

CHURCHWORK

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 2

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA

SUMMER 2012

A CHEERFUL HEART IS
A GOOD MEDICINE.

PROVERBS 17:22



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

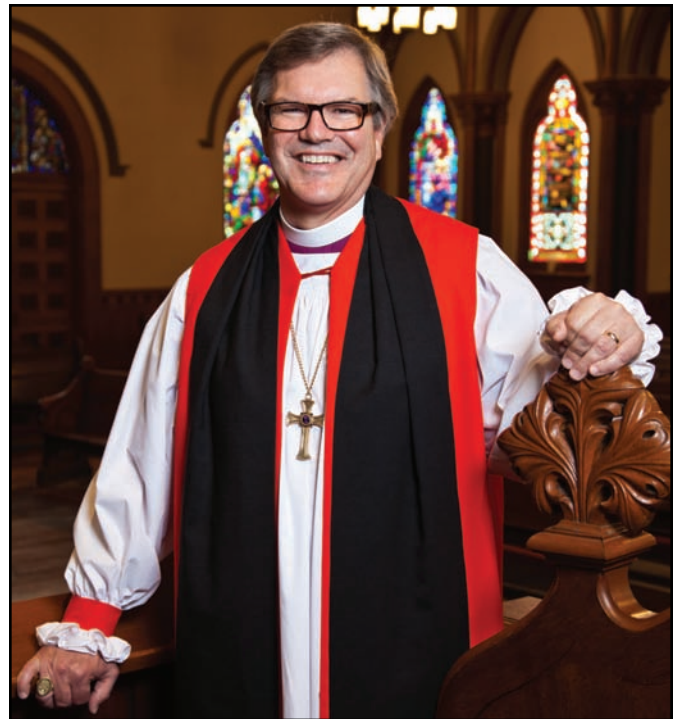
The Bishop's Address from the 175th Diocesan Convention:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The theme for this 175th Diocesan Convention is: For You were Called to Freedom. It is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. The whole text reads: For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. (Galatians 5:13-15) Later on in this same chapter St. Paul's writes, "Live by the Spirit," and the traits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

These traits of St. Paul are the measure of Christian character. They are not the way of the world but the way of the Spirit, the Spirit of God. So when St. Paul says that we were called to freedom, the freedom is to live under the love of God and people of God love their neighbors as themselves. We can either choose to live under the Mercy of God with the gifts of the Spirit, or we can choose to make our own way believing that what we do is no one's concern but our own, doing whatever we want, which is the way of the world. My sisters and brothers, we are all deeply loved by God and it is that love that propels us to live differently than the world demands. This is what I want to talk with you about today.

I am into my second year as your Bishop and I have to tell you, my work has been my delight. The people I meet, the stories you share with me, and the ministries that transform lives are amazing. Everywhere I go, God is present in so many ways. I wish you could witness it with me. Just recently we held a vestry retreat at the request of several rectors. We met and planned the four-hour event and I secretly prayed that if we had 50 people I would be happy. As the deadline for registering approached people kept calling to register and to my surprise our final count was around 200 people. This is the kind of leadership I'm talking about where the initiative comes from a desire to know, to learn how to be an effective teacher, vestry member, rector, or whatever. It supports my theory and that is, you want to do ministry and you want to be prepared to carry out your God given talents to be effective. For you were called to freedom.



If I were to articulate my vision for this diocese it would be simply, a community where its sole desire is to be the face of Christ where we work, where we live, where we go to school and where we play, a place where St. Paul's words of Spiritual being ring true. And to be honest, I believe you have this same outlook in mind. Let me explain why I believe you desire to be the face of Christ. I've already spoken about the surprise number of you who attended the vestry retreat. The plan is to offer this event every year to educate new vestry members in their role as spiritual and fiscal leaders of their parish. Freedom in Christ is having the tools to be successful in ministry and what a great ministry to be on the vestry.

The Clergy, Congregation, Development, Program is in its second year. We announced this program last year. It has been a huge success. We are now in the stage of evaluating what we need to keep and what we need to tweak. The clergy and laity involved have been very supportive of one another and it shows by their presence at weekend teachings.

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On the front cover:

Lots of neighborhood children showed up to Jericho Road's fruit orchard to make Mother's Day bouquets with fresh flowers and cards for their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other important women in their lives.

On the back cover:

A parishoner of Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Uptown New Orleans visits the Church of All Souls in the Lower Ninth Ward to provide tutoring for younger students.

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Submissions

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

Submissions should be sent by email to Rebecca Pitre at rpitre@edola.org. *We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.*

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FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Bishop's Journal: February 16th - April 30th

February 16: No meetings today. Immersed myself in preparing for the thrill of my first ride on a Mardi Gras float in the Babylon parade. Afterwards, Rebecca and I attended the Ball.

February 17: Enjoyed lunch with the Krewe of Babylon as a wrap up to their festivities.

February 18: No meetings. Enjoyed Carnival festivities with Rebecca and our family.

February 19: No visitation today. More Carnival celebration.

February 20: Living on St. Charles Avenue is COOL! Still more Mardi Gras!

February 21: Mardi Gras Holiday – enjoyed the parades and festivities with family and friends.

February 22: Celebrated the Holy Eucharist and marked the beginning of the Lenten season with the distribution of ashes at Christ Church Cathedral.

February 23: Early morning meeting with Mrs. Betty Zachary about the suspended Grace Church, New Orleans. Met with an aspirant about the ordination process. Later, met with the CCDP conference planning leaders. Received updates from Canon Stevenson, then drove to Covington to bless the new atrium at Christwood Retirement Community. Had the pleasure of meeting the Rev'd and Mrs. Ian Winterbottom who were visiting family members in Mandeville. Fr. Winterbottom is a priest in the Church of England.

February 24: Writing day – worked on a sermon. The Rev'd Stephen Craft and I enjoyed chatting over lunch.

February 25: Rebecca and I drove to Morgan City and dined with the Rev'd and Mrs. Rob Courtney, then stayed overnight.

February 26: We visited Trinity Church in Morgan City where I preached, celebrated, and received, followed by a fine lunch. Rebecca drove home because I came down with a miserable cold and felt very ill.

February 27: Day off – home sick.

February 28: Still under the weather. Agatha has come down with "it" too, so she went home to recover.

February 29: Preparing for Diocesan Convention. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

March 1: Spent the day in Baton Rouge preparing for the Diocesan Convention.

March 2 & 3: 175th Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana hosted by St. James Church, Baton Rouge. Many thanks to the Very Rev'd Mark Holland, St. James Church, staff, committees and parishioners for your hard work and outstanding hospitality which made the convention a successful event.

March 4: No visitation. I attended choral evensong at Christ Church Cathedral. A beautiful service

March 5 & 6: Drove to Baton Rouge for a meeting with Bishop William Hutchinson, United Methodist Church, followed by the Louisiana Interchurch Conference at Bishop Tracy Center on Monday and Tuesday.

March 7: Met with staff by video conference, followed by updates from Nell Bolton, Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services. Met over lunch at Episcopal High School with Hugh McIntosh and EHS leaders for a tour of recent campus improvements and other agenda items. Drove to Chatawa, MS, for an overnight silent retreat.

March 8: Silent retreat with Sr. Ruth and returned home to New Orleans.

March 9: Writing day – worked on a sermon.

March 10: Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

March 11: Drove to St. Patrick's, Zachary, where I celebrated, preached, confirmed, received and reaffirmed, followed by a lovely potluck luncheon.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

March 12: Day off.

March 13: Meeting with the Rev'd John Craft, followed by updates on Youth and Young Adult ministry by Amelia Arthur. Conference call with Canon Mark Stevenson and Lucius Butts, Treasurer of the Diocese, followed by annual consultations with the Very Rev'd David duPlantier and Deacon Michael Hackett. Afternoon orientation meeting of the Disciplinary Board, then calendar scheduling with Agatha. Annual consultations with the Rev'd Canon Ron Clingenpeel and the Rev'd Mary Koppel. Evening meeting with the Rev'd Fred Devall and Chancellor Cove Geary about St. Martin's School lease.

March 14: Early morning meeting to discuss an educational project with Mrs. Debbie Hudson. Telephone conversation with the Rev'd Giulianna Gray about fundraising to renovate space at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Drove to Covington for lunch with Skip Scoggin and Bill Rhodes to finalize the agenda for the upcoming Men's Retreat, then on to the Baton Rouge office for a meeting with the Rev'd Canon David Seger, interim rector at St. Luke's. Stayed overnight.

March 15 – 21: Attended the Spring House of Bishops conference at Camp Allen, Texas. This was one of the most spiritual and relaxing meetings I've attended since becoming a member of the House of Bishops.

March 22: Rebecca and I attended the Open House at St. Thomas Clinic in New Orleans.

March 23 & 24: No meetings. Pre-marital counseling of family friends, Jessica and William, whose marriage I plan to officiate in August.

March 25: Celebrated, preached, baptized, confirmed and received at All Souls Church, New Orleans, followed by a very nice reception.

March 26: Day off.

March 27: Meeting with Linda Nelson of Advent House, followed by the Rev'd Jesse Adams' annual consultation. A meeting with the Rev'd Brien Koehler. Celebrated Holy Eucharist in the Chapel with the Noland Center staff, followed by a brown bag luncheon. Annual consultations in the afternoon with Deacon Elaine Clements and the Rev'd Tom Blackmon. Met briefly with Dean David duPlantier about details for the Chrism Mass. Meeting

with the Rev'd Sean Wallace, who was visiting from New York, but who is canonically resident in our diocese. Drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

March 28: Met with loan officer from Iberia Bank to sign refinancing documents for the Urban Ministry Center. Convention wrap up review at our weekly staff meeting. Pastoral meeting with an aspirant to the priesthood. Meeting with the Rev'd Tim Heflin, followed by a luncheon meeting at the City Club with Jude Melville, President of Business First Bank as guests of Ms. Nanette Noland. Drove to St. Martin's, Metairie, for Holy Eucharist in the Chapel, celebrated by the Rev'd Fred Devall and followed by supper. I was asked to speak about my own understanding, development and application of a Rule of Life as part of my on-going Christian formation.

March 29: Meeting with Ms. Fiona Winterbottom, parishioner of St. Michael's Church, Mandeville. Caught up on correspondence, scheduling and phone calls in the morning. Bishop James Brown and I had a nice visit in the afternoon. Ended the day with a tough pastoral meeting

March 30 & 31: Rebecca and I traveled to Saint Petersburg, Florida, to attend the funeral of our friend, Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, wife of Bishop Dabney Smith. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

April 1: Wonderful Palm Sunday service at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge celebrating their 26th anniversary! Processed, celebrated, preached, confirmed & reaffirmed. Delicious potluck luncheon provided by the parishioners.

April 2: Celebrated and preached at the Chrism Mass with Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. Many thanks to the cathedral and the diocesan staff for serving the clergy and spouse luncheon. Canon Stevenson and I deconsecrated Grace Church, New Orleans. The campus will be leased to a secular school entity. Met with the Rev'd Lonell Wright and All Souls' leadership to discuss direction planning and the priest who will follow Fr. Wright's retirement.

April 3: Invited by Dr. Thomas Ryan, Director, Loyola Institute for Ministry, to speak at First Tuesday, at Immaculate Conception Church, New Orleans. I spoke on Spirituality Born From the Community which was fol-

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

lowed by Q & A.

April 4: Weekly staff meeting followed by updates with Canon Stevenson. Met with Sophie Cull about her work on abolishing the death penalty in Louisiana. Met with Amelia Arthur for updates on Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Caught up on correspondence and scheduling with Agatha in the afternoon.

April 5: Celebrated Maundy Thursday service at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.

April 6: Good Friday – diocesan offices closed.

April 7: I celebrated and the Rev'd Jeffrey Millican preached at the Easter Vigil in Dan and Frances White Chapel on the campus of St. Martin's Episcopal School. Nice reception after the service.

April 8: I preached at the Easter service at Christ Church Cathedral. Lovely service with the Dean celebrating.
April 9: Easter Monday – diocesan offices closed.

April 10: Day off. Stopped off at diocesan offices for brief calendar scheduling with Agatha.

April 11: Drove to Baton Rouge for all day visit with the Rev'd Patrick Edwards and his wife, Deborah, as part of the new Clergy & Congregational Development Program (CCDP). Stayed overnight.

April 12: Met with the Rev'd Canon David Seger for updates on his interim at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge. Met with the Rev'd Joe Hermerding, Edgar Cage, and Brod Bagert (Together Baton Rouge). Worked on preparations for Executive Board Retreat. Standing Committee meeting in the afternoon, followed by a meeting of the Deacons' Council. Drove home afterwards.

April 13: Study day. Met with Nell Bolton for ECS updates. Drove to the conference center and met with the Rev'd Sharon Alexander, Chair of Partners in Mission committee, prior to the start of the overnight Diocesan Executive Board Retreat.

April 14: Continuation of the Diocesan Executive Board Retreat. The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center Board met also. Later, drove to Baton Rouge and stayed overnight.

April 15: Celebrated, preached, baptized, confirmed and received at St. Alban's Church, Baton Rouge, followed by a lovely reception. In the evening, celebrated, preached, confirmed and reaffirmed at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans.

April 16: Day off. Drove to Mandeville for an evening with the Mission Committee of St. Michael's Church.

April 17: Updates by telephone with Canon Mark Stevenson, followed by a meeting with Amelia Arthur who provided updates on the Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Annual consultation with the Very Rev'd Susan Gaumer. Met with Jim Morrison to discuss reception into the Episcopal Church as a former Roman Catholic priest. Annual consultation with Deacon Louis Ogle. Pastoral meeting with a parishioner. The Commission on Ministry met in the evening to conduct interviews.

April 18: Drove to Baton Rouge. Annual consultation over lunch with the Very Rev'd Mark Holland. Annual consultation with Deacon Reese Wiggins in the afternoon. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

April 19: Met with the Rev'd Peggy Scott and Canon Mark Stevenson, then drove to the conference center for St. Martin's overnight Board retreat.

April 20: Concluded St. Martin's Board retreat in early afternoon, then met with Bill Rhodes and Skip Scoggin to finalize agenda details for the diocesan Men's Retreat. Stayed overnight at the conference center.

April 21: Continued the Men's Retreat throughout the day. Stayed overnight at the conference center.

April 22: Morning prayer and breakfast, followed by Holy Eucharist and renewal of Baptism vows in the Chapel as the conclusion to an outstanding Men's Retreat. In the afternoon, SECC Service Day sponsored by Youth and Young Adults Ministry, followed by a fellowship meal. Stayed overnight at the conference center.

April 23: Day off in quiet reflection and relaxation at the conference center. Caught 5 fish from the pond. Conference call in the afternoon to discuss All Souls Church. Stayed overnight at the conference center.

April 24: Met with diocesan clergy at the conference cen-

ter for a pre-General Convention conversation. Met with the Deans in the afternoon.

April 25: Visited with the Rev'd Sharon Alexander, St. Michael's Church, Mandeville, as part of the new Clergy & Congregational Development Program (CCDP). Later, met with Nell Bolton, Marsha Wade and the Rev'd A J Heine about Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECSLA).

April 26: Canon Stevenson and I met with the Rev'd Rob-in McCullough-Bade, a Lutheran pastor, who has been serving as supply clergy at St. Augustine and St. Michael & All Angels Churches in Baton Rouge.

April 27: Celebrated Morning Chapel at Trinity Day School, New Orleans. Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge and I gave the "State of the Diocese" address at the evening meeting of the ECW Gathering. Attended a lovely ECW party at the home of Andrea and Pat Van Burkleo. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

April 28: Recognized the past ECW presidents and celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the ECW Gathering. Wonderful service including procession of banners, UTO ingathering, and installation of officers. Attended a fun porch party at Margie and Mike Gaudet's home in honor of the confirmands.

April 29: Celebrated, preached, and confirmed at the 9 a.m. service at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, followed by a fine reception for the confirmands and their families. Drove to Jackson, MS.

April 30: Helped our son Trey, with preparations for the move to Alexandria, Virginia where he will attend seminary in the fall.

CLERGY TRANSITIONS

- **The Rev'd Keith Johnson** left St. Luke's, New Orleans as of May 13th for St. Philip's, Harlem.
- **Joseph Wallace-Williams** is to be ordained priest on June 23rd at 10 am, at Trinity, New Orleans.
- **Alina Williams** is to be ordained priest on June 30th at 10 am, at St. James, Baton Rouge.

The Bishop's Visitation Schedule

6/3: Community of Deacons

6/10: St. Paul's, New Orleans

6/17: All Saints', Ponchatoula

6/24: Trinity Church, Baton Rouge

7/1: St. Augustine's, Metairie

7/15: Christ Church, Covington

8/12: St. Anna's, New Orleans

8/15: St. Francis. Denham Springs

8/26: St. Michael's, Mandeville

9/16: Grace Church, Hammond

9/23: Christ Church, Slidell

9/30: Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans



THE 2012 BISHOP'S ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL



Galatians 5:13-14

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The Convention Is Called to Order



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

The following article is a continuation of Harriet's exploration of the 1982 General Convention. Her first article on the matter can be found in the Spring issue of ChurchWork.

My, how things changed! Reading reports on proceedings, actions taken and current events at the time of the two general conventions held in New Orleans fifty nine years apart is like being in a mental time machine. For this ChurchWork article on the 1982 General Convention, personal interviews have been possible because half of the deputation, the diocesan bishop (The Rt. Rev'd James Brown) and the chairman of local arrangements (the Rev'd Alex Comfort) are still alive, as well as the Chairman of the Department of Communications (the Rev'd Bill Morris) and the co-editor of *ChurchWork* (Ann Ball).

To set the stage: the Rt. Rev'd John Allin was the Presiding Bishop, the Diocese of Louisiana as we know it now had existed for two years. "La Bonne Cuisine" was getting its first national exposure, Christ Church Cathedral was running its cooking school and a "newsphone" was set up so people could telephone to hear a recorded message about what had happened at the convention that day. The message was updated at 6 P.M. Bishop Brown recalls that New Orleans was not the planned location for the convention so there was only a year and a half planning time once the diocese accepted the invitation to provide the substitute location. In addressing the diocesan convention the following spring, Bishop Brown congratulated the local planners and volunteers for "a magnificent effort". He stated that "this was a landmark experience for the diocese" and he would "wish the same for the next generation".

The House of Deputies (laity and clergy) and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial delegates met at the Rivergate, the House of Bishops met at the Hilton Hotel with special open sessions scheduled at places such as the Saenger Theater and St. Louis Cathedral. Attending were 800 deputies and 150 bishops. The Convention was in session from Sunday, September 4 through Wednesday, September 15 with two legislative sessions each day and two open Holy Eucharists, one the first evening (with the United Thank Offering Ingathering) and one on the last day. Two hundred exhibitors occupied part of the Rivergate. Two thousand five hundred hotel rooms were occupied at a cost ranging from \$55 for a single to \$86 for a double per night.

Two hundred forty volunteers were on duty each day, many drawn from diocesan congregations. Marie Kessler, a member of St. Andrew's Church, New Orleans, was in charge of recruiting the one thousand volunteers that were needed. Mary Ann and Fr. Miller Armstrong volunteered that year and enjoyed it so much that they traveled to subsequent conventions on their own to volunteer. Fr. Robert Dodwell designed a banner to celebrate the Convention. It is still in use at the Cathedral. A special organ was built for the services in the Rivergate. The organ was purchased by All Saints Church, River Ridge and was in service until just a few years ago.

There were many special speakers and several panel discussions before joint sessions of both houses. The roster of luminaries included George H. W. Bush (then Vice President), Coretta Scott King, Sandra Day O'Connor, Walter Cronkite, Desmond Tutu. Security metal detectors were in place when Vice President Bush spoke at the Saenger. Bishop Tutu was given a visa to leave South Africa only at the last minute.

The list of speakers helps identify some of legislative foci for the deputies and bishops. It is reported that a speaker said in reference to the budget discussion that "the church is organizing for mission rather than meeting as a debating society. We are looking at the concerns of the world rather than our own concerns". Venture in Mission and Jubilee Ministry were both enacted that year. Both houses debated "the domestic and international implication of policies that affect peace-making". Building a just society were words heard repeatedly.

In Church matters, this convention happened between the debate on the ordination of women that dominated the discussion in 1976 and the beginning of gay rights issues that continue following the election of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire at the Convention in 2003. Action was taken to approve the 1982 Hymnal (first and only reading). Ecumenical dialogue with the Lutherans was formalized. Each congregation was asked to give 1% of its net disposable income to seminary funding for the ten Episcopal seminaries. The Biblical tithe was affirmed as the minimum standard of giving, the donation of body organs was endorsed, the Presiding Bishop's Fund was designated the vehicle to fund national mission work and a uniform federal code for refugees and immigrants was endorsed. The name Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America was changed to The Episcopal Church and the title of the head of the Episcopal Church was voted to be Presiding

Bishop, Chief Pastor and Primate rather than Archbishop. Recognition of Martin Luther King Day was approved as well as specifying that the dates of the General Convention should always include the Fourth of July. The number of the days the Convention was to meet was reduced but reported comments from many deputies was the convention cost too much money and lasted too long. Following tradition, the host diocese sponsored a social event that was funded by local donations. Pete Fountain was the headliner at a gala evening at the Hilton Hotel.

Ann Ball was attending her first convention as a delegate to the ECW Triennial at the same time she was co-editing the diocesan newspaper. In sharing a personal recollection of the event, she bragged that she rode in an elevator at the Hilton with Bishop Tutu who was the star of the convention. During the ride he wondered out loud who the clever person at the hotel was who assigned him to a room on floor "two-two". Bill Morris concluded at the time that the convention did a lot of good work but that nothing either dreadful or drastic happened. Bishop Brown, in response to the same question, remembered that the Chaplain to the House of Bishops was the Bishop of Edinburgh. During one of his meditations with the House members, he read from Farewell Happy Fields by Kathleen Raine. This was Bishop Brown's introduction to a poet who became one of his favorites.

• • • •

A Personal Recollection

I took a day off from work to see what a General Convention was all about. I planned to wander through the display area and then to walk over to the Saenger Theatre to hear Bishop Tutu speak. It was advertised as an open presentation and I presumed he would talk about efforts to deal with apartheid in South Africa. We were given a "favor" of a cross as we entered. As I remember it was about three inches in length and wooden. I sat in the second balcony and that small man in the purple shirt looked so modest as he was introduced and came on stage.

He opened his mouth and the packed audience of deputies, bishops and interested general public was captured. His passion for equality and peace in South Africa was overwhelming. He called upon each of us to respond as disciples of Christ to support their struggle and to become personally engaged in addressing the discriminations around us.

When he finished speaking, the huge, spotlighted organ (already being played) rose out of the pit, a screen was lowered and the words of a hymn were projected. The audience that was already cheering and clapping stood and in unison began to wave their gift as they sang, "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim".

General Convention 2012



JULY 5 - 12 • INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Deputies, Clergy (in order of election)

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

Deputies, Lay (in order of election)

Mr. John Musser
Mr. Ed Starns (Chair)
Mrs. Ann Ball
Mrs. Jennifer Dalferes

Alternates, Clergy

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

Alternates, Lay

1st - Mrs. Harriet Murrell
2nd - Mr. David Musser
3rd - Mr. Jesse Noble
4th - Mrs. Adelaide Diaz

VISIT

**GENERALCONVENTION.ORG
FOR LIVE UPDATES**

The Quasquicentennial Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women

By Shiela S. MacArthur, Diocesan ECW Communications Chair

The ECW Annual Gathering at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, April 27-28 was a spectacular event as 83 delegates focused on the theme, "125 Years of Joyfully Serving the Lord". (John 15:12-17). Laurel McCartney, Diocesan ECW Vice President, Brenna Perez, ECW President at St. Luke's, the Rev'd Canon David L. Seger, St. Luke's Priest-in-Charge, and a host of St. Luke's ECW ladies graciously welcomed delegates with hospitality and a spirit of celebration.

Friday events included: "Bird Test" by Brookie Allphin, Ph.D., identifying one's interpersonal relationship style; an explanation of Japan's Let Us Walk Together Project by Ann Ball; the process involved in Grace Church, New Orleans closing by Harriet Murrell; and the State of the Diocese by the Right Rev'd Morris K. Thompson. A free-will offering for the Diocese of Tohoku (Japan) netted \$558.00. St. Luke's very talented Praise and Worship Team performed, Evening Prayer was conducted by Canon Seger, and delegates were treated to a fabulous reception at the home of Pat and Andrea Van Burkleo.

Saturday's session began with a continental breakfast provided by St. Luke's ECW, a warm welcome by Laurel McCartney, and devotions by Gloria McKenzie. Past-Presidents were introduced by Laurel McCartney, and Bishop Thompson presented orchids to each one. Highlight events from the Past-Presidents' years of service were recounted. The National ECW President, Marcia Himes, presented an inspirational keynote speech, which included the reading of Diocesan Board member Millie George's poem, "Celebrating 125 Years of ECW Through Poetry". Diocesan ECW President, Barbara Owens, opened the business meeting with an introduction of Diocesan ECW Board members and a brief explanation of their duties. With no nominations from the floor, the slated officers were elected. Business was suspended for the Festival Holy Eucharist with Celebrant Bishop Thompson and homilist Canon David L. Seger and included the Procession of ECW Banners, the UTO Ingathering, and the Installation of Officers. The offering, dedicated to a National ECW Women to Women grant for the Lillian Vallily School in Blackfoot, Idaho, garnered \$571.



Bishop Thompson visits with the past presidents of the ECW at their annual covention at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge.

Following a delicious lunch, delegates heard the interesting history and work of The Seamen's Institute by Fr. Michael Nation. Business resumed with officer reports and the announcing of Triennial delegates, Sharon Edmon, Ellarose Gray, Laurel McCartney, and Judy Weber. Ann Ball recognized the following Honored Women: Mary Katherine Blackburn of St. John's, Thibodaux; Cathy Broussard of Trinity, Morgan City; and Mimi Robb of All Saints, Ponchatoula. 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. Following the conclusion of the business meeting delegates were entertained by an historical play about Episcopal Church Women, "Yet We Persist" by Katerina Katsarka Whitley.

The 125th ECW Annual Gathering was joyous in every way possible, and delegates left with new friends, reconnecting with old friends, and amazement at the persistence and patience of Episcopal Church Women; "We've Come a Long Way, Baby!"

ECW Honored Women

By Ann Ball

During their Annual Gathering, the ECW held its 16th presentation of Honored Women. This year's honorees are: Mary Katherine Blackburn of St. John's, Thibodaux; Cathy Broussard of Trinity, Morgan City; and Mimi Robb of All Saints, Ponchatoula. The women were recognized for their "ministry and service in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mary Katherine Blackburn (not pictured; Judy Weber, at left, accepted the award on her behalf), is a dedicated, lifelong Episcopalian willing to serve whenever and wherever she is needed. Mary Katherine has been a Registered Nurse Manager at Chabert Medical Center since 1978. A tireless parishioner of St. John's, Thibodaux, she has been a member of the vestry as secretary and served seven years as senior warden. She is a member of the Altar Guild and has taught Sunday School. For the past 20 years, she has been a Lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister. She is active with the ECW and assists with the annual English Tea and Lenten Gumbo. She chaired the church's Restoration Committee in 2000 and has served on several search committees. She has been a delegate to diocesan convention and served a term on the diocesan Executive Board. In the local community she served on the board of directors for the Children's Museum, was chapter advisor for a national sorority at Nicholls State University and is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Mary Katherine is a dedicated parishioner and bears witness to her ministries of service both in the church and in her local community.

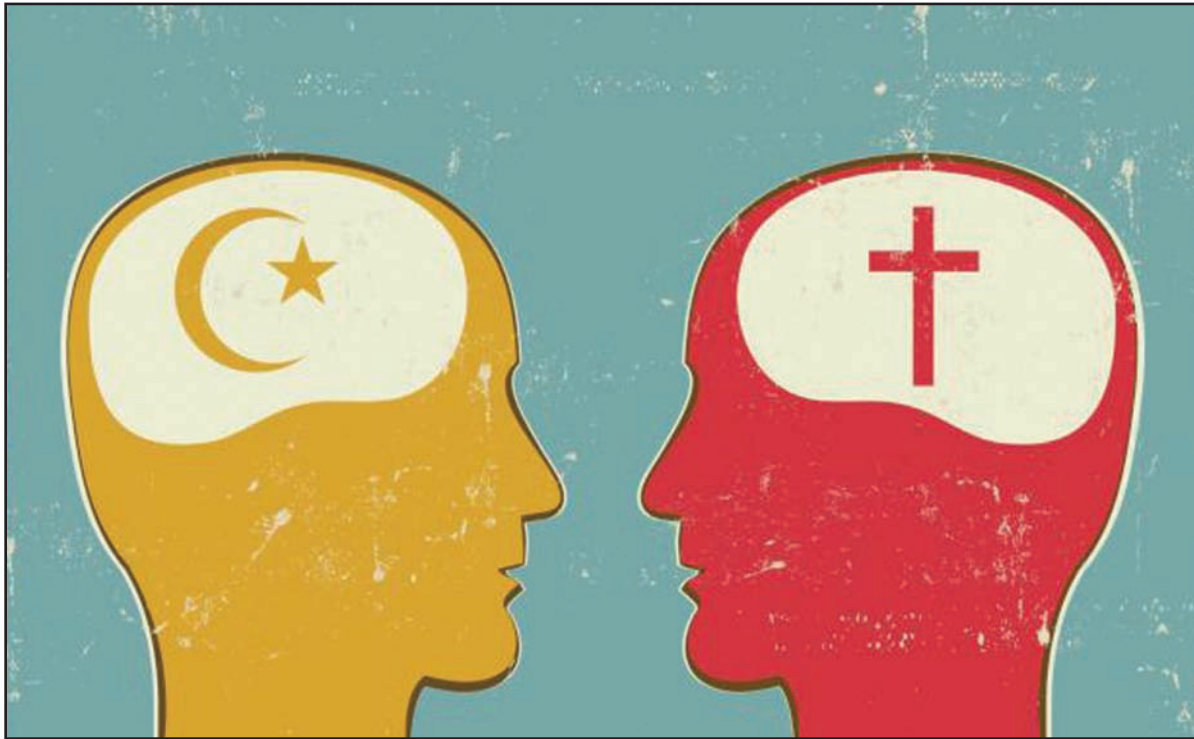


Mimi Robb (center) is a great example of a woman whose actions speak louder than her words. A cradle Episcopalian and a long-time parishioner of All Saints, Ponchatoula, Mimi attended high school and two years of college at All Saints Boarding School in Vicksburg. There she met her husband who would be her supporter throughout her many years of service. They were founding members of St. Timothy's Church in South Haven, Mississippi, now one of the fastest growing churches in Mississippi. It was the beginning of Mimi's leadership skills in the church. She and her husband moved to Ponchatoula 25 years ago and Mimi currently serves as senior warden. She has also been Junior Warden, secretary, and for six years was church treasurer. She has been ECW president, leads the Altar Guild and for many years was in charge of the church's events at Ponchatoula's Strawberry Festival, earning thousands of dollars for All Saints each year. She has organized rummage sales, planned Halloween activities, and spent hours selling pumpkins at the annual pumpkin patch. She was involved with Cursillo, leads the church's prayer chain, is the church historian and, needless to say, the person everyone goes to for anything that needs attention. Medical treatments have taken the "dynamic duo" out of state for the past few months and parishioners are deep in prayer for the return of their mainstay, Mimi Robb.

Cathy Broussard (right) is a long-time parishioner of Trinity, Morgan City. She currently serves as Trinity's ECW president. She is also a member of the Altar Guild and has cared for all the altar linens for many years. On Sundays she can be found singing in Trinity's choir and, in the summer helping with Vacation Bible School. Cathy is the biggest fund raiser for Trinity's ECW. She organizes the White Elephant sales and "A Taste of Trinity" social events. At the ECW's first meeting this year, the women were able to fund a scholarship for a needy child to attend Grace Camp and to provide many "Nets For Life," mosquito nets for children in Africa. Due to Cathy's excellent fund raising abilities, the ECW also was able to: support St. Mary's Outreach, a civil parish endeavor; send money to neighboring St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houma for the rebuilding of their church after a terrible fire; and support the St. Mary civil parish Council on Aging. Additionally, Cathy serves as chairman of the St. Mary Council on Aging. She is also responsible for Trinity's "Giving Tree" project during Advent with proceeds dedicated to the home bound elderly in the area. It is a special gift to be an effective fund raiser. Trinity Church and the community at large are grateful to have Cathy in their midst.

Praying With My Muslim Friends

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



We were at the Turkish Community Center on West Esplanade. Our Muslim host for the evening and I were setting tables and preparing the simple meal we share. I asked him how I could help him. He stopped, turned to me, took my hands in his and said: “Please pray for me, Richard.” I assured him that I would.

We continued with our evening of dialogue which, to me, has become an evening of shared conversation and friendship. There were about 15 Muslim people there - men, women, adolescents and infants — as well as about 12 Christians — men and women. Our Muslim friends always bring their children to our gatherings, which is very delightful. Everyone plays with the kids! Our meals are always Muslim Halal with absolutely fantastic desserts.

Typically we have a presentation that is about an aspect of the Muslim or Christian faith, custom or life. That evening we discussed prayer: how Muslims pray and how Christians pray. We learned that Muslims pray five times a day. That is what Allah expects, so that is what they do. I remember thinking that we Episcopalians have lots of different kinds of prayers; there are many different occasions that we have special prayers or liturgies for. But we don’t pray because God expects us to pray.

Why don’t we? What God asks us to do is for our own good.

I always try to be prayerful in my daily life, but my Muslim friends have helped me to be more intentional at several different times during the day.

As we talked about our own prayer lives at our small tables, one of the Muslim women (the mother of some of the young children) mentioned that prayer in the middle of the night is especially valued because it is so intimately between just oneself and God: no one else even knows that we are praying. That moved me. Now, when I awake in the middle of the night worrying about something, I pray about it instead. I find that praying about it is much more comforting and beneficial. Usually I quickly go back to sleep.

As our host and I said good night, I told him that I would continue to pray for him. It was very satisfying to realize that I had a Muslim prayer partner.

The Muslim-Christian Dialogue group usually meets monthly alternately between Trinity Church, New Orleans and the Turkish Community Center in Metairie. We share a simple meal, conversation, culture, friendship, God’s love and, often, prayer.

It is open to all. We welcome persons of all faiths. For more information, please contact Richard Saxer at saxerarend1@bellsouth.net.

Church of the Nativity Breaks Ground

by Pam Hubbard

On Sunday, March 18, the Church of the Nativity, Rosedale, celebrated a new beginning. In September, 2011, the vestry and communicants committed to build a rectory for our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd Jerry Phillips, who came to serve our congregation in January, 2009, and for future priests and their families.

The site of the rectory is at the corner of Hwy 411 and Park Street and was donated in memory of Dr. Eric L. Major, his wife Mattie Row Major,

and their son Charles E. Major, all of whom were active at Nativity during their lives.

After a procession from the church, the groundbreaking ceremony was celebrated on site by the Rev'd Karen

Gay, president of the Standing Committee. Fr. Phillips spoke on the history of our church, which celebrated its Sesquicentennial anniversary in April, 2009. Special guests who welcomed this new endeavor to the community were Mayor Lawrence "Football" Badeaux of Rosedale, Mayor Mike Chauffe of Grosse Tete and Stephen Fleming from First United Methodist Church in New Roads.



After the final prayer, the vestry participated in the physical groundbreaking and invited anyone who would like to participate to do so. The youth of the church (our future vestry), with their small shovels took part also. Refreshments and fellowship followed in the church hall.

Christwood Holds Atrium Blessing

Christwood Retirement Community in Covington dedicated its newest Independent Living Apartments on February 23 in a blessing ceremony held in the Atrium. Chair of the Christwood Board of Directors, Jim Dombrowski, welcomed Christwood residents and guests and thanked those instrumental in making the Atrium a reality. Bishop Thompson gave the opening greeting and prayed that "God grant to this new Atrium Residence of Christwood Retirement Community the grace of your presence that you may be known to be an inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of all who live here."

Following readings and a hymn by the Christwood Singers, Bishop Thompson addressed the assembly, remarking how pleased he was to be presiding at the blessing. He was present and participated at the groundbreaking for the Atrium and now at the Atrium blessing. It has come full circle. He was also pleased to have been at Christwood, Christ School and Christ Church for the 2011 Convention. This connection was important to him since he was very new to his calling as Bishop. The Bishop then blessed the water, turned and blessed the four corners of the Atrium praying for the residents, guests, those who work at Christwood, and a sense of community.

The Atrium at Christwood is a building of twenty-four one- and two-bedroom apartments surrounding an enclosed atrium. The common space where the blessing was held includes a fireplace and gathering area for reading, cards, or visiting, as well as a café-style dining venue. The Atrium addition brings the total of Independent Living residences on Christwood's 66 acre campus to 161.



Remembering the Rev'd Ralph Byrd

By the Rev'd Richard Easterling, Trinity Day School, New Orleans

An announcement of death is never an easy thing to write, or at least I've never found it to be so. For a Church that lives its life by italicized rubrics, it seems strange to me that there is so little within our Book of Common Prayer and other resources that deals with the bearing of difficult or sad news. And no matter how many times we herald the hard message, it seems impervious to that calm comfort which comes from practice. It feels entirely new each time and there is no ease. Ralph Byrd has died.

In the days that have passed since we lost him I still find the sentence as difficult to voice as I found it shocking initially to hear. Even now, as I begin to prepare my homily for his requiem mass and (hopefully) process this grief in light of the sure and certain hope of resurrection promised us by our Lord, much of what I feel is tinged with a creeping, omnipresent sense of incredulity on the whole matter. How can this have happened?

Ralph and I worked together for a little over two years until we were separated in late August of 2005 by his retirement and Hurricane Katrina (which colluded to make for a memorably difficult time at St. Augustine's). As his curate, he taught me all things necessary to the proper administration of a parish: how to engineer a vestry election, how to get the finance committee to think something was their idea, how to farm things out to a curate, and so on. I treasure these lessons today even if I sat in slack-jawed disbelief at the time. Though I never told Ralph, I will now confess to a visit with the Right Rev'd Charles E. Jenkins, where overthrown by frustration, I exclaimed, "Everything that this man does, I have been told specifically not to do for the last three years while in seminary. And yet, the parish is growing, the people are happy, and our finances are strong!" Ralph relished this incongruity between practical ministry and textbook clericalism, and would often ask me how the enlightened policies espoused by my seminary (now defunct) were playing out. "Oh, that's right, they closed didn't they? I'm sure they did it the right way, though."

More dear than the good education and experience given me as his curate, the thing I shall undoubtedly remember most fondly is our friendship. I don't pretend that it was spotless: Ralph and I are both stunningly obstinate people. But as often as we clashed, we came to terms quickly; and morning staff meetings riven with tension were so often healed by late afternoon phone calls. "Richard, this is your rector. Are you looking at the internet?" "No, your reverence, you know my office doesn't have internet." "Ah, I see. Well, I am looking at YouTube. I shall email you...wait that won't work...I think you ought to come over here and have a look at this." Our mutual admiration for the outrageous and the absurd (which, thank God, the internet never fails to deliver in spades) has continued to bind us these long years since going our separate ways. Up until the last month or so, it had always been a mainstay of our Sunday phone calls where we would disclose the increasingly deranged antics observed in the Church and the World. Those are over now and I will miss laughing with Ralph for a long time to come.

So, what's left then? A season of sadness, perhaps. Ralph stood as a giant among his peers (quite literally in some respects) and it's impossible to take all that he was away and not perceive a void. A son, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a priest of God, a friend: he was all of these and it shall take some time to heal so profound a loss. There will be better and easier days to come, this is the hope our Christian faith requires of us. And I have no doubt that we will see Ralph again, some day. Until then, I suppose I am given to ponder the sublime (if only somewhat absurd) mystery of eternal friendship in the midst of human frailty.



The Bishop's Address continued from page 3.

St. Martin's Church Metairie, St. Michael's Mandeville, St. Anna's New Orleans, Trinity Church New Orleans, St. Augustine's Metairie, St. Andrews New Orleans, Christ School Covington and St. Patrick's Zachary all have plans to build or are in the fund raising phase, or have completed building. The need to expand is essential to their growth. This kind of action spawns when good lay and clerical leadership are working together. Their freedom in God is built upon their love for those with whom they serve and gives them purpose to take risks. St. Matthew's Houma also falls in this category but I will address them later.

Another area of growth is Episcopal Church Service. It is not reflected directly in our budget. ECS has done everything I've asked and more. They are expanding throughout the diocese very nicely. Three Social Workers have been assigned to the outreach ministries of Trinity Church Morgan City, St. Mary's Church Franklin, and St. Andrew's Church Bayou du Large. Next year the Living with Purpose program that has been very successful in New Orleans is expanding to Baton Rouge with the assistance of this parish, St. James'. Nell Bolton, the director of ECS, and her staff are committed to aiding you to identify needs in your community and discern how to best address these concerns in order to be the face of Christ in your community.

The Racial Reconciliation Committee has been meeting all year to explore ways to provide safe places for conversations that help us see the face of God in all people. This is not an easy task. Generations of prejudice on all sides have, out of fear, pushed this conversation to the back of our minds. Admitting our bigotry is complex and yet there is a bit in each of us. Throughout this year, the year of Reconciliation, you will be hearing more from this committee and the culmination will a service of reconciliation at the Cathedral in January of 2013. We are living in a time of great polarization along the lines of race, religion, sexual orientation, politics, and ideologies. If we believe scripture as we say we do, that we are all created in the image of God, I wonder why it is we are so quick to judge God. I am proud of this committee's determination to keep this possibility in front of us.

Next year the Solomon Conference Center will be twenty years old. Under the leadership of Ann Butts and Frank Hall we are preparing a huge celebration. On Sunday April 7, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. we will hold an old fashion Diocesan wide tent revival where we will gather together to worship, sing, give thanks for this wonderful place of ministry and then sit down and break bread together. We might even listen to a little Bluegrass music! For twenty years

the Solomon Conference Center has been a gathering place where people's lives are changed and it's almost a crime that some of us haven't even visited this haven. No excuses now.

Amelia Arthur our new Diocesan Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries is doing a great job. A couple of weeks ago I spoke briefly at a youth event called Happening to over 90 youth at the Solomon Center. I also spoke to the Young Adult group in New Orleans. The setting was a local pub and we spoke about God over a cold one. Only on the job for less than a year, Amelia is creating a stir within our young people and she has their attention.

Along the lines of evangelism the Rev'd Karen Gay has done a stellar job rebuilding the Cursillo community. I attended the closing service for the last Cursillo where there was standing room only at the Solomon Center chapel. The music was up lifting and the testimonials were moving. The evidence that Christ was present that weekend was overwhelming.

These are but a few interests around the diocese where your desire to live in freedom under the love of God is evident. There are others and I urge you to read Church Work, and our weekly news letter on line to witness other amazing stories and ministries. Now lets turn our attention to a few changes that have taken place this past year.

Many of you are aware that in January of this year the congregation of Grace Episcopal Church in New Orleans was suspended. The decision was not easy nor was it made in a vacuum. Since my arrival and even before that, the topic of Grace Episcopal Church has been on the agenda of the Executive Board. Every conceivable plan was discussed, dismissed or executed but at the end of the day the congregation had dwindled to the point they could not sustain a viable mission and on January 5, 2012 the last service was held.

Now, under the tireless leadership of Les Bradfield of Christ Church Cathedral and Mike Taylor of Trinity New Orleans a plan has been created and the implementation will soon be public. As the Chief Pastor of this Diocese, I am very excited about the possibilities because we will be given time and a funding source to be creative with the kind of ministry we would like to see in that community. Every living organism has its beginning and its ending, this is true. There will be, with God's help another beginning.

Jericho Road Housing, which had its beginnings under the Diocese, has been given a new home. Continuing their ministry of providing housing to those who ordinarily would not be able to afford a home, the leadership is now under the helm of Christ Church Cathedral. This makes perfect sense since Jericho Road was the brainchild of Dean David duPlantier. Chris Barry, a lay person from Christ Church Cathedral who was with Jericho Road from its incep-

OUT & ABOUT

tion also plays a significant role in its leadership. This is another example of how creativity and vision of both lay and clerical leaders can see the face of God within the community.

We've spoken about some of the exciting things taking place around the Diocese and some of the changes. Now let us focus on moving forward and what it means to live in community. I have intentionally left out two items that I want to address. One is exciting and one is a change that brings excitement. Earlier when speaking about the churches that are expanding their facilities I mentioned St. Matthew's Houma. Later in this meeting Fr. Craig will give you an update later on how St. Matthew's is progressing with their plans. Here's the change. The BAMA fund, which has historically been the source for outreach, has not been as successful as I believe it could be. It is my responsibility to articulate where those funds are to be directed and I have not done a good job in the past. Now that I have a better understanding I want to share with you how the BAMA fund will be used in the future.

From now on at every Diocesan Convention I will announce where the funds will go and how they will be distributed. First let me say that BAMA will no longer be listed on the operational income side of our budget, which means the \$50-60,000 that was reported in our income will be removed. This will have direct repercussions on the bottom line. (I'll address this later.) The fund will be divided into thirds. A third will go towards missions within our dioceses, a third will go to foreign missions to help build relationships and a third will be reserved for emergencies around the country, like tornados, floods and other catastrophic events. We are all very aware of how generous the world was to Louisiana when tragedy struck and now we will have a way to respond in-kind. Which leads me to this year. Terri Koehler who has chaired Partners in Missions for several years resigned when she and Brien moved to Texas. I have named the Rev'd Sharon Alexander to be the new chair. Because of this recent assignment we have not met to discuss where the one-third foreign mission funding will go this year. I can assure you that very quickly the committee will meet and make recommendations. However, the third that will stay within our diocese will go to St. Matthew's Houma. I made this decision based on one fact and one fact only. St. Matthew's is not St. Matthew's church alone. It is ours, yours and mine. If we want to live more deeply in community we must begin to see ourselves as one community. By our giving we are saying that their concerns are our concerns. In the years to come I want to hear from you where you believe we need to connect both within the Diocese and outside. Partners in Mission and ECS will work together and take your recommendations into consideration and make recommendations in the future.

Now lets go back to the issue of taking BAMA out of the operating budget. When this came up in a meeting I was afraid the thought would be too overwhelming for some to adopt. The idea of taking \$50 to \$60 thousand dollars out of an already deficit budget seemed a bit insane. I had to personally fan Canon Stevenson for most of the morning. (I'm only kidding) Last year the convention asked the Diocese to study the way we assess congregational giving. When Ed Starns and I began to look into this matter we were astounded at what we discovered. A little background may be helpful. Every congregation must give 5% of their total operational income. Then there is a 3 to 8% asking, which means for some congregations a suggestion, which goes towards programs. So, according to the size of the congregation the total would range roughly from 8% to 13%. This happens to be the lowest in Provence IV. When Ed and I asked Canon Stephens to find out the amount we were not receiving from congregations I was amazed. According to the formula of 8% to 13%, we are in a deficit of \$425,000.00.

However, if we were to receive the full 100% from all congregations, we would be in a financial position to reach fabulous goals. Let me give you just two scenarios of what that might look like. Scenario number one: we could fully fund ECS, pay for youth ministers in every Deanery and give money to the Solomon Center for the youth camp. Scenario number two: we could give \$100,000 to St. Matthew's Houma, put two full-time clergy in congregations that can't afford one, and hire a college chaplain for Southern University. Pretty staggering isn't it?

I often hear this comment: "Bishop, what do we get for our money sent to the Diocese?" It's the wrong question but I'll tell you anyway. Go ask Fr. Drew Rollins, Chaplain at LSU. Go ask Mother Julianna Gray, Chaplain at Tulane. If you have ever asked me or Canon Stevenson to visit and help you with finding a rector, or vestry training, or called our offices to find answers to questions concerning legal or property issues, that's what you're getting. Your diocesan staff is a resource that is ready to answer all your questions and if we don't know the answer, chances are we know where to go to find them. But as I said, that is the wrong question. The question to be asking is how can we begin to live more fully into being community? When we choose not to give our fair share it isn't the diocesan offices that are affected it is all of us. When a congregation makes a decision not to give their full fair share they are saying their needs are more important than the rest of the diocese. It is living out of fear rather than abundance. My friends, we were called to freedom. Freedom is not filled with fear and self-interest. Freedom is fully believing that in the knowledge that God loves us, we are free to live for others or as St. Paul writes, through love be slaves to one another.

I am asking that within the next three year all congregations work towards paying 100% of their full fair share. It is a goal that I believe can be reached especially when we live into our Freedom for one another.

I haven't spoken about General Convention coming this summer partially because I don't really know what to say about it. Resolutions have not yet been released, and topics are yet known. In many ways to work ourselves into a frenzy would be an unwise use of energy. We all know in a vague way some of the issues, sexuality, money and more resolutions than one army can remember. Whatever takes place, most of the really important issues will never reach the papers back home. For instance the five marks of mission which I believe were the best work done at the last General Convention never made the papers. Do you know what they are? To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; To teach, baptize and nurture new believers; To respond to human need by loving service; To seek to transform unjust structures of society; To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. These were powerful edicts with which we were charged to live but the press and a few others led you to believe that the real issues were about sexuality and who's in or out of the Anglican community. These are important issues of our time but I have pretty much hung my hat on the fact that the creeds are what

hold us together and the call to proclaim the Good News that God is love and that Jesus' mission was to remind us that we have forgotten that message. If we are living the five marks of mission then who's in or out will not be of significance. We will be too busy doing the work God has called us to do. The only thing I know for sure is that all our deputies including me will need your prayers. The days are long and we will be held captive by the same few people who want to speak to every issue truly believing what they have to say will be quoted in every news paper in the U.S. But at the end of the day as we look around the convention floor we realize that every person in that room, even those who can't stay away from the microphone are just like we are, broken children of God in need of saving and we are doing the best we can. We aren't perfect but we are called to love one another as Christ has loved our selfish, judgmental selves.

I began by telling you that being your Bishop this past year has been my delight and it truly has. You will never know the depths of my love for you and how important your presence is to fulfilling our mission. The work that is accomplished is because you want to be faithful and obedient to God's call.

Brothers and Sisters, we are all called to freedom in Christ. Believe it and take that message into the world. Amen.



On Sunday, April 22nd, youth and young adults from all around the diocese gathered at the SECC for a day of Stewardship to celebrate Earth Day. About 25 people, including Bishop Thompson, young adults from the Episcopal Service Corps Living With Purpose Program, and various youth groups, worked on clearing and replanting large raised beds.

Trails were cleared and bushes and greenery were trimmed all around the grounds — including new landscaping around the pool. Frank Hall, Director of the Solomon Center, is hopeful that the day of stewardship will become an annual event. The day was sponsored by the office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Diocesan Youth Leadership Committee.

Episcopalians and United Methodists to Inaugurate Eucharistic Sharing

By the Rev'd Dan Krutz, Louisiana Interchurch Conference

Many Episcopalians have friends and relatives in the congregations of the United Methodist Church in their local communities, and now our two churches are providing opportunities to worship together as a part of a process that, hopefully, one day will lead to a greater sense of unity in worship, mission and common witness.

An inaugural service to implement Eucharistic Sharing between the United Methodist Church in Louisiana and the Episcopal Diocese is scheduled to take place before the fall. Bishop Thompson is to celebrate, and Bishop William Hutchinson of the UMC in Louisiana is to preach and join Bishop Thompson in presiding.

Those familiar with church history may recall that "Methodism" grew out of a revival movement within the Church of England in the 18th century. Brothers John and Charles Wesley were Church of England missionaries to the American colony of Georgia in 1736. The movement ultimately began a denomination independent of the Church of England after the American Revolution, as did the Episcopal Church. The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 as a result of prior mergers and is the largest member of the family of Methodism in the United States.

The Episcopal Church has been in a formal bilateral dialogue with the United Methodist Church since 2002, and since the 1960s both churches were members of the Consultation on Church Union later known as Churches Uniting in Christ. Conversations with this larger family of Churches in the United States led to the formation of a formal bilateral dialogue between the United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church.

The 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which met in June 2006, approved a relationship known as Interim Eucharistic Sharing with the United Methodist Church. Interim Eucharistic Sharing is a time for the two churches to begin to live in relationship with one another while still continuing to work on issues on which consensus has not been reached.

"Make us One in Christ," is a process guide for members of Episcopal and Methodist congregations to study together while living into the period of Interim Eucharistic Sharing. This guide also has guidelines for sharing worship together. Our diocese and our sister diocese of Western Louisiana have held joint clergy conferences with the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Other dioceses of the Episcopal Church have joined with United Methodist Conferences around the country to inaugurate Interim Eucharistic Sharing.

Details on when the Eucharistic Sharing will commence are coming soon. Please join us!

Note: Some material taken from article in Episcopal News Service.

Seminar on the Desert Sayings



Dr. Roberta Bondi, retired professor from Candler Theological Seminary, Emory University, and author of *To Love as God Loves: Conversations with the Early Church, To Pray and to Love*, and numerous other books and articles on the Desert Fathers and Mothers, presents "Finding Spiritual Guidance from the Desert Sayings".

The Desert Fathers and Mothers were hermits, ascetics, and monks who lived mainly in the Scetes desert of Egypt beginning around the third century AD. The most well known was Anthony the Great, who moved to the desert in 270–271 and became known as both the father and founder of desert monasticism. The Desert Fathers and Mothers had a major influence on the development of Christianity.

The seminar is sponsored by the School for Contemplative Living (thescl.net) in New Orleans and **will take place September 28th and 29th at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, New Orleans**. The cost is \$60 — please make checks to Parker United Methodist Church, with "SCL" on memo line.

For more information, please contact Dr. William Thiele, spiritual director, at 504.899.3431 or william.thiele56@gmail.com.

The Prison Ministry of Deacon Obier

By the Rev'd William Barnwell

*As part of a book I am writing, **Anointed to Heal the Broken-Hearted: Stories from Kairos Prison Ministry in Louisiana**, I asked Cindy Obier to talk about her ministry at Angola, where she has led the **Disciples of Christ in Community program (DOCC)** for the last ten years; her seven-year ministry through Kairos at St. Gabriel's; and her three years of serving as the spiritual advisor for one of the two women on Death Row at St. Gabriel's. (Angola is the largest prison in the nation, St. Gabriel's is the state penitentiary for women.)*

HERE IS SOME OF WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT DOCC:

We started DOCC with just 12 guys, to be sure of what we were doing. We have outside facilitators and meet twice a month. Audis Thornton [a lay person from Baton Rouge] joined a little later as the co-leader, after we'd begun. There were four or five outside facilitators. One of the facilitators was a person who lived in prison.

My most meaningful observation about DOCC was how the guys learned to function in a group. The DOCC way of evangelism, of discipleship, is to be able to tell your own story. To verbalize what Christ has done for you in your life. The residents first had to learn to talk to each other about God and theology without there having to be a winner of the conversation or a loser. They're very used to having somebody who runs the group and who makes the final say about who's right and who's wrong.

Over many years the guys have settled into such a comfortable group. But there were times in that first year when there would be arguments over baptism and confirmation and the Trinity that became real arguments, where people would get in each others' face: "Well, you're wrong..." "No, you are wrong," and so forth. That's when the "I-statement" way of speaking in DOCC became so effective. We all learned to be able to express our opinions, our theology—lay it out there on the table. Nobody gets to take it off the table; it will just sit there and nobody gets to decide whether what you said is right or wrong.

WHEN I ASKED CINDY ABOUT RACE RELATIONS IN DOCC, SHE SAID THIS:

Everyone is invited to the party. In DOCC anybody who wants to be part of DOCC can be included. There was a time once when a white fellow was in a small group where the other participants were all black. When he got in the group, he looks around and says, "Look y'all, I don't know whether this is going to work. I just gotta tell ya I'm a racist. I'm not sure this is what I want to do—to be sitting here with you." It was really funny: the black guys smiled at each other, real laid-back, easy-going. They'd been in a DOCC group for a long time. The white guy was a racist but he was their racist. Now, this fellow, he would tell you that DOCC has changed his life inside and out. He's a totally different person from the person I first met.

They made him feel welcome. It was a Christian gathering. The guys have developed in DOCC a definition of unconditional love. In a prison it's hard to say, "I'm going to love this guy unconditionally" when his behavior really hasn't changed. So what we decided as a group was to take a whiteboard and write a description of every kind of person that we could think of: their professions, their relations to each other, their personality characteristics, their good points, their bad points. We completely filled the board. Then we drew a big circle around everything we had written—the good, bad, the unimportant, the

irrelevant, the important. And we said that unconditional love is that everybody gets to stay inside that circle. You can't kick out somebody, no matter what their behavior is, whether you like them or you don't like them—they are a part of our congregation. If they want to step inside the circle, they don't ever get kicked out.



continued on next page

HERE IS SOME OF WHAT CINDY SAID WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT HER KAIROS WORK AT ST. GABRIEL'S. KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL SERVES 321 PRISONS IN OUR NATION, INCLUDING 5 PRISONS IN LOUISIANA AND IN 9 OTHER COUNTRIES.

I have now been on seven Kairos weekends there. I've served in many different capacities. During those weekends, I met people in prison who were really children. There was one very young teenager who was pregnant when she was locked up. She was sentenced to life. So, when she came to Kairos she was seven months pregnant. We knew she would live a life apart from her child and we held her in our arms. I met another little girl at St. Gabriel's who had given birth to a baby on a sidewalk in a housing project. No one even thought to help her until someone drove by and called 911. I met women who'd been members of gangs, women who'd been abused. Nearly every one of the people I met had been abused—perhaps 90 percent had been victims of some kind of abuse. Maybe ten percent were women who'd had privileged lives and had somehow made really bad decisions and ended up in prison. There were a great number of women who'd never known any other life than one that would lead them to prison.

One young woman, her mother was a prostitute. When she grew up to an age that was attractive to men, her mother sold her services to get money for drugs. That child—when I look at my life...my parents raised me in a church. I had every privilege you could imagine. This little girl never knew any life other than prostitution in the street and drugs. . . .

It's interesting: the women are not allowed to touch each other on campus. When outsiders come in, we in Kairos are not allowed to hug them or touch them unless we are in a facility where Kairos takes place. Then you can hug and hold or whatever. Shake hands. When they come to the chapel for the Wednesday night Prayer-and-Share, it's an opportunity to have just normal physical touch and affection from a sister. That's important. Once the women buy in to a program like Kairos, they are very open and vulnerable telling of the things they've gone through in life. Men at Angola will trust you to some degree as they know you over time. But the women will trust more easily and share more readily.

HERE IS WHAT CINDY SAID ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH BRANDY H., ONE OF THE TWO WOMEN ON DEATH ROW AT ST. GABRIEL. (CINDY HAS BEEN HER SPIRITUAL ADVISOR FOR THREE YEARS.):

Brandy has Fetal Alcohol Syndrome because her mother drank heavily during her pregnancy. So, she was born with a disability that hinders her ability to make good decisions. She's done horrible, monstrous things. Brandy would tell you that that's true—horrible things, with disastrous consequences.

But I think there is in everyone that essence of Jesus, our Lord. I have to refer to a movie I saw a long time ago about

this horrible man who tortured people and all. A psychologist was able to enter his mind and find that child that lived within him that no one could see. I believe that if you speak to that innocent child, most of the time that "child" will respond to you. Brandy has that innocent child. I believe that she loves me. I believe that our relationship has grown. We've been reading the Gospel of Mark for three years. We'll read just one chapter, or perhaps a couple of sentences. And we'll talk about what's happening in the story. Inevitably each time it will trigger something in Brandy's memory of her life. She'll talk about something in her life that relates to the Gospel According to Mark. It's been a lot of fun to read the Bible with someone who is exploring its meaning for the first time. She asks me a lot of questions that I've never thought about or tried to answer. We definitely try to minister to each other.

Deacon Charles deGravelles [of our diocese] warned me about this ministry. He was the spiritual advisor to Feltus Taylor, who was executed in 2000. He warned me not to forget that this person is on Death Row and could die. He said I needed to be ready for that. It's really hard—I think my mind won't let in the possibility of her actually being executed. I pray constantly that there will be an overturning of the death penalty, or that Fetal Alcohol Syndrome will be considered a mitigating circumstance in capital cases, and a reason for her sentence to be commuted to life in prison. I pray for that. I just stay there in my prayers.

If we could take all of those people who want to put offenders in jail and throw away the key to visit prisons that would change a lot of minds about those who are locked up. We can't do that, but what we can do is pass on the stories that you and others tell.

I'm grateful to God for the gifts He's given me. I do feel for the victims of the horrible crimes that were committed. And I pray for them—no one can understand exactly what their feelings are. I know some people aren't pleased that some of the guys change their lives and are redeemed. Because it's hard if you've lost somebody to know that the person who killed your loved one is now living a joy-filled life under Christ—it's hard. I guess what I would want people to know is that those guys and those women prisoners—they are never unaware of the consequences of what they've done. And they will always feel terrible about it.

That's important. That's who they are. We're redeemed, but we're redeemed with our good side and our negative side. We need to claim the whole picture. Thank you so much, Cindy Obier.

You may read the whole transcript of Cindy's wonderful story on the Prison Ministry page at edola.org/ministries.

Successful Year for Tulane Campus Ministry

By the Rev'd Giulianna Cappelletti Gray, Chaplain to Tulane and Loyola Universities

"I don't know what I would have done without a community like the Chapel of the Holy Spirit these past four years!", Laura, a graduating senior, explained as she reflected upon the last four years of her life at Tulane University. Laura said the Chapel of the Holy Spirit has given her a spiritual home, a place where she has found sanctuary from some of the negative aspects of residential college life, a place where she could simply be herself, and a place where she has experienced the peace of God. While Tulane University has extraordinary faculty and resources for learning, no one would describe Tulane as being a particularly spiritual place. The university counts on the independent religious life centers and organizations such as the Episcopal Chapel of the Holy Spirit to provide for the spiritual needs of students. For this reason, we diligently strive to offer the students something unique: a place where they can grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord, a place where they can grow spiritually, and a safe place where they can integrate their learning with their faith.

We are grateful for the Diocesan support that helps to make this possible. With joy, I write today to update you about some of the things that have been happening at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit this year and to tell you some about our vision for the future.

Worship is at the center of our life together. You can almost audibly hear a sigh of relief when the familiar phrase "Almighty God, to you all hearts are open" begins our Sunday evening Eucharist. The pressures to succeed, to be busy all the time, and to dress certain ways are hushed. We hear and respond to the Word, we break bread together, and we then share a home-cooked meal (which, students often remind me, is the best meal they have all week).

One thing that contributed to our worship this year was having seven voice students from Tulane University perform service learning at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. The praises that these students have offered through their song has been a great gift to us, and our rich Anglican musical tradition has been a gift to these young adults. Their preludes readied our hearts and minds for worship, and their leadership in singing the psalter got us more excited about singing this ancient liturgy of the church together.

Once our students have been fed spiritually and cared for, we encourage them to give to the needs of the world. While we do service projects periodically, our primary ministry this year has been to the Church of All Souls. While remaining in the same city, the group leaves one world and enters another two times per week when a group travels from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Uptown New Orleans to the Church of All Souls in the Lower Ninth Ward to provide tutoring. This time is one of challenge and joy for both the children and their tutors! Playfulness reigns, patience is tested, and relationships of care are formed across the typical boundaries of race and socioeconomic class.

Service work happens regularly and during special times as well. This year, we hosted an alternative spring break whereby students stayed in New Orleans, took public buses to service projects in town, and reflected together about the experience. Additionally, a small group will go to the Good Shepherd Mission in Navajoland at the close of classes.

A new offering this year has been having monthly senior lunches. Graduating students have unique stresses, and this time has been an opportunity to gather together, to share the joys and the challenges, and to encourage one another.

The needs of students change quickly, so we are open to making changes in the way we do things at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit from year to year. For the last few years, we have used the small house adjacent to the Chapel for volunteer housing and housing for a young adult campus ministry intern. Next year, we've decided to return to having more of a peer ministry-based model for our campus ministry. Students will live in the Chapel House, which we plan to name "Canterbury House," and the house will be repurposed to become another base for student gatherings. We are looking forward to the evangelistic opportunities that the model will bring us!



Graduating seniors and the Rev'd Gray (at right), on a trip to Audubon Zoo.

St. Matthew's, Houma Dedicates New Organ to Roland Champagne

by Jo Anne G. Plessala



October 30, 2011, marked another spiritual highlight in the life of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church when Roland J. Champagne was once again recognized for his years of loyal and dedicated service to St. Matthew's. At a service held at Grace Lutheran Church, the new church organ was dedicated in honor of Mr. Champagne, a beloved member of the church, who was there with his children, daughter Carol Percy and sons Barry and Carl, to accept it.

In March of 1950, Mr. Champagne established a Permanent Building Fund for St. Matthew's. An excerpt from his letter pertaining to the Fund reads: "Having lived through the devastating hurricane of August 25, 1926, when the steeple and the front of the church fell onto Barrow Street, I thought how great it would be if the church had a fund to supplement insurance if it, being a frame building, ever suffered a loss from fire or another hurricane." Throughout the years since then, Mr. Champagne made regular contributions to the Permanent Building Fund, and the fund had grown considerably.

Sadly, on November 11, 2010, St. Matthew's beautiful church burned to the ground, and the newly restored pipe organ burned with it. Recently, when the opportunity to purchase a special organ came along, Mr. Champagne was consulted about using the Building Fund to pay for the organ, and he approved using it for this purpose.

So in October the Allen organ was dedicated in honor of Mr. Champagne. The framed inscription quoted below, which will appear on a plaque near the organ when the new church has been completed, was read and delivered to Mr. Champagne by our Rector, the Rev'd Craig Dalferes:

*Organ Dedication
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
October 30, 2011*

*On this day we, the people of St. Matthew's did dedicate this organ
to the glory of God and in honor of Roland J. Champagne, in thanksgiving
for almost a century of loyal and dedicated service to St. Matthew's
where he has served faithfully as Lector, Treasurer, Vestryman,
Chorister and Eucharistic Minister.*

As part of the dedication service, the following prayer was offered: "Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this organ to your praise and glory, and in honor of Roland Champagne. Bless Roland richly, we pray, even as he has been such a blessing to St. Matthew's. May this instrument ever be a reminder to us of the beauty of a life lived faithfully and honorably in your name. Give us grace to make our lives an offering and a song for you. Accept this organ for the worship of your temple, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

During the elaborate reception which followed the service and the dedication of the organ, Gail Duhe', who is president of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Matthew's, presented Roland with a beautiful blanket, which has a picture of St. Matthew's Church on it. She read the following: "Roland, this gift is a token of our appreciation for the countless things you have shared with us over the years. Although you are living away from us, there are ties that bind us all together, bonds that time and distance cannot break. You have been a very special person in our lives, and you and Marian will always have our love and best wishes. May the blessings of God be with you always."

There are things that few people know about Mr. Champagne. Those of us who worked side by side with him for many years at Citizens National Bank and Trust Company (later to become First National Bank of Houma) came to know what an amazing and gentle man he is, serving the church, the bank and the community with honor, dignity, and integrity.

He attended Lorton Preparatory School, a prestigious school in Houma that was run by the Winder sisters who prepared students for Harvard and other well-known universities. He graduated from Lorton during the depression years and immediately went to work to help support his mother and sister.

Throughout his life, Mr. Champagne was dedicated and self-motivated and accomplished whatever he set out to do. He taught himself to play the piano, and he has composed the melody for poems he loved and has written the words and music for certain groups such as the YMCA. He is an accomplished "pen and ink" artist and has shared beautiful renditions of "St. Andrew's Cathedral" and "Parke Memorial Chapel/St. Andrew's Cathedral" in Honolulu, Hawaii, which he created in 1945.

During his years as a parishioner of St. Matthew's, Mr. Champagne (now 97 years old) has given unselfishly of his time, talent, and energy for almost a century. For this we are grateful. His individual contributions to our church and the congregation have been immeasurable, and we have all been beneficiaries of so many of the good things he has done. As stated before, "Roland has been an inspiration to all of us at St. Matthew's, and our wish for him is that he continue to enjoy good health and happiness in the coming years."



On opposite page:
Roland Champagne and Jennifer Dalferes seated at the organ with the Rev'd Craig Dalferes and Duane Ring looking on.

At left:
Fr. Dalferes shows Roland a set of plans for the new church.

Visit
rebuildstmatts.com
for updates on the rebuilding of St. Matthew's!

Mapping the Outreach Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Asset mapping empowers and gives voice to those in your communities. It is a process of identifying how the gifts of the people, buildings, land, and ministries are utilized to improve the quality of life of our neighbors in need. Through a grant from Episcopal Relief and Development, ECSLA is creating an Asset Map of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana to show how our churches are ministering to the poor, feeding the hungry, addressing the social justice issues of our society, and responding to disasters. This online map will be launched in fall 2012 — with Louisiana leading the way as the first Diocese in the country to have such a map! The work we have been doing in our communities has been recognized by Episcopal Relief and Development, which chose our Diocese to pilot this national effort.

How can the Asset Map be used?

- 1) As an inspiration and guide for new ministry development
- 2) As a tool to determine the direction and growth of existing ministries.
- 3) Should disaster strike, as a method for sharing successful strategies to help communities through times of stress.

How will the Asset Map work?

- 1) The map will use technology similar to Google Maps to show the location of our outreach ministries. We can link to census data so you can see where the needs are in your community. During times of disaster, we can see the status of our churches, and use the map as a resource to organize volunteers and donations.
- 2) Churches will also have the opportunity to share the stories of their ministries. Map users can click through to videos, photos, and narratives explaining what they do, why, and how. This project is all about sharing our strengths, sharing our successes and helping each other along the way.
- 3) Also included in the map will be a series of “How-to Guides” to give practical advice as a tool for ministry development. Sharing our knowledge is critical in helping our brothers and sisters across south Louisiana to find their own voice and strengths. If you are inspired by the work being conducted around the Diocese and feel the call to start a similar ministry, you will have a valuable resource to turn to in the early stages of planning.

Check back with ecsla.org in the fall to explore this exciting new tool!

Filling Volunteers with the Spirit of Service and Wonder of Transformation

ECSLA is proud to offer visiting mission teams a new companion guide of readings, reflections, stories and prayers. Organized around the theme of “right relationships,” the curriculum was designed to facilitate a deeper encounter by volunteer groups with social issues, with one another, and with God during their service trip in Louisiana. The guide includes formats for two pre-trip preparatory sessions, as well as worship and discussion sessions each morning and evening of a five-day, six-night mission trip. Daily themes such as education, housing, and environment mirror the groups’ hands-on service opportuni-

ties, and provide a window for exploring faithful responses to challenging issues here and at home.

Introduced in May, the guide bolsters the four pillars of the ECSLA Volunteer Program, which seeks to enable a transformative service-learning experience moving from charity to solidarity, and recognizing Christ in those we serve and in one another. These pillars include: Education, Service, Reflection, and Continuing Action. The companion guide provides a framework for groups to reflect on the raw material of their service experience, and in that space listen together for God’s call towards more

life-giving, whole, and holy ways of being in this world.

For more information about the ECSLA Volunteer Program, contact Pete Nunnally, pnunnally@ecsla.org



Gaudet Community Grants Awarded

by Pamela Marquis, MSW

Frances Joseph Gaudet, a distinguished and inspirational leader, understood that education was an essential key to fighting poverty and crime. Born in Mississippi of African-American and Native American heritage, Gaudet was familiar with the many injustices that surrounded her, and she dedicated her life to prison reform, juvenile justice and education. Her unwavering commitment to those who are set to the side by our culture is an enduring part of her legacy.

Mrs. Gaudet graciously left her trust to the Episcopal Church, and ECSLA now administers the funds for the Gaudet Scholarship Program, as well as for other programs benefiting underserved children and families. In this way her mission continues to find contemporary ways to serve youth with programs that enrich and educate.

"Gaudet grants, which are designed to provide educational enrichment for African American children, are a great tool for our parishes to supplement their outreach," LaVondra Hallman Dobbs, Gaudet Fund chair says. "Several of our parishes such as St. Anna's, St. Michael's & All Angels, Mt. Olivet, Christ Church Covington, and All Soul's offer creative, engaging and much-needed programs in their communities."

This year's recipients of the Frances Joseph Gaudet Fund represent diverse organizations that are doing exemplary work throughout the diocese: everything from homework assistance and tutoring to summer camps and pre-schools. From Algiers to Baton Rouge and Point Coupee to New Orleans, the impact of these programs will be substantial. Besides the nuts and bolts of bolstering academic achievement, many of these program also offer opportunities for youth to discover art, music, creative writing and dance. These programs share many things in common: they foster academic education, creativity, health and spiritual growth, and most importantly, they would make Mrs. Gaudet proud that her youth are still being loved, nurtured and educated.



2012 Community Grants

- St. Anna's Arts for Kids: \$5000 to a year-long program at St. Anna's, New Orleans providing homework assistance, academic drills, reading comprehension, LEAP preparation and language development. Serves Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.
- St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church Preschool Program: \$5,00 to a preschool program for low income families living in the Scotlandville community of East Baton Rouge Parish.
- Arts Council of Pointe Coupee Parish: \$4,000 for classes in life skills, art, music, creative writing and dance.
- Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program: \$5,000 for a 5 week all day summer program for children living in poverty to review skills taught during the school year and integrated enrichment activities. Serves St. Tammany Parish.
- CARITAS: \$5,000 to a program providing early learning classes and interpersonal skills for economically disadvantaged children aged 2-4 as well as a Summer Experience program for at-risk girls, aged 6-15.
- All Souls Episcopal Church & Community Center: \$6,000 to provide homework assistance and remedial tutoring, 4 afternoons a week. Serves St. Bernard and Orleans Parishes.
- Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church: \$4,000 for educational and art opportunities for African American children in the Algiers area. Serves Orleans Parish.
- Gardere Community Christian School: \$6,000 to allow expansion to the after school tutoring program that was established 2 years ago. Serves East Baton Rouge Parish.

Building Leadership Teams To Strengthen Parish-Based Disaster Response

By Stephanie Mabou, VISTA Volunter for Disaster Prep & Response

ECSLA is building leadership teams to strengthen parish-based disaster response capacity in the Diocese of Louisiana. Parish-based preparedness and planning allows us to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. Through pre-event planning, parishes can work together to help reduce injuries, loss of lives, and property damage. Parish-based preparedness can enhance the ability of individuals and neighborhoods to reduce their emergency needs and to manage their existing resources until assistance becomes available.

Studies of behavior following disasters have shown that groups working together in the disaster period perform more effectively if there has been prior planning for disaster response. These studies show that organized grassroots efforts may be more successful if they are woven into the social and political fabric of the community and places of worship.

Step 1: Build a Team

Forming a Disaster Leadership team for your parish is one of the best ways to ensure that your church and congregation are properly prepared and to see that all those carefully laid plans are realized during the typically chaotic time after a disaster strikes. Trusting these roles and responsibilities to willing parishioners who have offered up their time and talents to this essential ministry also frees up the rector to devote more time and energy to where he or she is needed most in the wake of a cataclysmic event—in the spiritual and pastoral care of a vulnerable congregation.

What sort of roles will the team fulfill?

- Authoring and executing church planning and preparedness
- Helping to educate the congregation about the church's role in preparation and response
- Participating in ministries that foster church and community resilience

Step Two: Make a Plan

Disaster planning isn't just about hurricanes! Do you know what your church would do in case of a fire, flood, or other local emergency? Having a plan ensures that your staff and assets are protected. Planning for disaster may include:

- Staff evacuation and other safety precautions
- Keeping an up to date inventory of the church's assets
- The church's role in response and serving the greater community
- Resuming Sunday morning services as soon as possible
- Establishing a working communications network
- Care of archives and records and many other considerations, at the discretion of the rector and the Disaster Leadership Team.

Planning can sometimes seem overwhelming! A diocesan representative is available to facilitate our church's planning and to assist with its implementation. Plan templates are available through Episcopal Relief and Development (<http://www.er-d.org/resourcelibrary>). The plans are very thorough and highly customizable to suit your individual church's needs.

Step Three: Developing Resilience: The Foundation of Preparedness and Response

Resilience is a measure of how well a community is able to recover from a disastrous incident. More than planning, preparedness, and response, it's an intrinsic quality of healthy communities that sustains them during the grueling days after an event and fuels their recovery, often allowing them to come back stronger and more tightly knit than ever before.

In keeping with our mission to Build the Beloved Community, it is ECSLA's earnest hope that we may expand the preparedness of the churches in our diocese to include service to the community at large, and thereby to increase our resiliency and ability to respond. We are excited for the many occasions for outreach that this initiative will afford us through the development of ministries among our own churches.

Humanizing Hunger: You Can't Ignore Injustice When It's Standing In Your Kitchen

by Caroline Hauser, Living With Purpose Fellow '11 -'12

I lived off-campus when I was a junior in college. One day, I came home to find a man cooking in my kitchen. With five roommates, it wasn't unusual to see a stranger in my home, but this guy was quite a bit older than the usual friends- of-roommates. When I asked who he was, he told me he was contracted there to paint the house. I asked him for identification. He had no business card, no ID, and no painting supplies. I called the police and they picked him up about an hour later, just a few blocks away from my house. He was arrested and put in jail. I was subpoenaed to attend his hearing and, it turned out he'd just gotten out of jail two days prior to the break-in. When asked why he did it, he said, "I was hungry." Growing up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, I had never lived in a place with extreme poverty. State College, Pennsylvania, the hometown of Penn State University, was ranked "Safest City in America" in a 2009 report from the Congressional Quarterly. (Needless to say, my move to New Orleans was both shock and awe-inducing.)

The man who broke in, David, was a war veteran. He had a history of crime, most of it involving food—thrift at grocery stores, dining and ditching at restaurants, and, now, breaking and entering at the PSU women's rugby house. He also had a history of mental illness. I lived in a house of 6 college-aged girls. He could have taken laptops, iPods, jewelry and credit cards, but all that he took was a chicken breast, a pork chop and a can of soup. (Side note: He never was able to eat this meal because I caught him in the middle of cooking. Clearly this is the edited version, if you'd like to hear all the absurd details, contact me, we'll go to lunch.)

Curious about this man's past, I did a Google search on his name. I found out his father was arrested on multiple counts of abuse, as well as various drug-related crimes.

I almost felt guilty for calling the police on David. When I'd share this feeling with others, they'd say, "At least he's getting fed in jail." When I found him, he seemed more afraid than I was. Knowing his background story, I can understand why. He was released from prison and given nothing. How, as a society, can we expect anything else from him other than to steal again in order to eat? With his background, it'd be difficult for him to get a job or to go back to school.

Three years later, I am an Episcopal Service Corps intern at Trinity Church, coordinating their Loaves and Fishes feeding ministry. The program feeds volunteer relief workers, low-in-



come community residents, and homeless people throughout New Orleans.

Without the Episcopal Service Corps program, I never would have had the opportunities I've had this year to assimilate into such a diverse group of people, many of them having much in common with David, to provide them with a meal and a sense of humanity. There is no defining moment I can point to that helped me to decide I wanted to work towards social justice, but my experience with David definitely had influence on the decision. I was aware of homelessness and hunger, but his breaking and entering into my life humanized the issues for me in ways that I never could have imagined.

There are times when I become frustrated with my job, but the moment I feel like I'm not making a difference, something happens to remind me why I go to work every day. I feel so blessed to be able to, no matter what issues of injustice we may be facing as a society, reach across lines of race, class, poverty, education, and provide something as simple as a meal and a smile to one of God's children.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. — Matthew 25:35-36

Above: Caroline, in blue, at work.

Jericho Road Recognized By the NDF

Jericho Road is recognized by respected non-profit, Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF). NDF hosts an annual house party gala and this year announced Jericho Road as the recipient of their Development Award. The Development Award honors a business or organization that has completed a new real estate development or adaptive use project that has delivered tangible benefits for the neighborhood, such as greater employment opportunities, neighborhood revitalization and economic or cultural activity. Thanks NDF! And what a fun party to boot!!

Thank you to Neighborhood Development Foundation for the hard work they do and for recognizing the work of others.

Jericho Road accepts the NDP's Developer's award.



Accessories Resource Team Doesn't Pull Any Punches



During the May 2012 Home Accent Industry conference sponsored by Accessories Resource Team (ART™) ART partnered with Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative to donate, install and contribute “manpower” to four new construction houses in the Saratoga Square development in Faubourg Lafayette, New Orleans.

Part of the 2012 ART Conference includes a day to “Give Back to New Orleans”. Here are the details about the day:

- The focus of this day of “giving back” are new homes being built on South Saratoga Street as part of the Saratoga Square development in the Faubourg Lafayette neighborhood of Central City, New Orleans. As is the norm for Jericho Road’s homes, all construction will utilize traditional New Orleans architectural style, green building practices and universal design elements.
- The ART Conference project involves 4 new construction homes.
- Each house has been assigned a design coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for the design aesthetic. The designer will coordinate and

ART provided furnishings for at least the living area of each home.

- ART designers have also coordinated the donation of all lighting fixtures, ceiling fans, smoke detectors and some paint as well on all four homes.
- ART participants were on the work sites for a volunteer day May 18, installing new furnishings, painting and cleaning home interior, planting trees and installing mailboxes and flags throughout Saratoga Square and putting together container plantings for the front exterior of each of the four new homes.
- Hike for KaTreena donating trees
- Master Gardener, Calla Victoria, donating expertise and leadership in planning and on site direction for container plantings. There is absolutely no way to express our gratitude for the efforts put into this day’s work! What a phenomenal experience! And what a gift ART members have given!! THANK YOU ART!



Above: One of four design teams with potential homeowner at the end of the work day.

At right: Jericho Road Staff with John Gidding, host of HGTV’s *Curb Appeal: The Block*.

JERICO ROAD EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE



As Jericho Road has advocated since the start of its Vacant Land Management program, to solve city-wide problems — and vacant, blighted, and abandoned properties afflict almost every neighborhood in New Orleans — we need to start small by developing solutions at the scale of the neighborhood. Our partnership with Tulane City Center has given us a perfect opportunity to advance this idea and our on-the-ground work of greening and beautifying vacant lots. We have released a booklet and hosted a public forum with community leaders to discuss our ideas. Look for a demonstration project based on these ideas coming to Central City, New Orleans very soon!

At left: Jericho Road's Director of Vacant Land Management, Alison Ecker and Tulane City Center's Design Build Manager, Seth Welty flank Evan Amato, a Tulane Graduate Research Assistant on the *Vacant Land: Site Strategies for New Orleans* booklet project.

At right: In May, NeighborWorks Training Institute made Faubourg Delassize's Community Garden a stop on one of their conference tours. Great to have fellow community developers from around the nation on site celebrating successes and sharing stories! Oh, and by the way, GREAT JOB Sam Angell and Alison Ecker working so hard with community residents to make this space viable!!!



2919 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70115
504.895.6763
jerichohousing.org

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Congregational Assessments and Program Giving

As of
5/31/2012

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

2012 ASSESSMENT			
Assessment	YTD (Jan - May)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance
\$1,163.23	\$484.68	\$650.00	\$165.32
\$7,250.80	\$3,021.17	\$3,021.25	\$0.08
\$11,425.61	\$4,760.67	\$2,856.39	-\$1,904.28
\$2,510.50	\$1,046.04	\$1,046.25	\$0.21
\$79,918.75	\$33,299.48	\$20,600.76	-\$12,698.72
\$40,894.10	\$17,039.21	\$17,039.20	-\$0.01
\$11,058.40	\$4,607.67	\$4,607.53	-\$0.14
\$2,406.85	\$1,002.85	\$1,000.00	-\$2.85
\$32,211.60	\$13,421.50	\$13,421.65	\$0.15
\$3,406.45	\$1,419.35	\$851.49	-\$567.86
\$794.18	\$330.91	\$794.18	\$0.00
\$35,863.75	\$14,943.23	\$12,313.93	-\$2,629.30
\$5,548.95	\$2,312.06	\$2,315.00	\$2.94
\$5,253.03	\$2,188.76	\$1,308.75	-\$880.01
\$13,201.64	\$5,500.68	\$5,500.85	\$0.17
\$3,813.75	\$1,589.06	\$1,590.00	\$0.94
\$13,930.20	\$5,804.25	\$5,804.19	-\$0.06
\$2,588.10	\$1,078.38	\$0.00	-\$1,078.38
\$1,142.10	\$475.88	\$0.00	-\$475.88
\$2,188.00	\$911.67	\$911.65	-\$0.02
\$13,085.30	\$5,452.21	\$4,361.68	-\$1,090.53
\$16,746.35	\$6,977.65	\$6,977.50	-\$0.15
\$19,275.30	\$8,031.38	\$8,031.25	-\$0.12
\$6,736.15	\$2,806.73	\$2,806.65	-\$0.08
\$510.45	\$212.69	\$510.00	-\$297.31
\$2,525.00	\$1,052.08	\$0.00	-\$1,052.08
\$7,484.05	\$3,118.35	\$0.00	-\$3,118.35
\$4,137.20	\$1,723.83	\$1,723.75	-\$0.08
\$2,397.55	\$998.98	\$2,397.55	\$0.00
\$25,213.70	\$10,505.71	\$10,505.85	\$0.14
\$2,743.62	\$1,143.18	\$1,209.96	\$66.79
\$15,943.15	\$6,642.98	\$0.00	-\$6,642.98
\$10,617.40	\$4,423.92	\$3,539.00	-\$884.92
\$16,421.55	\$6,842.31	\$6,842.50	\$0.19
\$9,348.24	\$3,895.10	\$3,895.05	-\$0.05
\$31,310.55	\$13,046.06	\$13,046.22	\$0.16
\$9,464.75	\$3,943.65	\$3,945.00	\$1.35
\$110,851.70	\$46,188.21	\$46,188.32	\$0.11
\$3,773.20	\$1,572.17	\$1,572.13	-\$0.04
\$7,868.65	\$3,278.60	\$5,282.80	\$2,004.20
\$3,648.10	\$1,520.04	\$1,520.00	-\$0.04
\$9,626.35	\$4,010.98	\$3,811.25	-\$199.73
\$1,938.20	\$807.58	\$1,938.20	\$0.00
\$9,655.15	\$4,022.98	\$4,971.24	\$948.26
\$24,263.40	\$10,109.75	\$6,095.85	-\$4,013.90
\$6,192.10	\$2,580.04	\$3,096.02	\$515.98
\$7,582.80	\$3,159.50	\$3,160.00	\$0.50
\$655,929.95	\$273,304.15	\$243,030.84	-\$30,273.31

2012 PROGRAM			
Ask	Pledge	YTD (Jan - May)	Rec'd YTD
\$1,047.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
\$9,426.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
\$19,424.00	\$19,424.00	\$8,093	\$4,856.11
\$2,259.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
\$135,862.00	\$102,664.00	\$42,777	\$25,044.99
\$69,520.00	\$44,106.00	\$18,378	\$18,377.45
\$18,799.00	\$1,880.00	\$783	\$783.35
\$2,166.00	\$500.00	\$208	\$500.00
\$54,760.00	\$38,332.00	\$15,972	\$15,971.65
\$3,066.00	\$1,394.00	\$581	\$348.51
\$715.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
\$60,968.00	\$24,136.00	\$10,057	\$10,056.65
\$7,214.00	\$7,214.00	\$3,006	\$3,007.00
\$6,829.00	\$8,280.00	\$3,450	\$2,070.00
\$22,443.00	\$22,443.00	\$9,351	\$9,351.25
\$3,432.00	\$3,432.00	\$1,430	\$1,430.00
\$23,681.00	\$13,930.00	\$5,804	\$5,804.19
\$2,329.00	\$2,329.00	\$970	\$0.00
\$1,028.00	\$514.00	\$214	\$514.00
\$1,969.00	\$1,969.00	\$820	\$820.40
\$22,245.00	\$1,200.00	\$500	\$400.00
\$28,469.00	\$16,746.00	\$6,978	\$6,977.50
\$32,768.00	\$7,710.00	\$3,213	\$3,212.50
\$8,757.00	\$8,757.00	\$3,649	\$3,648.75
\$459.00	\$459.00	\$191	\$459.00
\$2,273.00	\$2,273.00	\$947	\$0.00
\$9,729.00	\$4,490.00	\$1,871	\$0.00
\$3,723.00	\$3,723.00	\$1,551	\$1,551.25
\$2,158.00	\$2,158.00	\$899	\$2,158.45
\$42,863.00	\$42,863.00	\$17,860	\$17,859.60
\$2,469.00	\$400.00	\$167	\$333.39
\$27,103.00	\$13,552.00	\$5,647	\$0.00
\$18,050.00	\$1,200.00	\$500	\$0.00
\$27,917.00	\$13,959.00	\$5,816	\$6,979.25
\$12,153.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
\$53,228.00	\$26,614.00	\$11,089	\$11,089.23
\$12,304.00	\$9,843.00	\$4,101	\$4,103.00
\$188,448.00	\$144,148.00	\$60,062	\$60,061.68
\$3,396.00	\$3,396.00	\$1,415	\$1,414.97
\$10,229.00	\$4,091.00	\$1,705	\$1,363.84
\$3,283.00	\$2,760.00	\$1,150	\$1,150.00
\$12,514.00	\$1,200.00	\$500	\$713.91
\$1,744.00	\$1,744.00	\$727	\$1,744.00
\$12,552.00	\$2,345.00	\$977	\$1,028.76
\$41,248.00	\$41,248.00	\$17,187	\$10,311.90
\$8,050.00	\$4,025.00	\$1,677	\$2,012.50
\$9,858.00	\$10,350.00	\$4,313	\$4,312.50
\$1,044,927.00	\$663,801.00	\$276,583.75	\$241,821.53

The Diocese of Louisiana - Operations Budget 2012 - Analysis 05/31/2012 (Assessment and Program)					OVER/ UNDER BUDGET
	2012 TOTAL BUDGET	YTD BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL		
REVENUE					
Subtotal - Revenues from Congregations	\$1,319,731	\$549,888	\$499,346.05	-\$50,542	
Subtotal - Other Revenues	\$116,676	\$48,615	\$59,897	\$11,282	
Subtotal - Targeted Donations	\$75,000	31,250	\$31,250	\$0	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,511,407	\$629,753	\$590,493	-\$39,259	
EXPENSES					
Total Diocesan Center	\$848,396	\$353,498	\$334,155	-\$19,343	
Diocesan Property Reserve	\$7,500	3,125	3125	\$0	
Episcopal Transition Reserve	\$7,500	3,125	3125	\$0	
Total Academic Chaplaincies	\$284,123	\$118,385	\$154,503	\$36,118	
Total Christian Education	\$2,000	\$833	\$0	-\$833	
Total Commissions	\$11,000	\$4,583	\$3,343	-\$1,240	
Total Communications	\$45,350	\$18,896	\$12,312	-\$6,584	
Total Conferences	\$20,250	\$8,438	\$8,764	\$326	
Total Church Mission Ministry & Grants	\$87,500	\$36,458	\$23,909	-\$12,550	
Total Seminarians	\$7,000	\$2,917	\$2,500	-\$417	
School for Ministry	\$13,000	5,417	4,448	-\$968	
Total Specialized Ministries	\$3,000	\$1,250	\$2,469	\$1,219	
Total Stewardship	\$2,500	\$1,042	\$1,000	-\$42	
Total Work Outside the Diocese	\$159,925	\$66,635	\$68,761	\$2,126	
Total Youth	\$84,655	\$35,273	\$39,094	\$3,821	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,583,699	\$659,875	\$661,508	\$1,634	
NET INCOME / LOSS	-\$72,292	-\$30,122	-\$71,015	-\$40,893	

