Vestry of Church of the Nativity, Rosedale.

February 18: Wrote a sermon in the morning. Studied and caught up during the afternoon.

February 19: Afternoon meeting with the Vestry of Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans. Dinner with the Rt. Rev'd Brian Prior and the Kanuga design team at Sukho Thai restaurant in New Orleans.

February 20: Celebrated and confirmed at St. Matthew's Church, Bogalusa, followed by a nice reception. Drove to Baton Rouge for a service for the ending of the pastoral relationship and celebration service for the Rev'd Ken Ritter as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge. Fr. Ritter will assume a new ministry on February 28, 2011 as President and Chief Executive Officer at St. James Place. A beautiful reception followed the service.

February 21: Canon Stevenson and I traveled to New York in the morning. Planned to interview seminarians at General Theological Seminary and at Nashotah House in Wisconsin. Upon arrival in New York, I was summoned home to be with my father who, following a fall over the weekend, suffered complications from a delicate and risky surgery. Returned to New Orleans on an evening flight and arrived home by midnight. Canon Stevenson continued the seminary visits alone.

February 22-25: Drove to Jackson, MS, to join family at my father's bedside in the intensive care unit and subsequent move to hospice until he transitioned from this life. My family and I extend our deepest appreciation for the many prayers and thoughtful words of concern during this difficult time of decisions and closure.

February 26: Returned to New Orleans from Jackson.

February 27: Celebrated Holy Eucharist in the morning at St. Margaret's Church, Baton Rouge, followed by a fine reception. Celebrated, confirmed and baptized at St. John's Church, Thibodaux, in the evening, followed by another fine reception.

February 28: Day off. Lovely, relaxing dinner with Mary Jo and Bishop Brown.

March 1: Received word early in the morning that my father died. Diocesan Clergy Day at the Soloman Center in Robert, LA. Discussion of Anglican Covenant led by Deacon Sharon Alexander. The Anglican Covenant will be discussed at General Convention in 2012, and it is important that clergy and the laity study this document for what it may mean for us and the larger communion.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

March 2 – 5: Several days in Jackson for my father's funeral and burial. Our deep appreciation for your prayers, cards, thoughtful words of concern, and memorial donations in honor of my father, Morris K. Thompson, Sr.

March 5: Rebecca and I returned to New Orleans and welcomed Virginia, Trey and Emily to the Bishop's residence on Saint Charles Avenue for our very first Mardi Gras weekend.

March 6: Celebrated, confirmed and received at St. Michael's Church, Mandeville. Celebration of Fr. Flip Bushey's ministry at St. Michael's and Deacon Sharon Alexander's first Sunday in a liturgical capacity where she has been assigned as Clergy in Charge. Lovely reception followed.



March 7: Day off.

March 8: Mardi Gras! Enjoyed parades and excitement on the Avenue.

March 9: Lenten season begins. Celebrated Ash Wednesday at the Noonday service at the Cathedral. Quiet afternoon of reflection, writing sermons and catching up on paperwork.

March 10: Fundraising strategy meeting with Fr. A. J. Heine and Arthur Johnson, ECS Consultant. Coffee with Bruce Nolan of the Times Picayune, then drove to Baton Rouge office. Met with Frank Hall, Executive Director of the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. Standing Committee by video conference, followed by an evening conference call with the Executive Board. Overnight in Baton Rouge.

March 11: Breakfast with the Very Rev'd Ken Ritter at St. James Place. Met with the Rev'd Tim Heflin at the office. Working lunch with Bill Wilson. Phone conversation with Vice Chancellor Mary Tharp.

March 12: Day off.

March 13: Bishop James Brown accompanied us on our journey to St. Andrew's Church, Bayou du Large, where I celebrated and confirmed in the morning. Bishop Brown, Rebecca and I engaged in enjoyable conversation with the parishioners and a delicious potluck luncheon, comprised mostly of shrimp entrees, at the home of Mrs. Ravin Lacoste.

March 14: Working lunch with Chancellor Cove Geary. Relaxing massage in the afternoon.

March 15: Worked on a presentation in the morning. Met with Deacon Elaine Clements about the Diocese and Episcopal Community Services' response to the devastating earthquake in Japan. Met with a candidate for the priesthood. Video conferenced with the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson and others about the new Clergy and Congregational Development Program (CCDP) initiative. Afternoon planning meeting about All Souls Church with the Rev'd Lonell Wright and the Rev'd William Barnwell. Spoke on the topic of Prayer, at the evening gathering of God and Guinness.

March 16: Worked on a presentation all morning. Met with the Racial Reconciliation Committee in the afternoon to plan their upcoming retreat. Drove to Trinity Church, Morgan City, and met with seminarians participating in the CCDP initiative. Drove to the conference center for an overnight stay.

March 17: Thoroughly enjoyed leading the Altar Guild Quiet Day retreat at the conference center. Drove to Baton Rouge in the afternoon for an overnight stay.

March 18: Celebrated Holy Eucharist at Trinity Day School, Baton Rouge. Visited a 5th grade classroom and met with students. Several hours working at the Baton Rouge office then drove to the conference center for another overnight stay.

March 19: Arrived at Christ School, Covington, by 9 a.m. for Morning Prayer, followed by a day of interviews and walkabouts with the CCDP participants. Celebrated Holy Eucharist in the evening, followed by a group dinner at Annadele's Plantation Restaurant in Covington. Drove back to Baton Rouge for an overnight stay. What a whirlwind week!

March 20: Celebrated Holy Eucharist in the morning at St. Augustine's Church, Baton Rouge, followed by a tasty potluck reception. Celebrated, preached, confirmed and baptized at St. James, Baton Rouge, in the evening, followed by another lovely reception.



FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

March 21: Day off.

March 22-24: Canon Stevenson and I traveled to Kanuga to attend a Title IV Short Course (clergy disciplinary procedures).

March 25-28: Attended Spring Meeting of the House of Bishops at Kanuga. Departed prior to conclusion of the meeting to prepare for diocesan convention.

March 29: Convention prep work in the morning by video conference with the Rev'd Chad Jones, Chairman of Dispatch. Caught up on administrative work. Worked on Convention address.

March 30: Bishop's weekly staff meeting. Calendared with Agatha. Convention prep all afternoon.

March 31: Convention prep in the morning then drove to Christ School, Covington for convention set up. Overnight in Covington.

April 1-2: The setting of Christ Church, Christwood and Christ School was perfect for the 174th Diocesan Convention, my first as Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana. Gorgeous weather, wonderful hospitality, delicious food, and a warm spirit of renewal ushered the convention theme of, "Always We Begin Again". I express my deepest gratitude to all who helped in preparation of our 174th Diocesan Convention.



April 3: No visitation.

April 4: Day off. Lunch with Fr. Henry Hudson. Evening at St. John's, Thibodaux, for the new Clergy and Congregational Development Program (CCDP) initiative.

April 5: Pastoral meeting in the morning. Introduced Fr. Richard Rohr as speaker for "Practicing the Presence of God in Spiritual Leadership" at Parker United Methodist Church, New Orleans. Updates about youth ministry from Fr. Rich Clark. Pastoral meetings in the afternoon.

April 6: Bishop's weekly staff meeting followed by Jericho Road Executive Committee Meeting. Discussed Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal with Canon Mark Stevenson and Rebecca Pitre. Planned the upcoming Chrism Mass with Canon Stevenson and Dean David duPlantier via video conference. Discussed ideas about School for

Ministry with Harriet Murrell. Pastoral meeting with Fr. Richard Easterling. Accompanied by Deacon Michael Hackett to Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) at St. Gabriel where I preached and celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Overnight in Baton Rouge.

April 7: Caught up on work in Baton Rouge office. Met with an aspirant to the priesthood. Sunday sermon preparation. Drove to the conference center and stayed overnight.

April 8: Morning Chapel at Christ School, Covington, followed by a visit in a classroom with students. Men's Retreat discussion with Skip Scoggin and Bill Rhodes over lunch. Returned to the conference center for quiet afternoon of writing. Overnight retreat with the SECC Board members.

April 9: Breakfast with SECC Board members followed by the Board meeting. Drove home.

April 10: Celebrated and confirmed at Christ Church, Slidell, followed by a very nice reception. Drove home for a relaxing afternoon and evening.

April 11: Day off.

April 12: Met with Fr. Heine to plan the ECS 500 campaign. Telephone updates with my new coach, Bishop Don Johnson. Pre-marital counseling with a couple. Met with Gail Fendley of Michelle's Earth about lead contamination and remediation in New Orleans. Afternoon meeting with Fr. Tom Blackmon and Chancellor Cove Geary about Christ School, Covington. Met with Fr. Paul Bailey about SECC Board of Visitors. Attended Commission on Ministry meeting in the evening.

April 13: Bishop's weekly staff meeting. Attended Jericho Road Board meeting. Lunch with Noland Center staff. Drove to Denham Springs and met with St. Francis Vestry. Celebrated, baptized and confirmed in the evening, followed by a very nice reception. Drove to Baton Rouge for an overnight stay.

April 14: Met with Slater Armstrong for an update on Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail, Bishop of Kadugli, Nuba Mountains Diocese, Sudan, and the Rivers of Kush. Met with Fr. Don Brown about his new ministry as Chaplain to Retired Clergy and Spouses. Lunch with the Baton

Rouge staff. Pastoral meetings in the afternoon. Drove back to New Orleans and led Inquirer's Class at Holy Spirit.

April 15: Bishop's writing day and sermon preparation. Presented the State of the Diocese address to ECW Gathering at St. Paul's, New Orleans. Our visitors from Japan delivered a letter of greeting from Bishop John Hiromichi Kato, Diocese of Tohoku, Nippon Sei Ko Kai, Japan, requesting our prayers for the victims of the terrible March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Bishop Kato sends thanks to Brothers and Sisters in the Diocese of Louisiana for our friendship and association. We continue our fundraising efforts on their behalf.

April 16: Arrived at Racial Reconciliation Committee retreat at Trinity Church, New Orleans. Drove to Baton Rouge for overnight stay.

April 17: Rebecca and I visited beautiful St. Stephen's Church, Innis, for the first time. We processed and I blessed the palms, preached, celebrated the Holy Eucharist, baptized, confirmed and received. We enjoyed a lovely luncheon afterward.

April 18: Chrism Mass and Renewal of Clergy Vows at the Cathedral, followed by a luncheon. Met with Canon Stevenson and Harriet Murrell in the afternoon.

April 19: Bishop's portraits at the Cathedral in the morning. Caught up on paperwork in the office. Took rest of afternoon off.

April 20: Pastoral meeting with Fr. Rich Clark. Telephone interview with a new clergy prospect. Caught up on paperwork, phone calls and emails. Calendared with Agatha.

April 21: Sermon preparation. Maundy Thursday at the Cathedral.

April 22: Good Friday at the Cathedral. Office closed.

April 23: Celebrated, received and confirmed at Jefferson Deanery's Easter Vigil at the Dan and Frances White Chapel, St. Martin's School, Metairie. Fr. A. J. Heine preached.

April 24: Easter Sunday Celebrated and preached at the Cathedral. What a glorious day! Rebecca and I enjoyed the day with family.

April 25: Office closed.

April 26: Met with Slater Armstrong in the morning. Met with Nell Bolton on her first day back from sabbatical. Calendared with Agatha and caught up on work in the office.

April 27: Bishop's weekly staff meeting. Met to install officers of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court. Discussed Vestry training over lunch with Fr. Fred Devall and Fr. A. J. Heine. Drove to Baton Rouge. Met with Canon Stevenson and Fr. Chad Jones and others for Convention wrap-up and preparation of next year's Diocesan Convention. Dinner meeting for post-study of the new Clergy and Congregational Development Program (CCDP) initiative. Overnight in Baton Rouge.

April 28: Breakfast with Canon Stevenson and Fr. Augie Sorvillo, soon to be Interim Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church and School in Baton Rouge. Met with Deacon Linda Armstrong. Lunch with Nanette Noland, St. James Place Banking Committee members, and leaders from Bank of America and Business first Bank. Drove to Jackson, MS. Dinner with the Rev'd Christopher Powell.

April 29 - April 30: In Jackson for wedding of a friend.

The Bishop's Visitation Schedule



July 10: St. Andrew's, Clinton

July 17: Holy Comforter, New Orleans

July 24: St. Anna's, New Orleans

July 31: Church of the Incarnation, Amite

August 13: St. Mary's, Morganza

August 21: St. Paul's, New Orleans

August 28: St. Timothy's, Laplace

September 11: St. Paul's/Holy Trinity, New Roads

September 25: Church of the Annunciation,
New Orleans

Flowers on the Window Sill



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

It is a lovely surprise to me every Easter. I walk into the nave of Trinity Church, New Orleans early Easter morning and as I inhale deeply to enjoy the fragrance of the flowers, I spy half way down a side aisle the pair of small art deco brass vases filled with white and yellow blossoms sitting on the window sill in front of a Resurrection stained glass window. This year it was particularly meaningful because the image is of the women encountering the angel at the empty tomb as reported by Matthew, the Gospel lesson many of us heard on Easter Day, 2011.

As you can imagine this is another archive story that makes me grateful for ancestors who were detailed record keepers and good story tellers. As we have become more cryptic in our minutes-taking and less inclined to share an insignificant detail in establishing a tradition, we have lost some of the richness that resides in our worship spaces. Such is the case here. When Trinity, New Orleans was preparing for its sesquicentennial celebration in 1997 and '98, several of us enjoyed scanning old Vestry minutes and Trinity newsletters so we could have an historical story in each newsletter for that year and a half. I came across an article in an early 1893 issue of the newsletter announcing that the Resurrection window purchased by the congregation was to be dedicated on Easter Day of that year and that the ladies planned to put flowers in front of the window each Easter to remember the event and the life of John N. Gallaher, the third Bishop of Louisiana, who had been rector of Trinity twenty years earlier and who died in office in 1891. I do not know when the sweet gesture was discontinued but I knew I had not seen flowers on the window sill in the forty years I had been going to Trinity. The Sesquicentennial Committee was enthusiastic about reestablishing the tradition and the Flower Guild has made it part of their schedule ever since.

In the overall scheme of things does it make any difference? Probably not, but in keeping the story of Trinity and its leaders alive it is a moment for reflection and thanksgiving for people who cared and who made a difference. We must continue to tell the story.

Saying Thank You — and Goodbye



By the Rev'd Rich Clark, Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
This July will be my last month serving in the Diocese of Louisiana as Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Cinda and I are moving to Florida as she begins a Ph.D. study in Early Childhood Special Education and Research Methodology at the University of Florida. I do not yet know my call there, but

I imagine that I will be at a church in either Jacksonville or Gainesville. Cinda and I are happy about this opportunity, but also sad to be leaving home again as we answer this call from God. We appreciate the love you have expressed to us, and we ask for your prayers as we transition.

During these past two years back in Louisiana, you've heard me say how much I recognize God's Spirit moving in our young peoples' lives. I am so thankful, blessed, and profoundly privileged to have had this time to witness God's work and to participate in this holy adventure with our youth, youth ministers, parents, volunteers, and clergy. Thank you for your fellowship, presence, resources, leadership, and love. It's certainly been exciting and fun to play my part as we've all worked to spiritually reach our young people and to further diocesan programming.

Early during my ministry with you, I posted the following on

the diocesan website:

"The Diocese of Louisiana respects and includes our youth and young adults as integral members and leaders in the church. We encourage them to discover and develop the unique spiritual gifts with which God equips them to serve in their churches, schools, professions and communities. We support and nurture their eagerness to learn what God is saying to them in their lives. We help guide them in their process of exploring and articulating their faith as Christians and Episcopalians."

We've worked hard, together as a team, to advance ministries, resources, and events for our youth and young adults that honor this statement, and these ministries are developing in a healthy and relevant way. Please know that Bishop Thompson and your diocese will continue to provide dedicated resources to our Youth and Young Adult Ministries. These resources will help continue current ministries and add to more in the future. They will also allow friendships in Louisiana, Province IV of the Episcopal Church, the national church, and our companion dioceses to be nurtured and grow over time.

Cinda and I go now, in peace, to love and serve the Lord in Florida. We'll be doing the work God gives us to do, and we pray that we'll do it well. You all, back home in Louisiana, are in our prayers and will continue to be! God's Peace.

Clergy News



St. Luke's, BR celebrated the tenth anniversary of ministry with their rector, the **Rev'd Canon Brien Koehler**. Fr. Koehler began at St. Luke's a decade ago on May 1st.

The St. Luke's Vestry honored him with a reception on May 8th. Here, Sr. Warden Dennis Edmon presents Fr. Koehler with a plaque commemorating the anniversary.

In a letter to parishoners, Dean David duPlantier wrote the following about the Rev'd Mary Koppel's departure from Christ Church Cathedral in May:

In the fall of 2007, I successfully persuaded Mary Koppel to give up the sun drenched beaches and cool ocean breezes of the Hawaiian Islands where she was serving as Rector of a parish to return to New Orleans, her native city. As we worked to rebuild the Cathedral community following the hurricanes, the Vestry generously allowed me to offer Mary a three year contract to help us energize our ministry among youth and young adults. In her time on our staff, she has accomplished this goal admirably, and also added much to our overall community life. Besides being the first ordained woman in our 200+ year history, she also introduced our first series of Spanish Masses and has been active in a variety of diocesan ministries as well. Recently, Mary informed me that the timing feels right to her to leave the Cathedral staff effective May 31st. We will celebrate her ministry among us and say our formal farewell on Sunday, May 22nd, at the Parish Picnic. Please plan to be with us as we express our gratitude for Mary's time among us.

God willing,
The Right Reverend
Morris K. Thompson,
Bishop of Louisiana,
will ordain
Sharon Alexander
and
John Craft
to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's One Holy Catholic
and Apostolic Church.

On August 6,
Sharon will be
ordained at
St. Michael's, Mandeville

On August 27,
John will be ordained at
Annunciation, New Orleans.

More details to follow.

At 10:23 am on Saturday, April 16th, the
Rev'ds Julianna and Peter Gray
welcomed son Joseph Danilo.
Joseph weighed in at 6.6 pounds and was 19 inches long.
Congratulations to the new family and
may Joseph's life be a blessed one!



The **Rev'd Tim Heflin** and Alexis Landry wed on
Saturday, June 4th at Trinity, Baton Rouge.
On June 26th, the **Rev'd Stephen Roberts**
and Linda Bogacki will wed at Christ Church Cathedral
in New Orleans.

Congratulations to both of the couples!

Bishop Thompson's Convention Address

Photos by Liz Bell



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray:

Come Holy Spirit, kill us 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.

I heard this ancient prayer many years ago and it still rings powerfully within my soul. The notion of asking the Holy Spirit to kill me and remake me is a request that is bold and filled with opportunity. Jesus teaches that we cannot grow unless we are willing to die. "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24) The issue is: are we willing to trust Jesus to resurrect us? Do we believe in resurrection in all manner of life? Do we trust the God of Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah and Esther? Will the God who raised his Son from the depths of hell indeed raise us? Our hope, belief, and faith yield a resounding yes.

The theme for this 174th convention is ALWAYS WE BEGIN AGAIN. This phrase comes from a tiny book that John McQuiston wrote some years ago. *Always We Begin Again* is the title. When my eyes landed on these words I felt as if I had received a gift, for they reminded me what I believe to be the central message of the Gospel, Grace. God's grace is unthinkable really. When God's grace is manifested in tangible ways we become free to begin again. Every day we ask God to forgive our sins. In our asking we are given new life. "For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in time of distress". (Sirach 2:11) Thus, we begin again.

When I came to this diocese I shared my intention of paying

attention to you. I said that I would spend my first year simply listening. I wanted to hear your stories, to feel the rhythm of your life and history. Driving around the diocese and listening has been one of the great joys of my work. We are filled with such rich customs and diversity. You shared with me the harsh adversities this diocese has known. You have mourned the untimely deaths of bishops, suffered the destructions of Mother Nature and man-made failures and disappointments. I am learning more and more about the powerful blows the whole diocese has endured over the years. For some, these moments were crippling. Others were shaped by their willingness to begin again following a crisis. The word resilience comes to mind. Resilience is defined as the physical property of a material that can return to its original shape or position after deformation that does not exceed its elastic limits. You have indeed rebounded, returned to the place of your heritage yet also begun in new and life-giving ways.

The congregation of St. Matthew's, Houma is living with this resilience. The place of their baptisms, their weddings, their funerals, their laughter and sorrow was destroyed by fire. Not one inch was left unscarred. It was devastating. But as I listened to their stories what they have come to know so deeply is that while the church building was historical and was the mark on the map of their existence, the deeper knowing has been resurrected. They are defined not by the bricks and mortar, but by their relationships to one another and to the God who is walking with them from the ashes to new life. They have been showered with love from within this Diocese and from the larger church. They know they are not alone. They are beginning again in new and life giving ways.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

I have to tell you that while St. Matthews witness is powerful and one for which to give thanks, I've heard from other faithful communities that also fill me with joy and hope. Since my arrival I have visited the state prison Angola twice. The first time I confirmed eleven inmates. Even in the harsh realities of prison, they are witnesses that the call of Christ is to go to the ends of the earth to rescue one lost child of God. The ministry at Angola is strong and flourishing. Later this month I will go with Deacon Michael Hackett to St. Gabriel, the correction facility for women. It is our desire to make known to those whose life is broken, the love of Christ. Are not those in prison our brothers and sisters too?

I am also learning from our youth. I've had the privilege of visiting two Happenings where I heard our youth speak about their love for Jesus. Every time I am deeply moved by their teaching and understanding of God's grace and love. I plan to give our youth my attention. It is important to develop strong leaders in the church and we will begin with our youth. My office is committed to supporting you with direction, resources for teaching and finding ways to gather our youth and young adults. The youth and young adults are not our future leaders. They are leading now.

Another area in which I am learning is how we address crisis and more broadly the needs of the community. Many of us have outreach ministries that define who we are as a church while some of us struggle to live outside the walls of our church and need help with direction. Episcopal Community Services (ECS), which has historically dealt with crisis ministries, is beginning to shift a bit. Shortly after I arrived I spent time listening to Nell Bolton, Director of ECS. Part of that conversation was centered on ways ECS could be more visible through-

out our Diocese. She and her colleagues have spent time visiting you and taking notes. These visits have been extremely productive in helping reshape the vision of ECS. One of the by-products of listening is that a grant has been secured for a case manager to be placed in Morgan City to help with issues surrounding homelessness. We continue to look for ways to fund ECS because as you know they receive no financial support from

of the presenters explained that in early childhood infants start out playing with each other sitting side by side. As they grow up they begin to face one another in their play. This image of facing one another reminds me that we are called to live in this world facing one another, not simply side-by-side. If I sit by the side of someone then I can't see him or her as clearly. Facing forces me to acknowledge their presence. This metaphor of facing our neighbor can be one that gently draws us into new beginnings. These new beginnings are not based on how spiritual we are, or what side of an issue we choose to align ourselves, but on our poverty of spirit. New beginnings are built upon our understanding of our own brokenness and our need of God's redemptive love. When we are aware of our own sinful nature we do not need to expose our neighbor's brokenness because we are alike in the sight of God. In this season of Lent we are reminded that we need to be forgiven, healed and set on the road to forgive and heal and walk the way of Christ together.

My first year as your Bishop was spent listening and I have mentioned just a fraction of the many lessons I've learned. We would be here a long time if I were to share with you everything you have taught me. However as I begin my second

year with you as your Bishop, my hope for us is:

My hope is that ECS will continue to expand their presence throughout the diocese. This expansion will not happen in a vacuum. We will need your support financially and prayerfully. You will need to teach us how we can support you. Communication is important.

My hope is that our Youth and Young Adult ministries will continue to grow stronger; that our Episcopal Schools will continue to provide the very best education possible and the Episcopal



the Diocesan budget. This task of raising funds is becoming more and more difficult. Yet, we are committed to caring for the poor, the homeless, and those who are disenfranchised. Isaiah reminds us that we are "to fast, to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke; to share our bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into our house; to cover the naked". (Isaiah 58: 6&7)

Last week Canon Stevenson and I attended a conference at Kanuga and one

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ethos will be firmly grounded. While this generation has all the gadgets and gizmos at their fingertips, I am convinced that in their core is a deep desire to know Christ. They may not respond to the more formal worship that some of us older Episcopalians have but their longing to learn how to pray and their need to bring God into their lives is as real as yours and mine.

Our attention to the poor, the disenfranchised, those in prison, and those who know not the Lord Jesus will go far beyond the walls of our churches. Giving away what God has blessed us with is God's call to us. I want to challenge every church to take an honest inventory of their outreach and ask this question: is what we are doing truly making a difference in the life of our community. There are times that programs in which we have been involved are as dry as those of us who perpetuate them. Sometimes we need to put those programs to bed and begin again in another area that is relevant. In short, we need to get our hands dirty when we reach out to our neighbor. Bringing a can of soup to church on Sunday is nice but hand delivering it to someone is even better. If our children do not see their parents and other adults caring for the poor, it sends a message that maybe it's not really important. We live in a high-speed, technologically advanced world where we watch wars half way around the world in real time. The definition of our neighbor is more in line with God's image. Our neighbor is Muslim, Hindu, Pakistani, German, African, Mexican, Fundamentalist, New Age, and much, much more. If we don't start living the gospel of reconciliation then we will watch in horror as we tear each other apart because in our arrogance, we are unwilling to listen. My hope for this Diocese is that we are less committed to making others into our image and live more fully into the image God is calling us to live.

The stewardship of the Solomon Conference Center will continue under its new Director Frank Hall. There are some of you who will be thinking, "what is the Solomon Conference Center" and some

of you will be asking, "Where is it"? I know because I've heard these words. Let me tell you about it. I have seen many diocesan conference centers and the Solomon Center is second to none. Many of you have asked me about the Youth Center that was spoken of some time ago. Until we can fully care for what we already have, it doesn't make sense to add more. This is where you can help. The Solomon Center served 26,539 meals last year with an average of 72 meals a day. They held 194 events with a total of 8,408 guests spending the night. Like ECS, the Solomon Center does not receive any support from the Diocesan Budget. We need for you to use the center and to recommend your company and other companies, schools, or civic groups to use the center for retreats and conferences. In times when church camp and conference centers are closing, we have an incredible gift and we need to be good stewards of it. Another hope for this year is congregational and diocesan leadership formation. Raising good, faithful and well-informed leaders is imperative in fulfilling our mission. I am already in conversation with individuals who can help us attain this goal of healthy leadership. One initiative already begun is the Clergy and Congregational Development Program, or CCDP. This program is designed to bring new seminarians into our diocese and pair them with some of our smaller congregations. By pooling resources and intentionally seeking newly ordained clergy the congregations will have vibrant pastors for evangelism and the clergy will be mentored for three years. Canon Stevenson will speak more about this program later today. I will however attest to the excitement this program has already produced among the five congregations that are participating. Pooling resources is one of the areas I hope we can begin to take seriously. As you all know, the Diocesan budget is funded primarily by the five percent obligation and then a tiered asking for programs. While some congregations take their full obligation seriously, others seem to be less inclined. I often hear

the phrase, “the diocese”. This comment seems to set up an understanding of us versus them. This is unfortunate. If we are to live more fully into the Kingdom of God then the “us vs. them” perception needs to be replaced with “our diocese “. You and I share this wonderful ministry. It is a “we” understanding. I want to encourage all of us to look at our giving both individually and congregationally. We teach tithing, of giving back to God just a mere 10% of which God has so richly blessed us. Rectors of congregations would never stand in their pulpits and preach anything less than faithful giving and neither will I model anything less than giving back to God what is God’s already. When we shirk our responsibility to the church and to the Diocese, everybody loses. May our love for one another outweigh our leanings towards our fear of scarcity. This past year I’ve spent much of my time speaking about listening to one another and what I’ve learned. Now it is time to look beyond our diocese. The people of Haiti, Tohoku, Honduras, all deserve our attention. We want to remind them, they are not alone. It is my hope that our relationships with these dioceses will strengthen to the point where relationships will be forged with more than just a few. The greater Anglican Communion is important to us here in the U.S. and here in the Diocese of Louisiana. I’ve been extremely encouraged by the honesty in the House of Bishops and in formal and informal conversations I’ve had with Bishops around the world. I look forward to developing these relationships in the months to come.

In closing, there are no words that could adequately express to you my love for you and my deep joy of being your Bishop. You have been generous with your kindness when death twice visited our family this year. We have been through a move, wedding, college graduations,



and our first Mardi Gras and all through it you have been right beside us. You have been encouraging and honest with your comments and for that I am greatly appreciative. I will continue to listen but it is time to face each other and begin to see where God is calling us in shared ministry. I want to close with a story of one of my Episcopal visits. One Sunday as I was just about to say the offertory sentence the senior warden stood up and said, wait a minute bishop, I have something to say. I was a bit surprised but I am learning that every church does things just a little different. This must be one of those moments, I thought.

I sat down and the warden began to speak about me, and then my father, who was ill at that time. Suddenly I felt a bit uneasy with the direction this was going. He spoke of the pain of having a ill father and the worry that I must have and then he said he would like the Bishop to come forward so that the whole congregation could lay hands on me and pray for my father, our family and me. I was a bit apprehensive because my eyes were already welling up and I was not sure what kind of condition I would be in following the prayer. We still had communion to celebrate.

I took off my mitre and walked to the center of the church and the congregation gathered around me and I felt the hands, big and small, press their

presence upon me. I could hear their breathing, knew of their prayers. Then Dave Foster began to pray. He prayed for my father, he prayed for me, and my family and he prayed that God would be with us and it was at that moment I felt the burden lift right off me as if the angels had lifted me to heaven. It was the strength I needed to meet the days ahead, for just a few hours later my father was sung into heaven by the angels who lifted my burden.

My brothers and sisters, my vision for the Diocese of Louisiana is not one where we all agree on the issues of the day. I have no desire for a Stepford community where everybody thinks and looks alike. My vision for the Diocese of Louisiana is where we care deeply enough for those in pain and suffering that we are willing to call them and pray for them. My vision for this Diocese is one in which the doors of our churches are opened as wide as they possibly can be open and everyone is welcome to feast at the table without qualification.

My vision for our Diocese is where Love, the other name for God, is on our mind, and on our lip and on our heart and our communities wants to know why we are always filled with Hope.

May God continue to lead us into new beginnings and may we always respond — I will.

Canon Stevenson's Convention Address

Thank you, Bishop Thompson, for the invitation to address this Convention about a new program in our diocese — a program that is a truly phenomenal addition to our life together as Episcopalians.

Over the years, and in particular in the last five and a half, we in the Diocese of Louisiana have worked hard to answer our Lord's call to us found in Matthew 25 — we have endeavored to faithfully minister to the least of our brothers and sisters through countless programs, and by the grace of God we will continue to do so long into the future.

As we are being reminded this weekend, however, there is a need we have as Christian disciples to never rest on what we have done in the past, but to be prayerfully open and prepared to "always begin again." One of the ways we in the Diocese of Louisiana are beginning again in our work together is to take a step forward in answering God's call found in another chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 28, to go and make disciples. And as scripture constantly reminds us, strong, well formed leadership (both lay and ordained) is central to this task.

The formation of leadership for the purpose of making new disciples and strengthening existing ones is the driving force behind the creation and implementation of the new Clergy and Congregational Development Program (the CCDP.) I wish I could say that the CCDP was our idea entirely, but I cannot. The idea actually came from a similar program in the Diocese of Lexington. I am

happy to say, however, that our bishop had no scruples about stealing the idea for our use here. But not to worry — we have made sufficient changes (all improvements, I can assure you) that we need not be concerned with copyright infringement.

In a nutshell, the CCDP attempts to address a number of difficulties facing the Episcopal Church in areas such as transitions between pastors, the availability of resources for smaller and mid sized congregations to engage in effective ministry, and the opportunities for newly graduated seminarians to learn to be good parish priests. The CCDP tackles these difficulties head on, with the goal of turning them into strengths.

There are several parts to the CCDP. At its core, it is a three year program that pairs new priests with congregations who are willing to help form them into terrific priests over those first three years of their ordained ministry. In turn, resources are brought to bear for those congregations which will enable them to grow — in numbers, if that is God's will, but most certainly in depth of discipleship. A group of seasoned, wise priests from around the diocese (insert your own joke here) are trained to serve as mentors for the newly ordained, and several of our clergy and lay leaders will guide the programs of formation that will play out over a three year cycle.

Bishop Thompson and I began working on all of this nearly ten months ago, and I have the privilege to report that five of our congregations agreed to participate in this first cycle of the program: St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; St. Mary's, Franklin; St. Michael's, Mandeville; Christ Church, Slidell; and St. John's, Thibodaux. All five have been, or soon will be, in transition between rectors. All five agreed to let the bishop appoint their new Priest in Charge, and all five have been a true pleasure with which to work.

Bishop Thompson has also recruited and begun to train the five "wizened" priests who will serve as mentors: Craig Dalferes, Susan Gaumer, Ralph Howe, Henry Hudson and Ed Robertson. All kidding aside, these five individuals possess tremendous gifts and will be blessings to the new priests that they will guide and form.

For the dual programs of formation in which the congregations and new priests will participate, we tapped the Rev'd Scott Albergate and the Rev'd Anne Maxwell as team leaders. Both have a background in formation programing, a passion for development of leadership, and a great love for the Episcopal Church. They have been working diligently to create a coordinated curriculum that will not only achieve the bishop's initial goals, but exceed them.

To find our first class of soon-to-be-priests, the bishop and I began by contacting the placement offices of six seminaries with which our diocese has had recent relationships: The General Theological Seminary (New York); Nashotah House Seminary (Wisconsin); The Seminary of the Southwest (Austin); The University of the South's School of Theology (Sewanee); Virginia Theological Seminary; and Wycliffe College (Toronto). Two of these, Virginia and Wycliffe, did not have any graduating seniors who were



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**Sharon Alexander,
St. Michael's, Mandeville**

pered with questions, asked plenty of their own, and ate a whole bunch of good Louisiana food. It was an energizing and blessed period of time, and I found myself wishing that we had six openings instead of only four so that we could keep them all.

I cannot go any further at this time without publically thanking Mrs. Jennifer Christian, a parishioner of St. Margaret's, for organizing the interview process. Jennifer made the mistake of saying to me several months ago, "let me know if you need me to help with anything." So I did. And she did a fantastic job. She made all the logistical arrangements, kept us on schedule with a smile, and showed the face of Christ to us all. Jennifer, on behalf of our bishop and the Diocese of Louisiana, I thank you.



**Harry Jenkins,
Christ Church, Slidell**

It is our hope that this is the first of many classes of priests and congregations who will participate in our Clergy and Congregational Development Program. We see this as a way of helping our congregations and lay leaders become better fishers of men. We feel certain that we will make a gift to the wider church of a set of well formed priests. And we know beyond doubt that Christ will walk this journey with us as we “begin again” to take a risk, to deepen our own discipleship, and to answer his call to mission and ministry. Right Reverend Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this transformational ministry.

interested in interviewing for our program, but the other four did. So, Bishop Thompson and I set off on a whirlwind tour over the course of January and February in order to open a dialogue of discernment.

We interviewed seventeen potential candidates (four women and thirteen men) across the four seminaries, representing thirteen different dioceses. We identified seven individuals who we thought would be a good fit for the CCDP and Louisiana and issued them invitations to come for a four day intensive interview process with our congregations in early March. As this was developing, Bishop Thompson made the decision to appoint one of our own, newly ordained transitional deacon Sharon Alexander, to St. Michael's in Mandeville. That meant that we had seven possible pastors for our four remaining congregations. Unfortunately, one seminarian had to back out of the program at the last minute because of conflicts with her own discernment process.

On March 16th, six seminarians and their spouses flew into Louisiana for their own whirlwind tour. Over the next four days they visited each of the four churches, were pep-



Patrick Edwards
St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge

When the interviews were over, Bishop Thompson asked each of the congregations and each of the seminarians to reflect on what they had experienced, and to then send him a written report on those experiences. Once he had all of their write-ups, he prayerfully considered the appropriate placements. Having completed that process, he has now made the pairings and informed the participants of where folks will be placed. The paired congregations and seminarians alike seem thrilled and cannot wait for this summer when their ministry together will begin! By the grace of God, a clear connection was made for three of the four congregations. Unfortunately, the right seminarian did not appear in this first stage for St. John's, Thibodaux — but also by the grace of God, the bishop has already identified two new potential pastors for that congregation, and we hope to facilitate those interviews soon.

But what we know now is that after they graduate, we will be welcoming the following folks to Louisiana: Patrick Edwards and his wife Deborah at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; Harry Jenkins and his wife Gina at Christ Church, Slidell; and Cal Lane and his wife Denise at St. Mary's, Franklin. All of these families will be a fine addition to our larger family in Louisiana.



Cal Lane,
St. Mary's, Franklin

CONVENTION ELECTION RESULTS

Secretary of the Diocese

- Marsha Wade

Treasurer of the Diocese

- Lucius Butts

Standing Committee, Lay

- Isabelle Moore

Standing Committee, Clerical

- The Rev'd Joe Hermerding

Executive Board Lay

- Carol Billings
- Edgar Cage

Executive Board, Clerical:

- The Rev'd Phoebe Roaf

Ecclesiastical Court, Lay

- Bill Rhodes

Ecclesiastical Court, Clerical

- The Rev'd Linda Armstrong
- The Rev'd Canon Mary Koppel
- The Rev'd Canon Steven Roberts
- The Rev'd Peggy Scott

Lay Deputies to General Convention (in order of election)

- John Musser
- Ed Starns
- Ann Ball
- Jennifer Dalferes

Lay Alternates to General Convention (in order of election)

- Harriet Murrell, 1st Alternate
- David Musser, 2nd Alternate
- Jesse Noble, 3rd Alternate
- Adelaide Diaz, 4th Alternate

Clerical Deputies to General Convention

- The Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson
- The Rev'd Chad Jones
- The Rev'd Ken Ritter
- The Rev'd Scott Albergate

Clerical Alternates to General Convention

- The Rev'd Lonell Wright, 1st Alternate
- The Rev'd Anne Maxwell, 2nd Alternate
- The Rev'd Susan Gaumer, 3rd Alternate
- The Rev'd Bill Terry, 4th Alternate



Clergy and lay delegates cast their votes in one of the many elections that took place at Convention.

Around 200 delegates and guests gathered at Christ Episcopal School in Covington.

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Canon Stevenson, Bishop Thompson and the Rev'd Chad Jones, Chair of the Committee for the Dispatch of Business, pause for a moment with Georgie Myrtle and Mary Thomas Joseph, who served as coordinators from Christ Church.



Top Left: The Reverends Mark Holland, Anne Maxwell and A.J. Heine catch up during a break from Convention.

Top Right: After Eucharist on Friday night, guests attended a lovely reception.

Left: Upon exiting Christ Church, guests were treated with the fun sounds of a local brass band. It was a wonderful evening!

Dragon Café Serves More Than Food

The Dragon Café feeding ministry at St. George's serves a free hot breakfast and warm hospitality in St. George's parish hall every Sunday morning. In the six years since its inception in the fall of 2005 the Dragon Café has served more than 50,000 free meals.

Who comes to eat these days? The guest list for the Dragon Café includes anyone who is hungry. In the past the Dragon Café was mostly a ministry of food and fellowship serving disaster relief workers and volunteers. Presently the Café serves a population that primarily suffers from mental illness and substance abuse as well as the homeless and the working poor. On average we serve about 90 meals between 8:30 and 9:30 am every Sunday morning.

Why Breakfast? More than a year ago we decided to shift from serving dinner two nights a week to serving breakfast once per week. The decision was primarily economic but the benefits from this change have been legion: We are now serving a much higher "at risk" population (many of whom by late afternoon are seeking shelter for the night or are otherwise occupied); breakfast provides our guests incentive to get up, get to the church and consume a hot meal rather than less healthy alternatives; the weekend hours have made it easier for St. George's parishioners to participate - our volunteer corps has grown to nearly 1/3 of our regular church membership.

How is the Café Funded? The Dragon Café is completely funded by private donations like yours. Grants are rare. Besides oversight from the rector, the Dragon Café is 100% volunteer - there are no paid staff members. Many of our consumables are provided by food and supply drives at area churches and schools.

What impact does the Café have on the neighborhood & identity of St. George's as the body of Christ? In the six years that the Café has been in operation, St. George's, located in the Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans, has never received a complaint from neighborhood residents. Rather, St. George's is known as the church that feeds people on Sunday mornings, many of whom begin to line up outside the church by 7:30 am every Sunday.

As the vision of St. George's ministry continues to grow, the Dragon Café has helped the mission statement of the church evolve from a relatively abstract statement describing St. George's as an "Eucharistically centered community" to this very simple hope: "At St. George's, no one leaves hungry." As we celebrate the early service of Holy Communion in the church upstairs at 8am, we don't smell incense but rather the aroma of sausage cooking in the kitchen below. Not many,



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH DRAGON CAFÉ

but some, of our guests also attend church services and the Sunday bible study in the chapel at 9:30 am.

In January of 2010 the church received this hand written note:

Dear Good People: Here is a small contribution towards the Dragon Café. I have just brought my son to Asheville and he's told me about having meals at your church. Your program has probably saved his life. I am deeply, beyond words, grateful.

The Dragon Café has become, as one Vestry member recently said, "A major part of who St. George's is."

How can I support the work of the Dragon Café? The goal of the Dragon Café is to expand from serving breakfast one morning per week to offering breakfast and a "carry out" lunch as many days of the week as possible. At St. George's, with a mission statement that compels us to serve a hungry world, we are inspired by the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples as they wondered aloud to him about how he would feed the multitudes: "You give them something to eat."

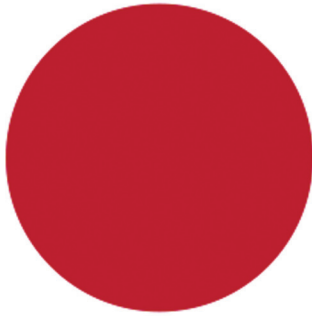
You can support the work of The Dragon Café by donating online and supporting the Dragon Café financially, or by volunteering to cook, clean or serve at the café.

• TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT
KELLY ELDRIDGE:
KELLYELDRIDGE@YAHOO.COM

• TO DONATE, PLEASE VISIT :
STGEORGE-NOLA.ORG/
DRAGON-CAFE

• FOR FINANCIAL INQUIRIES,
CONTACT MICHAEL NEYREY:
JMNEYREY@BELLSOUTH.COM

Helping Our Brothers & Sisters in Japan



The Diocese and Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the campaign to help our friends and long-time prayer partners in the Diocese of Tohoku.

**AS OF THE BEGINNING OF JUNE,
WE HAVE COLLECTED \$37,995.92!**

Your donation was sent directly to the Diocese of Tohoku to assist them in their disaster relief response.

We continue to ask for your prayers of support for Japan, especially the Diocese of Tohoku, who were so generous to us after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit the ECS website: ecsla.org or send a check, made payable to ECSLA, to: Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana 1623 7th St New Orleans, LA 70115.

This Fall: Men's & Women's Silent Retreat

When: September 23rd - 25th

(begins Friday at supper and ends with lunch on Sunday)

Where: Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

What: Creating a Personal Rule of Life

A Rule of Life is to bring order to our life and remind us who we are. It is a map, course, reminder series that helps us to discover the difference between doing the "right thing" and being transformed.

Your Personal Rule of Life will be created in a 'notebook' form (materials will be provided for each participant). Your chapters will be about different aspects of your life. Sample Chapters: gratitude, friendship, creativity, environment, work, play, mischief, humor, justice, social life, work, Sabbath, silence, simplicity, peace, service, education....

Through guided meditations and time for reflection; you will be reminded who you are: God's beloved. You will be encouraged to remember where you are: in God's hands. As God's beloved, we come to be transformed, not to fill a responsibility or "do the right thing".

The Leader for this retreat will be Linda Nelson; Linda has served many as a spiritual director more than 30 years for 160+ ordained and laypersons of seven mainline denominations. She is a consultant trainer/workshop leader with 35 years of proven ability to train, teach, inspire, challenge and lead individuals.

Linda is now the Director of Advent House "A ministry of Christ Church Cathedral" in New Orleans, LA. She has been married to William "Mike" Nelson for 45 years. Together they are the parents of three grown children, in-laws to two and grandparents of seven.

SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

- If you can arrive on Friday evening at the beginning of the retreat and leave on Sunday morning at the end of it;
- If you can give up communication with your business associates, friends, and family for a weekend;
 - If you can leave work at home and focus on 'being' with God; then you should consider coming.

**Register today to attend
the Men's and Women's
Silent Retreat at
solomoncenter.org!**

A Gift Worthy of Sacrifice: Kids on a Mission at Christ Church

By Mary Anne Reidy, Parish Life Director at Christ Church, Covington



“The word sacrifice is from a Latin root that means make holy or make whole,” writes Cynthia Bourgeault. She goes on to say that finding your own spirituality or full selfhood is more than just an awakening, it involves a letting go of some part of your self. This is a core teaching of Jesus. “Whoever would save his life shall lose it, and whoever shall lose his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:24)

Children need wholeness in their lives. Most of us parents are going through the motions and doing the best we can. No matter who we are in life we have challenges. I know as a wife and mother, I’m completely consumed with my daughter’s activities. I spend a lot of time discerning what is most important in raising my child to become a strong loving adult, which is how my journey began.

I was secretly horrified at the thought of creating a children’s program because I had never done anything of this magnitude. The various responsibilities of the proposed job seemingly flirted with practically every ministry in the church. “What would Jesus ask me to do if he was standing here?” I thought. “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.” (Mark 10:14b) I asked myself what is needed in our children’s lives that they are not currently getting in other programs. My goal was to create a venue where children have a voice and learn what it means to sacrifice and actively participate in mission.

I put my fear in the drawer and began my journey of baby steps into creating a new outreach program called Kids on a Mission for youth first through fifth grades. Our children need to see the world outside of their own community. They need to be inspired to help those around them - those who look like them and those who don’t. The goal is to teach our children that one child can affect change for another child, in “west thirties” Covington, a hospital in Memphis, New Orleans, Haiti, Honduras, or in other parts of the world. This program serves as an opportunity for children to begin their journey living their life through Christ and preparing them for a wonderful experience through our youth program which starts in sixth grade.

The Kids on a Mission program gives people in all phases of life an opportunity to get involved in mission work through the eyes of our children. Between volunteer leaders, parents, children, and youth we have approximately 120 people involved in the program. I recruited approximately 15 creative, talented, people to be on the Brain Team to assist me in developing programs. The Rev’d Anne Maxwell has graciously given me gentle guidance. This year we are blessed to have Shannon Hessemer join us in

leading the first and second grade children of Kids on a Mission, while I lead grades third through fifth. We are currently meeting on the second Wednesday of each month with hopes to increase to twice per month. We are averaging 30 children per KOM program. It is very exciting to see people of all ages engaged in this ministry.

The February KOM program brought together over 25 children, clergy, parents, Christwood (retirement community) residents and other adults from our parish as they gathered in the parish hall for community outreach. We learned about mission trips in Honduras from the Rev'd Anne Maxwell. Babs Epperson taught us quilting much like they do in Honduras Threads. We were led in a musical prayer by Shannon Hessemmer. All the while children learn how they can actively participate in mission. They are not just the future of the Church but an integral part of the present.

During the March KOM program the children learned about the Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program (CEEP) which occurs in the summer on the Christ Church campus and is led by certified teachers. CEEP provides academic enrichment and life skills training such as goal setting and peaceful conflict resolution for at-risk children in our community.

The children of KOM led a fundraiser on March 20th using their new found quilting and art skills for the 2011 Summer CEEP Experience. The children collected stuffed animals for children in emergency situations. Before donating the stuffed animals, they used them as props in a Noah's Ark presentation outside the church to raise awareness of CEEP. The children attached the recently quilted bibs to the stuffed animals. They then attached paper doves to each stuffed animal's quilted bib to educate parishioners as to costs involved in sending children to CEEP, whether it is for one day, one week, or a cost related to food and field trips. Each KOM child learned a two page study guide regarding CEEP so that they could better educate parishioners of the program's need. With gentle guidance the children set-up their own presentation and refreshments, collected and recorded donations, gave bright thank you letters, and cleaned up with a team spirit. Kids on a Mission raised approximately \$2800 for CEEP's Summer Experience.

These projects are part of a journey to set goals and complete tasks for mission. These children learned a great deal about their community and how to express the needs of the community to the parish. Their experience had a tremendous impact on all those involved!

I encourage all of you to consider what it would be like to have Jesus in the room. You might be surprised! He might say, "You have a wonderful gift to offer. A gift worthy of sacrifice." It's okay if your children miss one piano, soccer, basketball, or ballet lesson. It's okay if you don't know anybody at church yet. It's okay if you feel alone; it's a temporary situation. It's okay if you might be a little tired. Sometimes it's worth the sacrifice. You never know what may come your way if you get involved. Come together for a "Kids on a Mission" experience and sit down at our table at Christ Church. Find love and laughter! We would love for you to join us in spirit and find what it is that makes your heart sing!



11th Annual Independence Day Celebration

Celebrate the USA at Trinity, New Orleans
Sunday, June 27th
3-6 pm

This year's festival will feature rousing patriotic music by John Philip Sousa and other favorite American composers performed by the Navy Band of New Orleans, The New Orleans Concert band, the New Orleans Trombone Choir, The Symphony Chorus, a bluegrass band, Trinity's own Albinas Prizgintas and more.

Everyone is welcome to stay for the reception at the end of the program!

Mission Visit to the Diocese of Tohoku

Story and photos by Ann Ball

My mission trip to the Diocese of Tohoku could not have been more wonderful. I was accompanied on this visit by Lucy Germany, former editor of the Texas Episcopalian and a dedicated worker in the companion diocese, Partners In Mission networks, both in her diocese and at the national level. We had a splendid time and were treated like royalty.

Lucy and I arrived in Tokyo and were met at the airport by my dear Japanese friends Kazumi Takeishi and Kaiko Maekawa. They sent our bags on to Sendai and traveled with us on the "Shinkansen" bullet train to Sendai. We were greeted there by Kazumi's wife Yumiko, and three members of the cathedral choir in Sendai who have visited Louisiana: Koko Tanaka, Midori and Nobuko Wako. We had a very pleasant dinner and were housed at a lovely hotel just one block from Christ Church Cathedral, Sendai, where we retired early after our long plane ride.

The next day, we were pleased to be greeted by the Rev'd John and Shizuko Ono, longtime friends of Louisiana. Fr. Ono is now retired and the couple lives in Odate. We toured downtown Sendai, a city of 1.3 million people. It was cold and dreary the first day but that did not dampen our spirits nor that of our hosts/hostesses.

At one point in the afternoon, we made an impromptu stop at St. Francis' Mission. It was a small A-frame-style church that could seat no more than 25-30 people but it was quite elegant, built of fragrant cedar wood. The vicar's wife greeted us and we were there as the school bus dropped off her two young children.

In the evening we were invited to dinner at Bishop John Kato's home. His wife prepared a feast for us. We were accompanied by the Onos and Takeishis. Members of the bishop's staff also attended, including Fr. And Mrs. Kazuo Watanabe, the bishop's assistant. It was a lovely meal and the bishop entertained



us with guitar music and singing. I gave the bishop and his wife personal gifts from Louisiana.

The next day we toured St. Luke's Pre-school and Kindergarten, an outreach program of the cathedral. There were about 80-100 children at the school. During the assembly time, we entertained them by teaching them a song and how to do an American square dance. Yumiko provided music on the piano.

We brought gifts to share with the children: flags, stickers, Jesus wrist bands, and candy. They sang a song in English for us. It was a delightful morning. As with so many occasions on our visit, we concluded our time with tea. The headmaster and a lead teacher were our host and hostess.

On Saturday, Oct. 30, several members of the congregation drove with us to the centennial celebration of St. Peter's, Yamagata. It is a picture-book perfect English-style country church in the middle of downtown Yamagata, a fair-sized city of perhaps 50,000 to 60,000 people. Sendai, Tohoku's see city of 1.3 million, is on the northeast coast of Japan while Yamagata is on the northwest coast.

After the service the entire congregation and visitors drove to a

nearby hotel for the centennial banquet. There were many dignitaries and speeches. I presented Bishop Kato with a framed proclamation from our Bishop Morris Thompson. I presented the rector of St. Peter's with a beautiful plate -- a gift from Grace Church, St. Francisville, to the people of St. Peter's in honor of their 100th anniversary.

I also was able to give every person who attended the banquet a lovely gold-colored cross on a ribbon - a bookmark that commemorated the 200th anniversary of our Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. The bookmarks were donated by the cathedral. They also donated a dozen larger versions of the cathedral cross which I distributed as special gifts. On Sunday, All Hallow's Eve, we worshipped at Christ Church Cathedral, Sendai. Every Sunday, the cathedral congregation stays after church for a meal prepared by parishioners. I presented the rector with a pen and ink drawing of our Christ Church Cathedral and gave each adult at the luncheon one of our cathedral's bookmarks. I also had gifts from Christ Church, Slidell, which I distributed to the Tohoku cathedral's Sunday School children along with flags and stickers.

After Sunday lunch, the entire congre-



gation adjourned to the Christian cemetery for All Saints Day prayers led by the dean, the Rev'd James Hayashi. A former archbishop of Japan and his wife also attended the graveside ceremony. The tombstones of the Rev'd and Mrs. William Draper were immaculately clean and decorated with urns of flowers. Fr. Draper was a missionary to Tohoku from the 1940s to the 1990s, along with his wife Helenora Draper, whom everyone remembered very fondly. The Drapers have ties to the Diocese of Louisiana where they served at Christ Church, Mansfield, during the years of WWII.

Our friends in Sendai took Lucy and I sight-seeing to many places of natural beauty and impressive historic temple sites. We visited the Gambeki gorge where we had tea outdoors sent via zip-line across the gorge! The temple site at Choson-ji housed several

temples, gardens and a large museum. We were there for a festival and witnessed a grand procession of about 100 Buddhist priests. Ceremonial dancers performed in elaborate costumes with animal masks featuring antlers and six-foot feathered plumes on top. Each dancer had a drum which he/she played during the ceremony. Giant chrysanthemums in yellow, white and lilac were displayed along the walkways.

We spent one night at the Ichinobo Hotel in Matsushima. Matsushima is considered one of three of Japan's most beautiful places. The bay (Ishinomachi wan) is dotted by many small islands (shima) with pine trees (matsu), giving the city its name: Matsushima. The Ichinobo hotel was an impressive resort on the water with formal Japanese-style gardens, koi ponds, pools and spas. The city's waterfront area featured shops, restaurants, a harbor with fishing vessels and tour boats that cruise the bay.

The ancient temple site of Zuiganji features centuries-old cedar trees — much like our Sequoias — holy shrines carved into the hillside, and Buddhist temples. The site also has modern day shrines to war and industry heroes and shrines to local children. The gravesite of Date Masamune's wife is on the grounds. Date Masumune was the shogun founder of the Sendai area (16th century).

I mention these sites in Matsushima because most of the waterfront was destroyed in the March 11 (2011) tsunami. The March 11 earthquake did not destroy the ancient sites but they did sustain damage. Our hostess Yumiko said that the beautiful Ichinobo Hotel is "gone."

Our visit to Japan concluded in Tokyo where we were shepherded again by Keiko Maekawa. We returned to this largest city on the planet (16 million people) via the Shinkasen bullet train. Keiko took us to Rikkyo University which houses St. Luke's Seminary, the Anglican seminary for Japan. We had tea with the retired bishop of Tohoku, Bishop John Sato, who now lives in Tokyo and has offices at the seminary.

We toured the serene Hamarikyo Gardens in downtown Tokyo and took a waterbus ride up the Sumeda-Gawa River to Asakusa, the ancient part of the city, dating to the Edo period, with its huge Sensoji temple and pagoda. We had time to do some shopping there and dined at the wonderful Ukai Restaurant under the landmark Tokyo Tower before leaving the next morning for the United States.



St. Anna's is Building a Dream

by the Rev'd Bill Terry, rector of St. Anna's, New Orleans

In 1846 two remarkable things happened. Ms. Eliza Ducros Marsoudet, a Creole woman, built a house and retained the property separately from her husband. The house was built by master builders Nicholas Duru and Jacques St. Martin, who built the center hall "English Cottage" for the sum of \$5,800 at what is now 1519 Esplanade Avenue. In that same year, the Rev'd Francis Lister Hawks of Christ Church commissioned the Rev'd Mr. Charles W. Whittall to establish St. Peter's Seaman's Bethel Mission located at #5 Esplanade Ave. at the riverfront.

In 1846 the Mission baptized 199 individuals, conducted 109 marriages and 215 burials, started a school, and founded a seaman's hostel. One wonders if Ms. Marsoudet and Fr. Whithall knew each other even in passing, because in 2011 St. Anna's

Episcopal Church (sic St. Peter's Mission) entered into a lease purchase agreement for the Marsoudet House.

This house, in profound need of extensive repair, will be the future home and community center for Oportunidades NOLA, the Latino/Hispanic outreach ministry of the diocese and St. Anna's, which serves both as a school for new immigrants and as a center of culture and community for Latinos. It will also be the home of Anna's Arts for Kids, an outreach program for at-risk youth, which provides tutoring, an introduction to the arts, and life skills mentoring for children ages 4-14.

Supporting those missions will be St. Anna's Medical Mission, which hosts dozens of health screenings, provides medical access assistance and health education to underserved populations. I recently noted, "Our old parish house just can't handle the traffic and if these missions are going to prosper we need space." In addition to these anchor missions a volunteer hostel for visiting groups will provide accommodations for as many as 50-60 volunteers.

Recognizing the work of St. Anna's past rector of 20 years, the Rev'd Robert J. Dodwell, and his wife Mary King Dodwell, for their service to St. Anna's and the Diocese of Louisiana, the facility will be named The Rev. Robert J. and Mary King Dodwell Episcopal Community Center, aka "Dodwell House." A three year capital campaign has just begun, under the capable direction of Ms. Gloria Kellum, recently retired Vice Chancellor for University Relations of Ole Miss, Dr. Gloria Kellum was the chief advancement officer with overall responsibility for communications and fund raising on behalf of the university. Gloria is a member of St. Peter's in Oxford, Ms., and is the sister of the late Bob Dodwell. Memorial donations and fund raising materials are currently being developed that will make the dream a reality!

We are excited to begin this new stage in our journey as a community of faith dedicated to recognizing and actualizing the dignity and potential of all people!

Please join us on Sunday, July 24th for Bishop Thompson's visitation and blessing on the Feast of St. Anna. Mass is at 10:30 am, with a reception following.



An rendering of the future Dodwell House.

**For more information, please visit
dodwellhouse.org**

The 124th Annual ECW Gathering

Shiela S. MacArthur, Diocesan ECW Communications Chair

The 124th ECW Annual Gathering at St. Paul's, New Orleans, on April 15th and 16th was a spectacular success as 109 delegates focused on the theme, "Behold, I Make All Things New". (Revelation 21:5)

St. Paul's, having risen from the depths of devastation and despair after Katrina, was a testimony to the theme and the miracle of God's restorative power, a visual reminder of God's love working in people of faith. Laurel McCartney, ECW Vice President, Susan Robinson, ECW President at St. Paul's, the Rev'd Dr. Scott P. Albergate, rector of St. Paul's, and numerous ECW ladies graciously welcomed delegates with hospitality and pride in their restored church.

Friday events included a slide show on "St. Paul's Episcopal Church: Past, Present, and Future" by Susan Robinson, an update on the Diocese of Tohoku, Japan by Ann Ball, and the State of the Diocese by Bishop Thompson. Special guests of Ann Ball were Yumiko Takeishi and her nephew Kenji Yoshioka of the Diocese of Tohoku. A free will offering for the Diocese of Tohoku garnered \$2686.

Evening Prayer was conducted by the Rev'd John Inserra, and the delegates were treated to a sumptuous reception at the home of Norris and Bob Williams. Saturday's session began with a continental breakfast provided by the ladies of St. Luke's, New Orleans. Following the theme, Gloria McKenzie offered devotions of a myriad of ways to be renewed and much food for thought. Delegates were treated to the personable and dynamic keynote speaker, Mary MacGregor on the Staff of the Diocese of Texas and a nationally known speaker, who presented a power point presentation as she addressed our individual uniqueness and the importance of identifying our spiritual gifts and ultimately putting them to use to the Glory of God.

Three brief presentations were offered: Kathy Albergate of St. Paul's, New Orleans on the Red Thread Promise; Gail Duhe' of St. Matthew's, Houma on the state of the church following the fire; and Connie Uddo of St. Paul's, New Orleans on St. Paul's Beacon of Hope Homecoming Center. A special offering to benefit these ministries netted \$900 to be equally divided among the three.

President Barbara Owens commenced with the business meeting introducing the Diocesan ECW Board members. Other business included changes to the by-laws, and the

election of Cintra Willcox of Trinity, New Orleans, as Recording Secretary, Fay Atkinson of Trinity, Baton Rouge as United Thank Offering Coordinator, and an additional delegate to Triennial 2012 who is Judy Weber of Trinity, Morgan City. The following will be alternates to Triennial: Ellarose Gray, Susan Robinson, Carolyn Douglas and Noretta Stackel. Delegates generously donated to ECW's service project, Grace Camp, a summer camp initiative for children of incarcerated men and women with items needed during four separate camping weeks in different parts of the state. Six storage totes were collected.



[Photo by Judy Weber]

Ann Ball (far right) presented certificates to the Honored Women in the Diocese of Louisiana at the Annual Gathering. From left are Betty Chouest, Maureen Young, and Pam Heffner.

The Honored Woman Program recognized the following ladies "for their ministry and service in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ": Betty Chouest of St. Paul's-New Orleans; Pam Heffner of St. Mary's-Franklin; Maureen Young of the Church of the Annunciation-New Orleans. Sharon Edmond of St. Luke's-Baton Rouge issued an invitation to the 125th ECW Annual Gathering in the spring of 2012.

The Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson joined the delegates as a representative from the Bishop's office. A highlight was Chef Mark Uddo, who catered a magnificent lunch from salad to Bananas Foster for dessert. Saturday afternoon's Festival Holy Eucharist with Celebrant Fr. Albergate and homilist Canon Stevenson included the Procession of ECW Banners, the UTO Ingathering, and the Installation of Officers. The offering at the Eucharist netted \$614 for the Bishop's Fund.

OUT & ABOUT



Top Left: Bishop Thompson leads diocesan clergy in a prayer before the College of Presbyters Mass in April.

Top Right: A Partners in Mission team pose before their departure for Honduras (left to right) Brian Lott, Mary Tharp, Deacon Reese Wiggins, Denise Carvalho, the Rev'd Joe Hermerding & Terry Koehler.

Middle: Students from St. Luke's School got a special treat for winning an auction. The winning groups enjoyed "Bidgets & Birettas" at Coffee Call in Baton Rouge. One lucky girl even got to wear the bishop's mitre!

Bottom Right: Bishop Thompson received an honorary doctorate from the University of the South's School of Theology in May.

Monthly Recovery Eucharists Begin in Baton Rouge



by Lance Armstrong, Convener of the Diocesan Addictions Recovery Ministry

With the support of the Rev'd Mark Holland, the Addictions Recovery Ministry (ARM) in May began celebrating a Eucharist incorporating the 12 Steps of Recovery at St. James in Baton Rouge. These celebrations will take place on the second Satur-

day of each month at 2 pm. The service is open to anyone wishing to experience the fellowship of recovery under God's grace. Residents from the O'Brien House recovery facility and other local recovery centers will be participating in these opportunities to strengthen their recovery and enlarge their spiritual lives. The Baton Rouge celebrations join the ongoing monthly celebrations hosted by the Rev'd Bill Terry at St. Anna's in New Orleans on the first Saturday of each month at 5 pm. The New Orleans services include outreach to the Bridge House recovery center.

The ARM Commission sponsored a resolution at this year's Diocesan Convention to establish an annual Recovery Sunday to promote awareness of addiction and recovery issues in the diocese. The Convention recognized the fact that addiction affects men and women of all ages, and all racial, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds and passed the resolution commending the parishes in the diocese to address these issues one Sunday during each Eastertide. St. Alban's in Baton Rouge will begin this observation with a Recovery Eucharist at their services on the Third Sunday of Easter. ARM Commission members are ready to assist any congregations with the preparation and celebration of a Recovery Sunday.

The Addictions Recovery Ministry will also hold its 28th annual retreat for women and men who are or wish to be in recovery on August 5-8, 2011 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. This year's theme will focus on the Promises of Recovery as being the result of living the 12 Steps. The facilitator will be Sr. Linda Fischer, a professed member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ from Columbia, PA. A teacher by profession, Sr. Linda left the classroom in 2005. Since then she has been involved in full-time 12-Step retreat ministry. Sr. Linda has been a grateful recovering alcoholic for the past 20 years and says she loves facilitating recovery retreats because "she receives every bit as much as she gives."



She calls her own journey in recovery one of the greatest blessings in her life. As usual, the retreat will include opportunities for individual spiritual direction, 12 Step meetings, worship services, walking the labyrinth, and a Dream Workshop conducted by Martha Tension. In addition, planning is underway for the annual Women's Weekend

in January, 2012.

The mission of the Addictions Recovery Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana, an affiliate of the Recovery Ministries of the National Episcopal Church, is to help recovering people find a home within the Church and to provide education, guidance, and support for individuals and families struggling with or wishing to learn more about addiction. ARM-sponsored events are listed on the diocesan calendar on the EDOLA website. Further information about the ministry and how to contact us can be found at edola.org/ministries/arm.

Preparedness Planning for Congregations and Parishes

With the arrival of hurricane season 2011, ECSLA would like to encourage every parish in the Diocese of Louisiana to write or update their parish disaster plan. Creating or updating a plan is not very time consuming but it is a valuable tool in time of crisis. Resources may be found on the ECSLA website under 'Disaster Prep & Response' and in Episcopal Relief & Development's resource library at er-d.org.

ECSLA is eager to support our Diocese's continued preparedness and strengthen our collective ability to response to future disasters. Shonda Collins-Smith, VISTA volunteer working with ECSLA this year, has been leading the way 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 by allowing us to prepare for anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster," said Collins-Smith. "Through pre-event planning, teams can work together to help reduce injuries, loss of lives, and property damage."

The plan calls for meeting with the rectors and parish leaders to discuss their disaster preparation and response. "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," explained Collins-Smith.

ECSLA is pleased to announce that Deacon Elaine Clements has accepted the role of Diocesan Disaster Response Coordinator. In this voluntary capacity, she will serve as EDOLA's liaison with Episcopal Relief & Development as well as further the program initiated by Shonda Collins-Smith, who has concluded her VISTA volunteer service.

Case Management Initiated at Trinity, Morgan City

A central component of Episcopal Community Services' disaster response work has been case management, linking those in need to available resources. Thanks to grant support from Episcopal Relief & Development, we have the opportunity in Morgan City to meet case management needs arising from the BP oil spill — while also developing and piloting a model for a community-based case management network.

Working in close partnership with Trinity in Morgan City, ECS has hired Melanie Bias as a case manager to do direct case management services with qualified applicants and to train potential case managers so that the effort can be sustained over the long run. Trinity, Morgan City is collaborating with other churches and social services agencies such as St. Mary's Outreach to provide these services.

Our approach to case management is rooted in respect for the dignity of each human person and a willingness to work holistically with those we serve. We also believe that developing community networks and training local leaders is an effective form of disaster preparedness. Our communities' resilience can be strengthened by equipping qualified lay volunteers and nonprofit staff members with the skills and approaches necessary for effective case management.

Melanie Bias's office is located on the second floor of Trinity's Parish Hall at 302 Greenwood Street in Morgan City. She can be reached at 985.384.7629 or 985.714.4020 Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday nine until five, Wednesday nine until four, and Friday nine until noon. More information is available by visiting ecsla.org or trinitymcla.org.



HERE'S WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING THIS YEAR

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Morgan City: Helping 50–70 families to achieve sustainability in jobs and housing

New Orleans: 415 families provided with housing, job-search, and other support to get back on their feet

New Orleans: 21 homes rebuilt at a value to homeowners of \$2,000,000; volunteers repaired 16 other homes

Throughout Our Diocese: \$207,500 in scholarships and \$85,000 in grants awarded to support the education of local African-American youth

DISASTER RESPONSE

Terrebonne Parish, Post-Oil Spill: 2,000 people reached with community meals

Morganza Spillway Area: Supported clergy to be prepared

State-Wide: Our advocacy changed policies, reducing barriers to housing recovery; contributed to Stafford Act reform

International: \$38,000 raised for Japan

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE LEARNING

National: Coordinated over 2,600 volunteers from across the country

New Orleans: 14 Living With Purpose Fellows participate in year-long program of service, and spiritual development

Baton Rouge: Launching Living With Purpose Fellowship branch in fall 2012



We need your help to cover administrative and operational costs not typically covered by program grants or other available funds.

To achieve this effort, ECSLA is launching an ambitious fundraising effort: The ECSLA 500 Campaign. The plan of the ECSLA 500 is simple: Commit at least \$500 a year for two consecutive years (2011 & 2012) in unrestricted gifts. By placing a priority on our community and building relationships with those we serve, ECSLA has been able to work effectively with residents living in very challenging circumstances.

Your presence, your prayers, and your continued generosity are essential for us to continue to provide care in these difficult economic times. Please consider making a pledge to join this campaign.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made by mailing a check to ECSLA, 1623 Seventh Street, New Orleans, LA 70115.

Credit cards may be used for secure donations by visiting ecsla.org.

Community Dinner Program Growing

A year after the BP oil spill crisis began, ECSLA continues its response in coastal areas, focusing particularly on community resilience through an ongoing partnership with Bayou Grace Community Services. Community dinners are being hosted in an effort to provide fun, food and fellowship in an open, hospitable setting so that educational programs can be presented and news shared. A grant from Catholic Charities' Spirit of Hope program is funding these dinners in 2011, which were launched last summer with the support of many churches in our Diocese and around the country.

Dinner guests are treated to a home-cooked meal prepared by community members in Chauvin, Dulac, and Montegut, with the intention of sponsoring similar events in the Point-aux-Chenes and Bayou du Large areas later in the year. ECS staff and volunteers have been

present to provide pastoral care as needed to distressed residents of these communities. ECS, through another grant with the Gulf Relief Fund, has also engaged Trinity Counseling and Training Center to provide children's activities at the dinners, and will be sponsoring interactive theater and storytelling programs by Young Audiences at a summer camp and special children's events this summer.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Church	City	2011 ASSESSMENT				2011 PROGRAM			
		2011 Total Assessment	YTD (Jan - May)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance	2011 Total Pledge	YTD (Jan - May)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance
Church of the Incarnation	Amite	\$1,358	\$566	\$566.66	\$0.83	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church of the Holy Spirit	Baton Rouge	\$8,099	\$3,375	\$3,374.60	\$0.02	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Alban's Chapel	Baton Rouge	\$10,324	\$4,302	\$0.00	-\$4,301.67	\$17,550	\$7,313	\$0.00	-\$7,312.50
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$1,833	\$764	\$763.75	\$0.00	\$420	\$175	\$175.00	\$0.00
St. James' Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$82,403	\$34,335	\$6,866.92	-\$27,467.66	\$88,180	\$36,742	\$8,348.33	-\$28,393.34
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$41,399	\$17,250	\$17,249.59	\$0.01	\$43,601	\$18,167	\$18,167.07	-\$0.01
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$10,330	\$4,304	\$4,304.19	\$0.02	\$1,200	\$500.01	\$500.01	\$0.01
St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal	Baton Rouge	\$3,485	\$1,452	\$290.42	-\$1,161.66	\$3,136	\$1,307	\$209.58	-\$1,097.09
Trinity Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$30,900	\$12,875	\$12,875.00	\$0.00	\$36,771	\$15,321	\$15,321.25	\$0.00
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Bogalusa	\$4,251	\$1,771	\$2,171.01	\$399.76	\$550	\$229	\$228.99	-\$0.18
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Clinton	\$1,341	\$559	\$671.00	\$112.25	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Episcopal Church	Covington	\$32,087	\$13,370	\$13,147.10	-\$222.48	\$54,547	\$22,728	\$16,762.50	-\$5,965.42
St. Francis' Episcopal Church	Denham Springs	\$5,554	\$2,314	\$2,325.00	\$10.83	\$7,220	\$3,008	\$3,025.00	\$16.67
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Franklin	\$5,374	\$2,239	\$1,341.00	-\$898.17	\$6,435	\$2,681	\$1,608.00	-\$1,073.25
Grace Memorial Church	Hammond	\$13,368	\$5,570	\$4,456.00	-\$1,114.00	\$16,500	\$6,875	\$5,500.00	-\$1,375.00
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Harvey	\$3,590	\$1,496	\$1,560.00	\$64.17	\$3,231	\$1,346	\$1,350.00	\$3.75
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Houma	\$13,700	\$5,708	\$5,708.35	\$0.02	\$10,300	\$4,292	\$4,291.65	-\$0.02
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Innis	\$2,418	\$1,008	\$2,418.00	\$1,410.50	\$2,176	\$907	\$82.00	-\$824.67
St. John's Episcopal Church	Kenner	\$1,155	\$481	\$385.00	-\$96.25	\$519	\$216	\$173.00	-\$43.25
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	LaPlace	\$1,948	\$812	\$811.70	\$0.03	\$1,753	\$730	\$730.40	-\$0.02
St. Michael's Episcopal Church	Mandeville	\$10,076	\$4,198	\$4,198.35	\$0.02	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Metairie	\$15,708	\$6,545	\$6,545.00	\$0.00	\$15,708	\$6,545	\$6,545.00	\$0.00
St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Metairie	\$20,908	\$8,712	\$8,711.70	\$0.03	\$5,000	\$2,083	\$2,083.35	\$0.02
Trinity Episcopal Church	Morgan City	\$7,676	\$3,198	\$2,558.68	-\$639.65	\$9,978	\$4,158	\$3,326.00	-\$831.50
St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Morganza	\$680	\$283	\$680.00	\$396.67	\$612	\$255	\$612.00	\$357.00
All Souls	New Orleans	\$1,000	\$417	\$0.00	-\$416.67	\$1,800	\$750	\$0.00	-\$750.00
Church of the Annunciation	New Orleans	\$9,129	\$3,804	\$0.00	-\$3,803.75	\$500	\$208	\$500.00	\$291.67
Chapel of the Holy Comforter	New Orleans	\$2,874	\$1,198	\$1,197.50	\$0.00	\$2,586	\$1,078	\$1,077.50	\$0.00
Chapel of the Holy Spirit	New Orleans	\$2,648	\$1,103	\$2,648.00	\$1,544.67	\$2,383	\$993	\$2,383.00	\$1,390.08
Christ Church Cathedral	New Orleans	\$24,437	\$10,182	\$8,145.68	-\$2,036.40	\$41,543	\$17,310	\$13,847.68	-\$3,461.90
Grace Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$5,034	\$2,098	\$300.00	-\$1,797.50	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$2,653	\$1,105	\$1,105.44	\$0.02	\$400	\$167	\$400.01	\$233.34
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$15,280	\$6,367	\$7,640.00	\$1,273.33	\$12,988	\$5,412	\$0.00	-\$5,411.67
St. Anna's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$14,143	\$5,893	\$3,535.74	-\$2,357.18	\$6,000	\$2,500	\$1,000.00	-\$1,500.00
St. George's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$14,701	\$6,125	\$6,149.91	\$24.49	\$12,496	\$5,207	\$6,253.29	\$1,046.62
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$11,013	\$4,589	\$3,668.00	-\$920.75	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$26,823	\$11,176	\$11,176.25	\$0.00	\$22,800	\$9,500	\$9,500.00	\$0.00
St. Philip's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$9,437	\$3,932	\$3,935.00	\$2.92	\$9,814	\$4,089	\$4,095.00	\$5.83
Trinity Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$110,559	\$46,066	\$46,196.00	\$129.75	\$134,441	\$56,017	\$51,720.65	-\$4,296.43
St. Paul's-HolyTrinity Church	New Roads	\$5,462	\$2,276	\$2,275.85	\$0.02	\$5,300	\$2,208	\$2,208.35	\$0.02
Church of the Holy Communion	Plaquemine	\$5,637	\$2,349	\$2,389.52	\$40.77	\$2,500	\$1,042	\$1,068.83	\$27.16
All Saints' Episcopal Church	Ponchatoula	\$1,825	\$760	\$761.33	\$0.91	\$1,642	\$684	\$683.33	-\$0.84
All Saints' Episcopal Church	River Ridge	\$8,967	\$3,736	\$3,222.57	-\$513.68	\$1,200	\$500	\$462.00	-\$38.00
Church of the Nativity	Rosedale	\$2,159	\$900	\$2,159.00	\$1,259.42	\$1,943	\$810	\$1,943.00	\$1,133.42
Christ Episcopal Church	Slidell	\$10,756	\$4,482	\$3,000.00	-\$1,481.67	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grace Episcopal Church	St. Francisville	\$22,675	\$9,448	\$7,558.27	-\$1,889.65	\$22,675	\$9,448	\$7,558.27	-\$1,889.65
St. John's Episcopal Church	Thibodaux	\$7,155	\$2,981	\$1,192.50	-\$1,788.75	\$1,200	\$500	\$200.00	-\$300.00
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	Zachary	\$6,756	\$2,815	\$2,815.00	\$0.00	\$9,222	\$3,843	\$3,842.50	\$0.00
Totals			\$271,286.67	\$225,050.58	-\$46,236.09		\$257,841.67	\$197,782.54	-\$60,059.13

**The Diocese of Louisiana -
Operations Budget through 30 April 2011
(Assessment and Program)**

	2011 ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	OVER/ UNDER BUDGET
REVENUE				
Revenues from Congregations	\$1,269,905	\$423,302	\$343,130	\$80,172
Other Revenues	195,979	65,326	37,400	\$27,927
Targeted Donations	\$90,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,555,884	\$518,628	\$410,530	\$108,098
EXPENSES				
Total Diocesan Center	\$852,050	\$284,017	\$266,252	\$17,765
Diocesan Property Reserve	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Episcopal Transition Reserve	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Total Academic Chaplaincies	\$315,243	\$105,081	\$88,914	\$16,167
Total Christian Education	\$2,000	\$667	\$825	-\$158
Total Commissions	\$13,900	\$4,633	\$530	\$4,104
Total Communications	\$45,700	\$15,233	\$11,569	\$3,664
Total Conferences	\$20,300	\$6,767	\$5,891	\$876
Total Church Mission Ministry & Grants	\$69,754	\$23,251	\$17,418	\$5,833
Total Seminarians	\$7,000	\$2,333	\$2,500	-\$167
Total School for Ministry	\$14,904	\$4,968	\$3,955	\$1,013
Total Specialized Ministries	\$3,550	\$1,183	\$1,091	\$93
Total Stewardship	\$2,700	\$900	\$0	\$900
Total Work Outside the Diocese	\$146,535	\$48,845	\$51,606	-\$2,761
Total Youth	\$104,865	\$34,955	\$36,096	-\$1,141
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,613,501	\$537,834	\$491,645	\$46,188
NET INCOME / LOSS	-\$57,617	-\$19,206	-\$81,116	



*I challenge us to have the courage to
be willing to always begin again...*

*To never accept the status quo
in our discipleship...*

*And to use the lessons we have
learned and the events we have
experienced to launch out afresh
into the mission field for
Christ Jesus each and every day.*

— Bishop Thompson

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**BY MAILING A CHECK IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED FOR YOU
IN THIS ISSUE OF CHURCHWORK**

