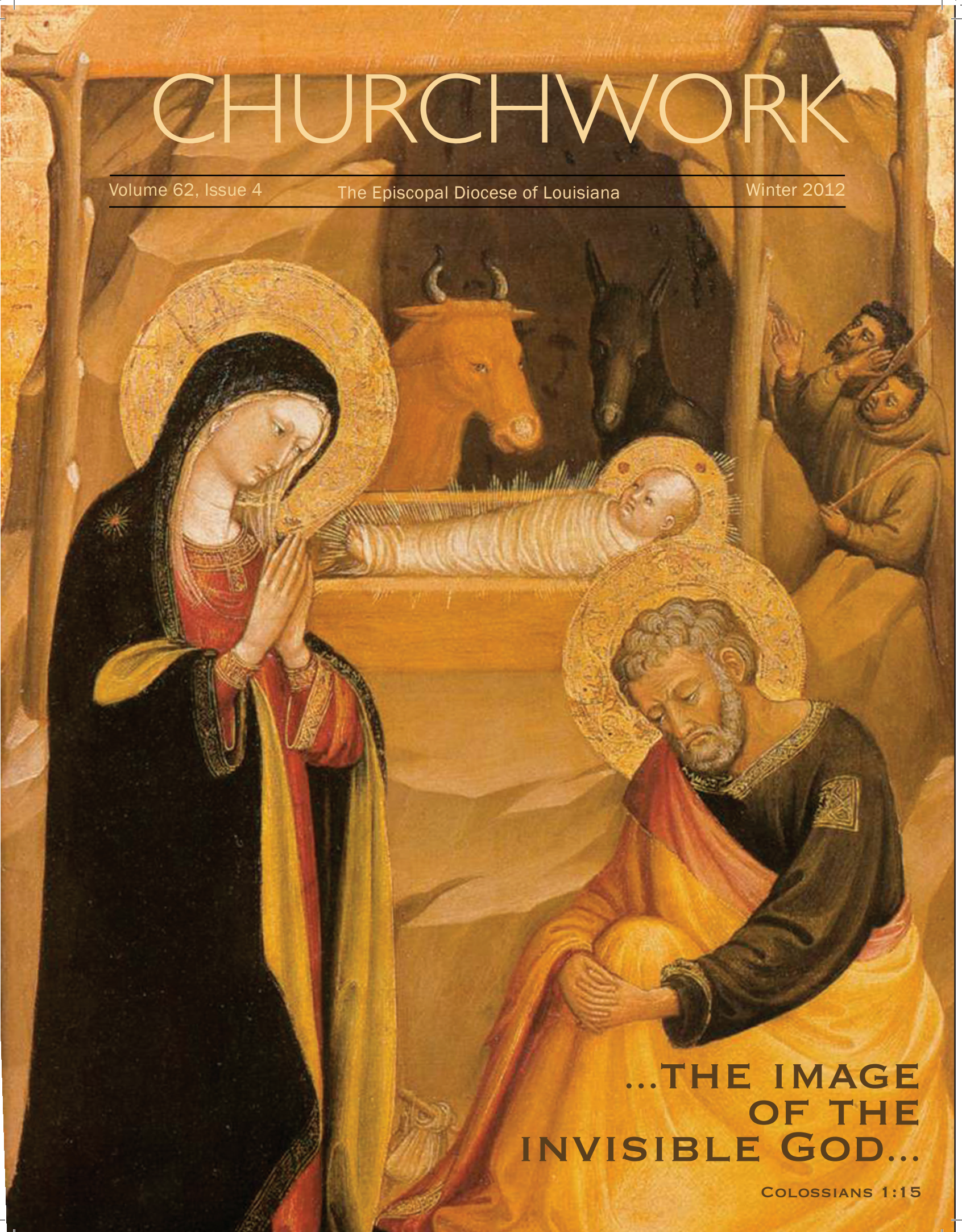


# CHURCHWORK

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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Winter 2012



...THE IMAGE  
OF THE  
INVISIBLE GOD...

COLOSSIANS 1:15

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

They say things happen in threes. It's an odd superstition, yet it seems to be true more often than not. The first was a husband of a close friend from my youth. Ralph battled cancer for 23 of their 35 years of marriage. He loved the outdoors with a passion for fly fishing. The second was Bill Morris, a priest in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. Fr. Morris was skilled with the pen and a stirrer of the conscience. The image of his singing in the Cathedral choir, wearing his alb, stole and ponytail, will forever be etched in my mind. The third death came at 2:20 All Saints morning. Bob was also a faithful priest who was as gentle as a lamb. He was a master of words that would find their way through stories. He wrote about real life as seen through the eyes of a country parson.

Death has its place in all of our lives. There is no escape. James A. Autry points this out with his poem, "Against All Those Desperate Prayers."

*Against all those desperate prayers  
whispered in airplanes  
and hospital corridors  
Against all those deals and bargains  
of new beginnings and new behaviors  
I thought God  
could not afford to pass up  
Against all the wild promises  
he died anyway.*

I know death is inevitable, but when it visits in threes, it's too much. The pain of saying good-bye is hard. Ralph's wife uttered, "We've been together for thirty-five years. I can't imagine my life any other way." Nor can I. My three friends were part of a community whose presence made a difference. Their lives touched the lives of one person, who in turn touched another and so on. In short the community of which they were members was formed by their existence. Maybe this is the reason for All Saints Day, to sit quietly and reflect on the lives that have touched ours and what we learned by being in their presence. One of the prayers in the Burial Office reads: "We thank you for giving him/her to us, his/her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage." The gift God gives to each and everyone of us by the presence of another is the gift to know and to love, to be in relationship as we make our way on earth. What a deep and profound gift it is to be



part of someone's knowing. For in this knowing we come to know God.

As I write this, playing in the background is the hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King" and the refrain is:

*O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

In praising God our hearts and minds are pushed upward beyond the pain and suffering, beyond the petty disagreements and the selfish desires where we can rest in the presence of our Lord and our neighbor.

By the time you read this we will be in Advent. Look around you and give thanks for the faces you see, known and unknown. Every person we lay our eyes on was made in the image of God. As the days of our lives unfold, we all know some form of pain and sorrow, death and life. To be sure there have been and will be dark days, but we don't have to stay in the darkness. A Light has shined upon us and the seed of Hope dwells within, ready to be birthed. What a gift each of us has been given. May we have the courage to give it away.

Blessed Advent.

*+ Morris*

## BISHOP'S JOURNAL: SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

**September 1 & 2:** Rebecca and I enjoyed spending time with family in Jackson, MS over the Labor Day weekend.

**September 3:** Labor Day. We drove home from Jackson today and spent a relaxing evening together.

**September 4:** Day off. Doctor visit in the morning.

**September 5:** Weekly staff meeting in the morning with updates about damages sustained within the diocese from Hurricane Isaac and the churches' efforts to provide assistance. Home early to rest from sciatic pain in back and leg.

**September 6:** Therapy in the afternoon hoping to relieve lower back pain.

**September 7:** Writing day. Caught up on correspondence and telephone calls. Rebecca and I enjoyed a lovely dinner with friends at the home of the Rev'd Walter Baer.

**September 8:** Diocesan Executive Board in the morning, followed by another doctor visit.

**September 9:** No Visitation – week off. Canon Stevenson and I were scheduled to travel together for seminary visits but I was forced to cancel due to severe back and leg pain. Bed rest – doctor's orders.

**September 10:** Bed rest.

**September 11:** Doctor visit in the morning, followed by bed rest. Met with the Rev'd Matt Hyde and Ms. Maggy Charles, Trinity Wall Street, about All Souls Church, New Orleans.

**September 12:** Bed rest.

**September 13:** Bed rest.

**September 14:** Doctor visit in the morning then more bed rest. Rebecca and I briefly attended the Laetare Gala at Christ Church Cathedral but I wasn't feeling my best. It was a very nice event.

**September 15:** Celebrated an informal Holy Eucharist

and gave homily at Christ Church Cathedral. Joined with Integrity group after the service for coffee and conversation to discuss the actions taken at General Convention with respect to the recommendations of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music on rites for same gender blessings.

**September 16:** Rebecca and I enjoyed breakfast with the congregation of Grace Memorial Church in Hammond, followed by a forum. Celebrated, preached and confirmed.

**September 17:** Bed rest.

**September 18:** More bed rest ... this is getting old.

**September 19:** MRI at Ochsner Medical Center. Pastoral meeting in the afternoon.

**September 20:** Bed rest. Canon Stevenson met with me at my residence for updates and discussion of diocesan matters.

**September 21:** Writing day. Worked on a sermon.

**September 22:** Rebecca and I joined fellow travelers at St. Augustine's Church, Metairie, to discuss and plan for our trip to the Holy Land.

**September 23:** Rebecca and I travelled to Christ Church, Slidell in the morning. Celebrated, preached, confirmed, received, reaffirmed, and baptized. Dedicated and blessed new candlesticks, chalice & paten. A very nice reception afterwards. We drove to Covington in the afternoon where I interviewed the Rev'd Lebaron Taylor, a retired priest, for work at All Saints Church, Ponchatoula. Later, Rebecca and I attended the annual diocesan Acolyte Festival at Christ Church, Covington. I was energized by the youth who attended the festival. They are so faithful in their ministry and I give thanks for their leadership. We travelled back to New Orleans for a meeting with St. Paul's Vestry in the evening to discuss the upcoming departure of the Rev'd Scott Albergate. Fr. Albergate is leaving for the Diocese of Pennsylvania and his last day with us is October 20.

**September 24:** Day off.

## FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

**September 25:** Met with Amelia Arthur for updates about youth and young adult ministries. Met with the Blessings Committee to discuss and plan for the implementation of same gender blessings. Met with the Diocesan Convention planning group to discuss and plan the 2013 Diocesan Convention scheduled for March 1 & 2, 2013, at St. Martin's School in Metairie. Annual Consultations with the Rev'd Stephen Craft and the Rev'd Sharon Alexander. Unable to attend the ECSLA Board meeting due to severe back and leg pain.

**September 26:** Phone calls in the morning, followed by a doctor's appointment. No appointments in the afternoon. Home to rest.

**September 27:** Met with Darryl Durham, the Rev'd Bill Terry, and James W. King to discuss and explore the feasibility of an Episcopal day school at St. Anna's for African American and Latino youth. Telephone interview with Trinity Wall Street Mission Partners. No appointments in the afternoon. Home to rest.

**September 28:** Writing day. Worked on a sermon.

**September 29:** No meetings today.

**September 30:** Celebrated, preached, confirmed, baptized and received during annual visitation to Christ Church Cathedral, followed by coffee hour with parishioners. Rebecca and I dined with the diocesan chancellors at the home of Chancellor Cove Geary in Mandeville. Wonderful Indian cuisine and better conversation.

**October 1:** Day off. John Musser invited me to give the Benediction for the Bar Association. Later, I met with Tronn Moller, Executive Director, Faith and Community Development Institute, to discuss and plan the agenda for College of Presbyters.

**October 2:** Agatha and I began the day by working on scheduling. Met with an aspirant to the diaconate. Lunch at Joey K's restaurant with the Rev'ds. A. J. Heine and Fred Devall. Later, staff treated me to red velvet cupcakes for my birthday. Met with Dr. William Thiele about co-hosting an event in 2013. Met with a parishioner of St. Mark's Church, Harvey. Annual consultation with the Rev'd Jeff Millican.

**October 3:** Weekly staff meeting followed by a meeting with an aspirant to the diaconate. Caught up on corre-

spondence and phone calls. Met with the Rev'd Edward Thompson about All Souls Church, New Orleans.

**October 4:** No appointments today. Pack for journey to Israel.

**October 5 - 16:** Travelled to the Holy Land with fellow travelers from the Diocese. This pilgrimage was special because there were 40 pilgrims from the Diocese of Louisiana. To walk the way of Christ and his disciples gave me a different perspective on scripture. It was a powerful experience.

**October 17:** Our tour group arrived safely back in New Orleans in the afternoon. Rebecca and I made a brief visit to the diocesan office, had an early dinner and went home for some much needed rest.

**October 18:** Began the task of catching up at the office. Rebecca served on jury duty so Agatha drove me to Ochsner for an epidural injection to the spine which is supposed to relieve the leg and back pain. Home to rest.

**October 19:** Writing day. Worked on a sermon, then drove to Baton Rouge.

**October 20:** Attended Angola's mandatory training for volunteers, held at South Baton Rouge Church of Christ, to remain in compliance so I can continue my visits to the Chapel of the Transfiguration at Angola.

**October 21:** Taught Bible class at St. Luke's, New Orleans, followed by Holy Eucharist where I celebrated, preached, confirmed, baptized and received. The annual international food festival was attended by many — a tasty success. In the evening, Canon Stevenson and I met with the Vestry of Trinity, Morgan City.

**October 22:** Day off. Luncheon meeting with Gary Solomon. Afternoon meeting with a group to discuss school and church relations at St. Paul's, New Orleans.

**October 23 - October 25:** Travelled to Savannah, Georgia for the Province IV Bishops and Spouses Conference.

**October 26:** Writing day. Worked on a sermon.

**October 27:** Day off.

**October 28:** Bishop's forum at All Saints', River Ridge. Celebrated and preached at annual visitation, followed

# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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by very nice fellowship reception in the parish hall. Celebrated and preached at St. George's, New Orleans for the Rev'd James Quigley's farewell service. Fr. Quigley's last day is October 28th. He and his wife, Ellen, are relocating to the Washington, DC area where he will serve as Associate Rector at St. Alban's Parish.

**October 29 - 31:** College of Presbyters at SECC was facilitated by Tronn Moller, Executive Director, Faith and Community Development Institute. We learned the power of asset mapping. Had an hour to fish and caught two bass. The lake is over populated and needs people to fish and fry. On my way home stopped by the home of Sarah Morris, widow of the Rev'd Bill Morris. Fr. Bill was a faithful priest.

**November 1:** Day off. No appointments.

**November 2:** Checked in for jury duty with Civil District Court. Met with the Rev'd Edward Thompson about All Souls, New Orleans.

**November 3:** No appointments. Rebecca and I enjoyed a restful day.

**November 4:** Celebrated the Holy Eucharist at St. Matthew's, Houma. They are coming along with the planning of their new church. Enjoyed a delicious light lunch in the Fellowship Hall of the Lutheran Church. Later, attended a wonderful farewell celebration for the Rev'd Lonell Wright at All Souls, New Orleans. We will certainly miss his leadership, energy and charisma.

**November 5:** Day off.

**November 6:** Met with Harriet Murrell to discuss diocesan archives and the need for more storage space at the Noland Center. Annual consultations with the Rev'ds Nelson Tennison and Henry Hudson. Met with Karla duPlantier for updates about ECSLA. Annual consultation with Deacon Kathy Comer, then met with Amelia Arthur for final details about the event, "Bowling with the Bishop". Pastoral meeting with a parishioner, followed by a meeting with a priest to discuss possible licensing of him in our diocese.

**November 7:** Weekly staff meeting, then drove to Baton Rouge for the "Lunch with C.S. Lewis" with LSU students at St. Alban's Chapel. Fr. Rollins' ministry to students

is truly amazing. We are fortunate to have a strong campus ministry at LSU. Following the luncheon had an annual consultation with the Rev'd Dan Krutz. Met with the Rev'd Jackie Means and Rev'd Roman Roldan to discuss prison ministry at Angola followed by a meeting with the Vestry of Trinity, Baton Rouge. Stayed overnight in Baton Rouge.

**November 8:** Breakfast meeting with Canon Stevenson for updates. Met with an aspirant from St. Luke's, Baton Rouge. Phone conversation with Trey Burvant, Senior Warden, for an update on St. George's, New Orleans and their search for a new rector. Luncheon meeting with John Noland at the City Club followed by a meeting with the Standing Committee. Had a late drive back to New Orleans.

**November 9:** Writing Day – worked on a sermon. Met with Karla duPlantier for continued discussion about ECSLA. Pastoral meeting with a priest in the afternoon.

**November 10:** Met with the diocesan Executive Board in the morning. Later, enjoyed the "Bowling with the Bishop" event at Rock and Bowl, sponsored by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Wasn't able to bowl due to continuing back problem. This saved me from embarrassing myself.

**November 11 & 12:** Celebrated, preached, confirmed, baptized and received at St. Mark's, Harvey. My visit with the parishioners was cut short due to a scheduled flight to New York for a meeting of the Mission and Service Partners Roundtable at Trinity, Wall Street. Trinity has been very generous with their support of All Souls' Church.

**November 13-15:** The roundtable concluded and I traveled to St. Louis for a meeting of the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education. Returned home late Thursday night.

**November 16:** Writing day – worked on a sermon. Met with Nell Bolton to discuss collaborating on a project celebrating the life and legacy of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet, which we hope will culminate in an interactive exhibit. Met with leaders from Christ Church Cathedral to discuss diocesan funding.

**November 17:** No appointments today.

**November 18:** Celebrated Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's in Luling, followed by a lovely reception. Drove to Morgan City for a beautiful farewell service at Trinity Church for the Rev'd Rob Courtney, whose new cure as Priest in Charge at St. Paul's in New Orleans begins on December 1.

**November 19:** Day off. Pastoral visit with a priest, then Rebecca and I dined with visiting friends.

**November 20:** Pastoral visits in the morning. Celebrated the mid-day Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral's Chapel, followed by brown bag lunch with the Noland Center staff. Annual consultations with the Rev'd John Craft and the Rev'd Michael Kuhn.

**November 21:** Met for updates with the Rev'd William Barnwell, new Interim Priest in Charge at St. Luke's, New Orleans. In the afternoon, Rebecca and I travelled to Virginia to spend Thanksgiving at the home of our son and his wife, Trey and Emily. Our daughter, Virginia, joined us.

**November 22 & 23:** Offices were closed for the Thanksgiving holidays.

**November 24 & 25:** Enjoyed quality time with our family, then travelled home on Sunday afternoon.

**November 26:** Day off. Doctor's appointment.

**November 27:** Updates via a telephone conversation with Canon Stevenson. Afterwards, Agatha and I met to work on scheduling. Meeting with Deacon Elaine Clements. Pastoral meeting with a parishioner in the afternoon, then a discernment meeting with the Rev'd Henry Hudson and an aspirant from Trinity, New Orleans. Meeting with Deacon Charmaine Kathmann, then drove to Baton Rouge for an overnight stay.

**November 28:** Weekly staff meeting. Met with the Finance Committee of the diocese. Drove back to New Orleans for the dedication of the new front of St. Mark's Church in Harvey.

**November 29:** Physical therapy then met with Karla duPlantier for updates on ECSLA. Caught up on correspondence in the afternoon.

**November 30:** Worked on a sermon, then working lunch with Chris Beary, Treasurer of Christ Church Cathedral.

## Former Diocesan Chancellor Has Died

Edward Bernard Benjamin, Jr. was born in New Orleans on February 11, 1923. He attended Metairie Park Country Day School (including as a student in the first year of the school's existence), graduated Middlesex School in Concord, MA and then from Yale University in 1943.



During World War II, after graduation from Field Artillery Officers Candidate School, Field Artillery Advanced School, and Liaison Pilot School, he finished his service in occupied Japan as a First Lieutenant for the U.S. Army Air Corps. He then attended Tulane Law School. He spent the majority of his career at the firm of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevant, Carrere and Denegre. He was a member of the American Law Institute, and of a number other national legal organizations. He was an elected Vestry member of Trinity Church (Episcopal) and was elected to be its Chancellor, as which he served for 19 years. He was later elected as Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, as which he also served for 19 years. He was also elected President of both Junior Achievement and the Salvation Army Board, and was a member of a number of clubs and carnival organizations. Mr. Benjamin is survived by his dearly-beloved wife, the former Adelaide Wisdom and their four children: Edward Mary, Ann, and Stuart.

In his 2003 address to the Diocesan Convention, Bishop Jenkins said of Mr. Benjamin, "I found in this humble man of God a brilliant mind and a great heart so freely given to the bishop and the Diocese of Louisiana and in fact, the truth be known, to the Episcopal Church. I do not know if the history of Ed's enormous impact on the canons of the Episcopal Church will ever be properly acknowledged; and I imagine Ed would want it that way. On a personal note, it has been a privilege to work with Ed Benjamin. He has been an enormous comfort and encouragement to me, a steady guide, and a friend. Ed Benjamin is one of those Christian people who by simple association makes me a better person and, I pray, a better bishop."

**To honor the life of Mr. Benjamin, a memorial contribution may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, 1329 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130.**

*Reprinted courtesy of the Times-Picayune.*

# Getting Away from the Daily Grind and Taking Care of Yourself

By Frank Hall, Executive Director of the Solomon Center

THAT PERFECT TRANQUILITY OF  
LIFE, WHICH IS NOWHERE TO BE  
FOUND BUT IN RETREAT,  
A FAITHFUL FRIEND AND  
A GOOD LIBRARY.

- Aphra Behn, English Novelist and Dramatist

In preparation for Advent and Christmas Seasons, I am compelled to write about “retreats”.... After all, retreats are the reason the Solomon Center exists. But, you the reader may ask yourself “of what value is it to me to take the time and read something about retreats when I need to get to my e-mail inbox, or respond to that text message, or answer that phone or voice-mail, or plan that next party / vacation, or program my DVR, or pay that bill, or....”

Please forgive the simplicity of the words to follow, but I believe (and hopefully you reading this do too) we need to stick with the basics when the world can be so incredibly hectic. Now, take a deep breath, and repeat after me:

Retreat (plural retreats), Noun

1. The act of pulling back or withdrawing, as from something dangerous, or unpleasant
2. A peaceful, quiet place affording privacy, or security
3. A period of retirement, seclusion, or solitude
4. A period of meditation, prayer or study
5. Withdrawal by military force from a dangerous position or from enemy attack

Obviously, definition 5 is not applicable here (unless your hectic world requires government intervention or protection). Definition 1 may seem a bit strong, unless you believe that our daily grind can be dangerous or unpleasant...personally, I believe it is often times either and can sometimes be both. So, taking into account definitions 2, 3 and 4 and reaffirming our understanding of what a retreat is can be a refreshing start to getting on the path to renewal. Take another deep breath and ask yourself how important a retreat is to you and those close to you...friends, family, colleagues, teammates, associates, employees, employer, worshipping community, ministry or other community organization. If your answer is in the affirmative, you are already on the path to renewal.

Setting aside quiet and reflective time for ourselves and our close communities and having a retreat can seem daunting and full of busy planning, focused discipline and commitment to purpose. It is all worth it once you make it to the retreat. Ahhh, but the planning.... Nothing worth doing is ever easy, right? Who's in charge? When? What is the objective? How long will it be? Do we have time to plan? What activities will appeal to the group? Can it be fun and rewarding for all involved? Will we hear back from folks (or not, in some cases); deciding the theme; scheduling the speaker; organizing the schedule; ...it's just too hard, right? Not really...

Please hang in there; take another deep breath; delegate tasks; build a core planning group; call or e-mail the folks at Solomon. We will help walk you through the planning, short of doing the program ourselves (remember, we aren't staffed for “program”, but we are with you). We really want to help because we believe this is a wonderful place to have a retreat and we need your support and participation. We cannot help but want to help you plan a retreat. We welcome your call or visit.



## THE SECC SUNDAY CAMPAIGN

As of this writing, we are in the midst of our 3rd annual SECC Sunday Campaign which began on September 16th, 2012. As we continue to raise awareness and funds for retreats and conferences at the SECC, we ask that you:

- Pray for the ministry of the SECC and its staff and prayerfully consider making a generous donation.
- Call us, schedule and commit to having a worshipping community wide retreat, in- gathering, picnic, meeting, workshop, etc... This is truly the best way to support the SECC.
- Come spend time on the grounds (you are always welcome, no agenda required) or carve-out personal time by your self, with friends or family. Let us give you a tour. Bring your fishing gear or reading materials. Write your Christmas cards while here (may Anne Howe rest in peace). Have a picnic and swim in the pool. Walk, run or ride your bikes on the beautiful trails. Take deep breaths of fresh air.
- Tell your friends, family and professional colleagues about the beautiful surroundings and the wonderful people who come to the SECC each year...over 9,200 youth and adults representing over 200 organizations retreating to this special place in southeast Louisiana.

Thank you again to all the supporters of this ministry over the last 20 years, who have scheduled retreats and/or conferences; donated funds, land, time, equipment, plants, trees, furniture, effort and prayed for our ministry. We cannot thank you enough.

The planning for the 20th Anniversary / Birthday party on Sunday, April 7, 2013 is well underway. We have an all-star planning committee meeting regularly. Mark your calendars. More information on this celebration will be forthcoming. Please help us prepare for the next 20 years and beyond by giving any way you can to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana's Conference and Retreat Center. Oh, and thank you for your time and deep breaths...And remember, we have a good library here too. Peace be with you.

A Retreat or quiet day should be a booster for our spiritual journeys. It gives us time to learn about and try new spiritual practices in a sacred space. It can be an invitation from God to slow down and listen, in the words of St. Benedict, "with the ears of our hearts".

# Bringing Lay Reading to Our Diocese



*By Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist*

As an archivist, getting a request for information from someone in a congregation who is preparing a history or is curious about a name that keeps turning up in old church records can lead me to pleasant hours in the diocesan archives. This time I needed to expand my sources of information

to the research department at the national Episcopal Archives in Austin, TX.

The topic of my inquiry was lay reading. The focus started with post Civil War Louisiana and expanded to current times in The Episcopal Church.

Let's begin with a definition. A lay reader is a person licensed by a bishop to fulfill a role in worship in a given location. Historically the person (male only until 1969) was licensed to lead public worship (primarily the Daily Offices) in congregations that lacked the services of an ordained minister. The current national canons identify seven licensed lay ministries; Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Catechist, and Evangelist. Worship Leader includes more responsibilities than those historically assigned to lay readers. We must remember not to confuse the responsibilities of lay reader with those of lector who is the person asked to read the Old and New Testament lessons, lead the Prayers of the People and reciting of the psalm. All of these opportunities are extended to members of the congregation to remind us that we are participants, not spectators, in corporate worship. The Rubrics in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer lists the parts of the service that are reserved for ordained persons.

The current national canon entitled Title III Ministry starts with the heading Of The Ministry of All Baptized Persons and states that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name. Discernment and lifelong formation are expectations. Participation in licensed ministry presumes the person is confirmed and in good standing (regular attendance at services and financial support of record), has been trained, is supervised and undergoes periodic study and evaluation after being issued a license by the Bishop's Office. The essence of this picture of corporate worship is that the experience involves the entire community of faith regardless of the size of the congregation and invites everyone to participate to the

extent to which he or she feels called.

What a contrast this is with Reconstruction Louisiana when Bishop Wilmer was committed to providing corporate worship to a predominantly plantation landscape with sparse population and few ordained men who were asked to minister to several congregations simultaneously, receiving little or no salary and asked to live and travel under arduous circumstances. The idea of using lay readers to help provide corporate worship opportunities was first discussed in 1848 and added to the Louisiana Canons in 1852, stating that there will be "instruction of the congregation by occasional clerical services or by lay reading, as circumstance may permit". This action came forty years after the national canons included lay reading, not as a worship opportunity, but as a prohibition to seminary students to "take upon him to perform devotional services in any Church but by the permission of the Bishop or ecclesiastical authority..." It is not until 1873 that the Louisiana Diocesan Council proceedings have Bishop Wilmer announcing that lay reader licenses were granted to lay readers in Ponchatoula, New Orleans, St. Francisville, Laurel Hill and Amite City. In the same council gathering, Bishop Wilmer expressed gratitude that eight new churches had been erected in the last year with others under construction. He then added "I am permitted to add what I have longed desired to say, that there is not a town in the State, containing a thousand inhabitants, in which the services of this Church are not regularly sustained". All of this was happening in a climate of "poverty and affliction". At the time of Bishop Wilmer's focus on growth and the presence of the Episcopal Church in Louisiana, there were two canons. Today our diocesan canons number thirty two with no lay ministries identified.

Nationally the canons made a significant change at the General Convention of 1904 when the wording changed to list the circumstances under which a lay reader could serve. Incidentally it was the General Convention of 1934 that gave laymen permission to administer the cup. The Convention of 1969 dropped gender specific language referring to lay readers and members of the clergy. It was the approval of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer that has broadened the opportunities for lay participation and the nomenclature which has resulted in the disappearance of the label lay reader. Remaining is the authority of the respective bishop or ecclesiastical authority to license and direct the ways in which the licensed ministers may be used in public worship.

# The Rev'd Bill Morris Dies in New Orleans

By Ann Ball, Retired Editor of ChurchWork

The Rev'd William Collins Morris Jr., a beloved priest of this diocese, a gifted preacher, award-winning writer and noted theologian, died of heart failure on Monday, October 29, in New Orleans. He was 76.

A native of Ohio, Fr. Morris was a graduate of Duke University in North Carolina before attending the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, where he received his Divinity degree in 1961. He was ordained to the priesthood later that year and served churches in North Carolina and Mississippi before his call to the Diocese of Louisiana as assistant chaplain at St. Alban's, LSU, in 1968.

In 1971, Fr. Morris became vicar of the fledgling All Saints mission in what was then Harahan, now River Ridge. Under his tutelage the congregation quickly grew to parish status in 1976. Fr. Morris would remain at All Saints as its rector for the next 27 years until his retirement in 1998. During his tenure at All Saints, the congregation produced a series of cookbooks — the award-winning *La Bonne Cuisine, Cooking New Orleans Style!* and *Lagniappe*.

The diversity of his gifts was apparent at All Saints. In addition to his eloquent preaching and writing, he guided the congregation through the design and construction of the church building as well as helping with the selection of interior appointments, from the organ, to the altar, to the windows, to the kneelers. All reflect a spiritual community in touch with the mighty Mississippi River that runs just behind the church grounds.

Fr. Morris enriched the Diocese of Louisiana with his skills and good humor as he engaged himself in all aspects of church life at the deanery, diocesan and national levels. He served on countless diocesan committees and boards during his entire ministry: the Executive Board, Commission on Ministry, Dean of the Jefferson Deanery, among a few. He was a sought-after speaker and keynoter. His musical talent led him to compose a Mass setting and to offer his service as cantor for many liturgical celebrations. Those who received handwritten correspondence from Fr. Morris also discovered he was a talented calligrapher.

Fr. Morris was elected a Louisiana deputy to the Episcopal Church's landmark 1976 General Convention and served as a deputy or alternate deputy on several other occasions. He was skilled at distilling the diverse and complex issues that come before General Convention and writing about them in a coherent, reasoned way. He was judicious in giving equal treatment to all sides of controversies.

In 1978, Fr. Morris was appointed chair of diocesan Communication Department and was the chief editorialist, along with the bishop, in the diocesan newspaper publication, *Churchwork*, for more than two decades. His skillful writings continued to grace the editorial pages of *Churchwork* until its transition to a magazine format in 2008.

Fr. Morris was a member of the nationwide professional organization, Episcopal Communicators. He received 16 awards from the Communicators over the years for editorial writing and theological reflection. His works frequently were requested by other dioceses for reprint in other publications across the entire Episcopal Church.

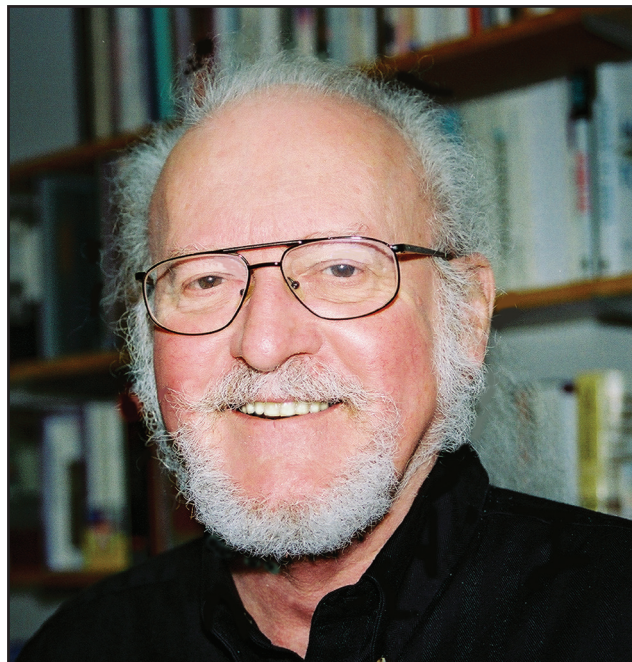
He was also a member of the Louisiana Episcopal Clergy Association, an arm of the National Network of Clergy Associations. In 2000, Fr. Morris received the distinguished Hal Brook Perry Award given by the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Following his retirement, Fr. Morris became the Theologian In Residence at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, a post he held until his death.

A requiem Eucharist was held at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, November 3 with Louisiana's Bishop Morris Thompson officiating. The cathedral was filled with clergy, friends and family members.

Morris's longtime friend, the Rev'd Phillip Cato of St. Barnabas Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, preached. His sermon was filled with glimpses of Morris's unmistakable humor. Cato also made note of Fr. Morris's robust and infectious laugh.

Fr. Morris is survived by his wife, Sarah Morris; two sons, John David Morris of Slidell and Patrick Morris; a brother Thomas Edgar Morris of Ohio and four grandchildren.



**Memorials may be made to The Rev'd William Morris Memorial Fund  
C/O Christ Church Cathedral, 2919 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130**

# Stephen Ministry Network in Baton Rouge

By Deacon Elizabeth Coleman

When people experience such difficulties as grief, illness, disability, hospitalization, divorce, or job loss, they may feel discouraged, helpless, alone in facing the situation. If the crisis is long-term, they may not want to burden family members or friends—or even their clergy—with their struggles. Sometimes even happy events, such as marriage, retirement, or a new job can create unforeseen challenges, especially if there are decisions and changes to make. Stephen Ministry, a national, interdenominational Christian lay ministry, works with clergy to provide the kind of care that can ease the journey through crisis.

Members of five Baton Rouge Episcopal churches—St. James, St. Luke's, St. Margaret's, Trinity, and Holy Spirit—have joined to offer Stephen Ministry care-giving services to those going through difficult times. Each Stephen Minister has received over 50 hours of training, and is available to meet with someone regularly to offer prayer, encouragement, and support.

Stephen Ministers aren't pastoral counselors. Their job is to walk with people through their difficulties, to listen, to pray with them, and to ask questions. It's the kind of support that helps people to gain new perspectives, to come up with their own solutions.



"When parishioners are facing difficult issues in their lives, Stephen Ministers can help busy clergy by offering additional Christian care," says Mildred Taylor of St. James. The request for a Stephen Minister may come directly from the recipient or from clergy. Meetings with those seeking care are private and

anything said is held in strict confidentiality. There's no time limit on the care-giving relationship, but if it becomes apparent that a person's crisis requires professional help, the Stephen Minister works with clergy to make the appropriate referral.

Program leadership is centered in the Episcopal Stephen Ministry Council of Baton Rouge, which is responsible for training new ministers, handling referrals, planning continuing educational programs, and setting goals. Stephen Ministers continue their care-giving education and receive supervisory support at monthly meetings.

"Stephen Ministry is a quiet ministry, and we want more people to know it's available," says Debbie Copeland of St. Luke's. "We are able to reach out to those in our community who are hurting or grieving and bring them God's promise of healing."

For more information about the Stephen Ministry program or the referral process, call Stephen Leader Becky Williams (St. Luke's) at 225.926.5343.

## Trinity School, NO Receives Spirit Award

Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans was presented with the "Spirit Award" by Michael Weber, the Special Events Coordinator for the NO/AIDS Taskforce. The award recognizes Trinity's seven-year long dedication to raising funds for the annual NO/AIDS Walk. For the past three years, Trinity has been eligible to compete for the "Principal's Award", given to the school that raises the most money. Trinity has brought the award home each of those three years. Trinity's faculty and staff, students, parents, and alumni walk each year to honor the memory of Carlos de Bango, a long-time Spanish teacher who succumbed to the disease. To watch the fund raising totals and the number of participants walking on behalf of Trinity and Carlos has been inspirational. This year's total raised topped \$4,300.00 and more than 50 Trinity community members participated in the 23rd Annual NO/AIDS Walk.

Founded in 1960, Trinity Episcopal School is a co-educational, prekindergarten through eighth grade school of some 380 students. The campus is located in the Garden District of New Orleans, encompassing four city-blocks in a residential neighborhood offering a pleasant and stimulating learning environment for its students and faculty. Trinity Episcopal School continues in the tradition of its predecessor school, Miss Edith Aiken's Little School for Little Children, and in that of Trinity Episcopal Church, which since its founding in 1847 has maintained a commitment to the educational and civic life of New Orleans.

# St. Francis Hosts 'Gospel Call' Workshop

By Debbie Edens

From October 21 through 24, St. Francis in Denham Springs participated in "Gospel Call – Experiencing Afresh Our Unity in Christ: Together in Worship, Spiritual Growth, and Mission". Along with Immaculate Conception Catholic, First United Methodist and Robert's United Methodist Churches, all of Denham Springs. Father Dan Krutz of St. Francis headed up putting together this event. Guest Speakers Father Tom Ryan, CSP, Director of the Paulist North American Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and the Reverend Dr. Diane Kessler, former Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, presided over the events with consisted of a dinner hosted by FUMC with approximately 200 people attending and a Church Service featuring the symbol of Water on Sunday.

Monday, St. Francis hosted a Bible Study and Immaculate Conception a night service with the symbol of the day being the Cross. On Tuesday, Robert's hosted a breakfast and evening service focusing on the Pascal Candle. Wednesday, the focus was on Spiritual gifts. St. Francis hosted a luncheon and Wednesday night, leaders from all four Churches met at Immaculate Conception for discussions on Outreach, Community, Administration, Worship and Christian Formation. All events were very well attended, and a coming together of our community in faith.



## 2013 ARM Women's Retreat at SECC

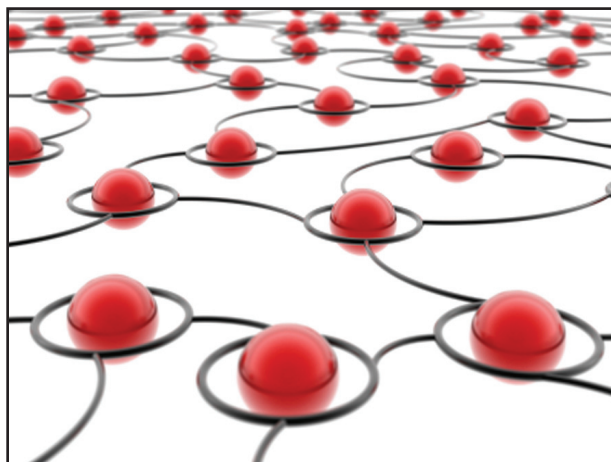
The Addictions Recovery Ministry will host our 27th annual Women's Weekend January 11–January 13, 2013 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. Our theme for the weekend is "The 12 Steps and Christian Spirituality: Connecting the Dots".

Our facilitator for the weekend is Deacon Maggie Dawson. Deacon Dawson has served as a spiritual director for 20 years and has been involved with the Addictions Recovery Ministries for 25 years. She has been a deacon in the Diocese for 9 years, serving most of those years as Director of Deacon Formation. Deacon Dawson has had extensive training in Spiritual Theology and Spiritual Direction since the early 90's. She began recovery work in the 80s through an ACOA program and is now in Al-Anon. The combination of Christian spirituality and 12 Step work has been at the center of her life and faith, each informing and enhancing the other, about which she will share.

During our time together, we will have an opportunity to share Morning Prayer, Holy Eucharist, a Taizé Service, 12-step meetings, Reconciliation, Spiritual Direction, and a Dream Workshop. This weekend is a great opportunity for relaxing, reflecting, renewing, and visiting. It is a wonderful gift to ask for or to give yourself.

The cost of the weekend is \$152 per person and includes a room for two nights, Friday night supper, three full meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Sunday lunch is not provided. Check out time on Sunday is 10:00 am. A \$76 non-refundable deposit is required and should be sent along with the registration form no later than January 01, 2013. Requests received after that date may not be able to be honored.

All rooms at the Conference Center are double occupancy. Single rooms may be requested but are not guaranteed. The cost of a single room for the weekend is an additional \$46 or a total of \$198. Single rooms will not be assigned until after the final registrations are received and the weekend census is known. Single rooms will be assigned on a "first come, first request" basis and no one will be turned away in order to accommodate those who desire a single room. Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Handicap accessible rooms are available. For further information, please visit [solomoncenter.org](http://solomoncenter.org) or contact Linda Armstrong at 225.216.9083.



# Durham Receives Angel Award

**Darryl Durham (center)  
with Erin McQuade  
from Lighthouse For  
the Blind and Tristi  
Charpentier from Blue  
Cross and Blue Shield of  
Louisiana Foundation**



St. Anna's Episcopal Church announces that Darryl Durham, Director of Anna's Arts for Kids, a mission of St. Anna's Episcopal Church, is one of seven recipients statewide to receive the 2012 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation Angel Award. The award includes a \$20,000 donation to the charity of each recipient's choice.

Mr. Durham is the former Executive Director of the Harlem School of the Arts, and former Director of "Project SEARCH" of the Boston Conservatory. Mr. Durham has over 30 years experience in the arts and education field working in Baltimore, Boston, New York, Houston, and Atlanta prior to coming to New Orleans in 2006.

Born in Greensboro, NC., Mr. Durham is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts (High School Diploma), Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University (Bachelor of Music) and Boston University (Master of Music). Mr. Durham has performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, ALEA III Contemporary Music Ensemble, the Boston College Chamber Music Ensemble, the New Orleans Opera Association and he is currently Founder/Director of the Tremé Chorus in New Orleans. Mr. Durham currently serves on the Board of the Neighborhood Partnership Network.

Founded in 2010, Anna's Arts for Kids strives to break the cycle of crime and poverty prevalent in the lives of too many New Orleans' youth. The program's areas of focus are academic enrichment, arts and culture exposure, environmental awareness and community service. Since its inception, the program has served over 100 children, ages 3-21, annually from Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes. Anna's Arts for Kids program offerings include; academic tutoring, LEAP and iLEAP prep classes, computer literacy, library skills training, computer repair, creative writing, dance (ballet, liturgical), music (voice, guitar, violin, woodwinds, brass, percussion, piano, composition, music therapy), visual arts (painting, drawing, puppetry) and theater (acting, set design and production). Anna's Arts for Kids collaborates with numerous community organizations such as Christ Church Cathedral, The Lighthouse For the Blind, the Freret Neighborhood Center, Loyola University, Tulane University, the New Orleans Ballet Association, the New Orleans Opera Association, and LSU AgCenter's 4-H club.

St. Anna's Episcopal Church has long been a center of community life in the New Orleans' neighborhoods of the Marigny/Bywater, Faubourg Tremé and Seventh Ward, all of which have borders near the church's location on Esplanade Avenue. The mission of St. Anna's Episcopal Church is to express joy in faith by doing works growing out of compassion. St. Anna's fulfills its mission through its religious services and through its mission work in the community.

### **About the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation**

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation is building a healthier Louisiana through community outreach and charitable giving. The Angel Award is one of two signature programs. The other, Smart Bodies, is an interactive education program to prevent childhood obesity. In addition, Blue Cross contributes nearly \$2 million annually in financial aid to various non-profit organizations throughout the state that contribute to health, education and the overall quality of life in our communities. When we put dollars into Blue Cross communities, it makes Louisiana a better place for everyone. The Foundation is funded solely through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana. Learn more on the foundation's website [ourhomelouisiana.org](http://ourhomelouisiana.org).

For further information on Anna's Arts for Kids please contact us at 504.947.2121, ext. 18 or visit us at [annasartsforkids.org](http://annasartsforkids.org).

# The Longest Night at St. Martin's, Metairie

St. Martin's Episcopal Church offers "The Longest Night" service on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. The Longest Night is a worship service with two main themes — first as a remembrance of those persons who are no longer with us on earth and second, to remember that the Light of Christ shines most brightly in the darkness of our losses.

The timing of the service is significant in a couple of ways. On the seasonal front, December 12 approaches the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. December 12 also falls in the heart of our Advent preparations for Christmas. For many, the expectation is that everything should be wonderful, when in reality we might be having a difficult time.

This service is something of a modified lessons and carols and includes prayers, readings, hymns, and the lighting of candles that are then placed on the altar. It lasts about forty-five minutes.

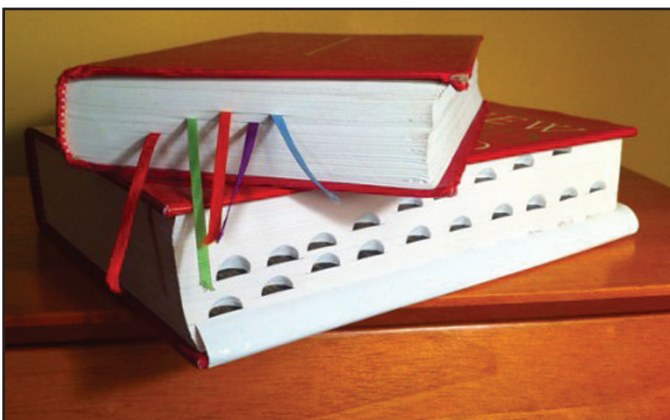
We hope you will come, if not for yourself, to support others. This is also an excellent opportunity to invite a friend who may benefit from this offering. St. Martin's Episcopal Church is located at 2216 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA 70001.



## Seeking Donations for Inmate Chaplains

*by the Rev'd Roman Roldan*

To assist with an increase of nearly 1,000 new inmates at Angola (from the closed facility in DeRidder) and a hiring freeze which has reduced the chaplain's department to two full-time employees for the 6,000 inmates, I am holding classes for inmate chaplains who will be trained to conduct weekly ecumenical liturgical services beginning with the new inmates at one of the out-camps, Camp C. The class group will use the RCL Lectionary. Each student needs his own copy of the new Lectionary book to take to the dorm to study and prepare his lessons. We are asking each church in the diocese to donate \$25, the cost of one book so that we can buy the books, in bulk, at cost. If your church is able to assist in this endeavor, please make your check to the Church of the Transfiguration and mail c/o Carolyn Douglas, P.O. Box 991, St. Francisville, La. 70775.



## Clergy Transitions

- **The Rev'd Scott Albergate** has resigned as rector of St. Paul's, New Orleans. Fr. Albergate has been called to be the rector of St. John's, Norristown, PA.
- **Deacon Howard Gilette** has transferred to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- **The Rev'd Jim Quigley** has resigned as Rector of St. George's, New Orleans. Fr. Quigley has been called to be the Associate Rector of St. St. Alban's, Washington DC.
- **The Rev'd Lonell Wright** has retired as Priest in Charge of All Souls, New Orleans. Fr. Wright will be moving to the San Diego, CA, area.
- **The Rev'd Rob Courtney** has resigned as Rector of Trinity, Morgan City. Fr. Courtney has been called to be the Priest in Charge of St. Paul's, New Orleans.
- **The Rev'd William Barnwell** has been appointed Priest in Charge of St. Luke's, New Orleans.
- **The Rev'd Maggie Dennis** has been appointed Priest in Charge of St. Michael's, Baton Rouge.
- **The Rev'd Bryan Owen** has been called to be the Rector of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge.
- **The Rev'd LeBaron Taylor** has been appointed Priest in Charge of All Saints', Ponchatoula.
- **The Rev'd Edward Thompson** has been appointed Priest in Charge of All Souls', New Orleans.

# Children's Art Program Contributes to Liturgy at St. John's

by Deacon Charmaine Kathmann

During the summer, St. John's in Kenner offered a children's art program which included painting, sculpture, writing short stories, music, song, dance and learning about the world in which we live. The unique thing about this art program was that many of the children were joined by their parents for all the events. "This was a great opportunity to have the families together during the art program", said teacher Cy Moore-Griffith.

Music teachers Rick Schmidt and George Cawley were thrilled to see the children shake empty containers of red beans and rice for percussion enhancement of the songs. The musicians played guitars and led the children and their parents to learn old religious favorites as well as new "Call and Response" hymns. The children practiced the songs at the Saturday classes and then were invited to the Sunday service to play their new tunes. The parents of the new children came to join in the fun. "It was a great time for all," stated Senior Warden, James Scaruffi. Children and their parents came from all over New Orleans including the West Bank and New Orleans East.

The children painted a rug for the nave of the church with the inscribed words, "Love God, Love Your Neighbors, and Love God's Creation." There were painted insects and sculptured animals plus foliage joined to the rug. The rug was used during liturgy services. St. John's Church members have many years of experience with teaching. The next step is to continue using the arts and offer tutoring programs for children in the Greater New Orleans area learn from experience.



Ethel Holland, Lynn Schmidt, Jennifer Schmidt, Cy Moore-Griffith

## St. John's Celebrates Veterans

by Deacon Charmaine Kathmann



Leticia and Angel Morales help at the last garage sale. Their father, James Scaruffi, served several tours of duty in Iraq.

St. John's, Kenner is also planning several veterans' ministry programs. We have been raising money with garage sales and other programs. St. John's Church is collecting items for our military personnel who are wounded in Afghanistan and also those injured and recovering in Germany. We are working with Soldier's Angels non-profit organization which ships items all the time to Afghanistan and Germany.

Our country's wounded men and women have hospital issued clothing but like to use personal items such as disposable razors of good quality, toothbrushes, undershirts and plain T-shirts in Medium, Large, and X-Large in any color.

Our veterans are healing in cold climates overseas and need new sweatpants and zippered Hoodie sweat-jackets in Medium, Large and X-Large in black or gray. The troops also like travel size shaving cream, body powder and the most coveted item is Gold Bond Foot powder in travel size.

The lady veterans like perfumed soaps and all the troops enjoy individually packed candy such as suckers, gum, and other favorite sweets (nothing that melts).

If you would like to help provide these items, please contact Deacon Charmaine Kathmann at [rfkathmann@aol.com](mailto:rfkathmann@aol.com) or Ms. Valerie Vanney at [angel49516@aol.com](mailto:angel49516@aol.com).

# Christwood Breaks Ground for Wellness Facility



Christwood Retirement Community in Covington recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for the newest expansion project on its 125 acre campus. The Community Center at Christwood (CCC) will be the center of opportunity for enhancing physical, emotional, intellectual, and social well-being. It is scheduled to be complete the end of 2013.

Participating in the ceremony were the Very Rev. Paul M. Bailey, M. Div.; Jim Dombrowski, President of the Christwood Board; Kerry Milton, Board Member and St. Tammany Hospital Chief Nursing Officer; and Diane Winston, Secretary of the Christwood Board and Chair of the Community Center Task Force.

The CCC will feature a 75 foot heated and air conditioned indoor pool; fitness center; aerobics studio; spa; space for billiards, cards, arts and crafts; meeting and conference rooms; and a lounge and juice bar.

Participating in the groundbreaking of the new Christwood Community Center are, from left, senior vice president of Capital One Bank Katharine Kay, senior warden of Christ Church Jim Valliant, president of the resident council Dr. Robert Barnes, general manager of PoolCorp Donna Williams, board member Diane Winston, Christwood President Jim Dombrowski, architect Keiron Weldon and builder Don McMath.

## Contemplative Living Seminar

The Rev. Dr. Tilden Edwards, Episcopal priest and founding director the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation is an author of numerous books including *Living in the Presence* and *Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth*, presents "Coming Home: Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth". This well-known spiritual mentor will offer an experientially-based retreat experience, with several guided meditations.

The seminar is sponsored by the School for Contemplative Living ([thescl.net](http://thescl.net)) and will take place February 22nd (6-9 pm) and 23rd (10 am -3 pm) in 2013, in New Orleans. The cost is \$60.

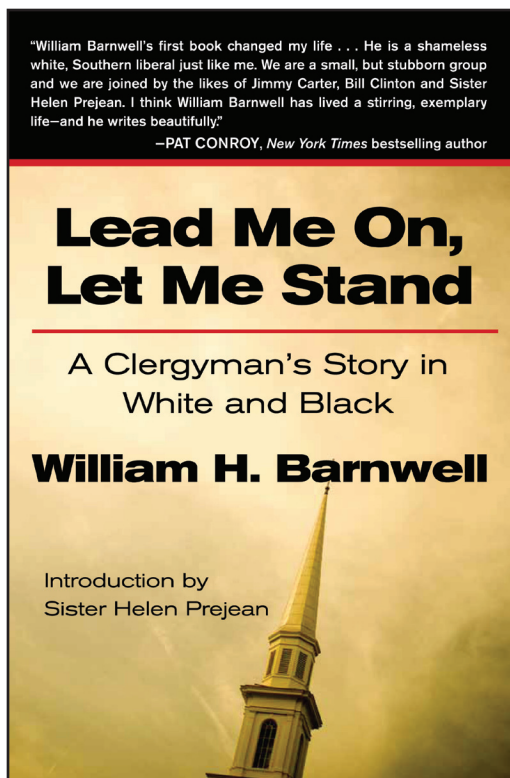
For more information, contact Dr. William Thiele at 504.899.3431, [william.thiele56@gmail.com](mailto:william.thiele56@gmail.com) or Deacon Maggie Dawson at 504.837.0877, [mgdrake@juno.com](mailto:mgdrake@juno.com).

To Register: Make your check out to Parker UMC, write "SCL" on the memo line, and mail it to Parker UMC, 1130 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115. Please include your e-mail address so that you can be notified when the location of the seminar is determined.



# Heartwarming Stories from Trinity's Past

by Linda Stone, Trinity, New Orleans



Since 1983, William Barnwell has demonstrated what it is to be a faith-filled, passionate advocate committed to social justice. Whether you always agree with William's ideas or not, you have to admire this dedicated man's chutzpah and fierce determination. He has been a force to reckon with in New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Charleston and Boston in the areas of social justice, mediation and compassion for those who have had more than their share of life's difficulties.

William has used his abilities as a skilled writer and natural story teller to give us yet another blessing. In *Lead Me On, Let Me Stand: A Clergyman's Story in White and Black*, he provides us with one fascinating story after another of people, places and ideas he has encountered during his lifetime. Many of the stories are about William's own challenges, such as his conflict between the great love he received from those who raised him and their — and his early — typical Charlestonian/ Southern segregationist attitudes. He also makes fun of his own foibles and mistakes as he learns to undertake the tasks he believes God meant for him to do.

In a review of the book, the Rev'd Sam Lloyd writes "If the argument is ever joined as to whether late 20th century Christianity did much earthly good alongside its heavenly aspirations, the story of William Barnwell will provide a powerful case in the affirmative. This son of the segregated South became as an Episcopal priest a lifelong crusader for racial equality and social justice. Strikingly, he did it not by becoming more of an activist and less of a spiritual leader, but by showing how faith and justice are inseparable. A man of dogged courage, Barnwell is also a riveting story-teller who writes with the same impassioned Southern drawl

he uses when he speaks, and draws the reader into a mélange of unforgettable characters, confrontations, and crises. His life of advocacy took him onto the streets of New Orleans, Boston, and Washington, D.C., into the cells on Death Row as well as the pulpits of the powerful. In this memoir he leaves behind the inspiring record of a life and faith that made a difference."

Fr. Barnwell's memoir is available at Trinity Treasures in New Orleans or on Amazon.com.

## Upcoming Events at St. James, BR

- **December 5th, 12th and 19th:** A Chartres-replica labyrinth will be open in Bishops Hall from 5 to 7:30 pm.
- **December 16 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm:** Join numerous downtown Baton Rouge congregations as they celebrate the season. The Downtown Christmas pilgrimage features special music and choral performances at each stop, to help pilgrims enter into this season of hope and anticipation. The pilgrimage will begin at Mount Zion First Baptist Church. The following tour stops include: 6 pm at First United Methodist; 6:30 pm at First Presbyterian; 7 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral; 7:30 pm at St. James and it concludes at First Baptist Church at 8 pm.
- **Beginning Sunday, January 6:** Life is unpredictable and often doesn't turn out as we'd planned. The things that matter most to us — marriages, children, careers, families, and friends — sometimes fall apart and leave us only with deflated dreams. Whether you're struggling with the big issues of life or simply overwhelmed by the demands of every single day, Karol Ladd's powerful biblical principles will give you the help you need. Join us in the library, on the second floor of the Ministries Center to discuss *THRIVE, DON'T SIMPLY SURVIVE: Passionately Live the Life You Didn't Plan*. In this book, you will discover how to redefine your unexpected life, and you'll learn concrete skills that will help you move past simply surviving and into a thriving life that is lived passionately and with joy. The book and its lessons are written with women in mind, but men won't be locked out!



# Saving History in the Tremé

Alfred State-SUNY College of Technology's motto "Hit the ground running" has sent 14 students from Upstate New York under the direction of Associate Professor of Building Trades, Norman Ellis in a dramatic collaboration that is helping the City of New Orleans and her people renew, rebuild, and restore. Almost ten years following the largest urban disaster in U.S. history these students find themselves rebuilding and saving a local landmark. The Marsaudet-Dodwell House built in 1846 located in the historic Tremé has been racked by neglect and hurricanes and is now being saved by these students in collaboration with Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana's Volunteer Program and St. Anna's Episcopal Church. The historically significant property is intended to be a center for reconciliation, learning, and the arts with emphasis on at-risk children and marginalized populations.

This is not the first trip students from Alfred State College have made to the city of New Orleans. Since 2010, they have travelled annually each October and November partnering with Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana to practice their skills in rebuilding homes flooded during Hurricane Katrina. Last year they were instrumental in helping ECSLA finish building the last houses to close out the Rebuild Program.

This year at the Marsaudet-Dodwell House, the benefit of the scope and dimension of work being performed by these skilled future leaders is estimated to be well over \$50,000 in contributed volunteer skilled craftsmanship. This work is not only a labor of love but an opportunity to understand the outstanding craftsmanship and construction techniques of the noted original builders Messrs. Duru and St. Martin of New Orleans. These young artisan craftsmen have catapulted this major renovation ahead by at least two years. Site supervisor Mike McDonald marveled saying, "We could not imagine this amount of work in this amount of time done this professionally. They are a real gift to this project and historic site."

For this outstanding and amazing effort we, the people of New Orleans, St. Anna's Episcopal Church, the children of the Tremé and adult learners remain eternally grateful.



The art in the parish of St. Andrew's, Luling was created by the Rev'd Spencer Lindsay, rector, facilitated by Artist Earl Woodard, and actually painted by their Sunday school class.

The paintings feature the sacraments and the names of each parishoner.

[photos by  
Rebecca Thompson]

# Karla duPlantier Named Interim Executive Director of ECSLA



The winds of Hurricane Isaac had just subsided when it was announced Karla Sikaffy duPlantier was to become the Interim Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana. She jumped in immediately to lead the ECSLA staff in disaster recovery in the diocese, in addition to creating a sustainable foundation with

its current programs.

Mrs. duPlantier received her Master in Education in Curriculum and Instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Linguistics at the University of New Orleans in 2003. Her bilingual skills, 20+ years in the hospitality industry and 10 years in the educational field, have led her to promote professional growth and continuing education with customized training for corporate and industry in workforce development. Post-Katrina, Mrs. duPlantier created sustainable programs/services to better equip and serve the community throughout the region addressing economic growth, education, health and social justice.

She formerly held the position of Adult Education Director with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Louisiana - Hispanic Apostolate Community Services Program. In her tenor with CCANO, the English as a Second Language (ESL) program

served over 2,500 adult learners becoming the second largest program in the state and largest program in Orleans Parish since hurricane Katrina. Regional collaborations allowed for leveraging to serve over 800 clients annually with 200 volunteer instructors within Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany Parishes.

As a community leader, Mrs. duPlantier received the 2011 Young Leadership Council Role Model of the Year Award, the 2007 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year by the United States Small Business Association, and is a graduate of New Orleans Leadership Institute (NORLI) and the Bryan Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum. She currently holds board positions with the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans, Committee for A Better New Orleans, and NORLI.

As a community activist, she is very committed to many professional organizations and currently chairs the Louisiana Language Access Coalition, Latino Forum, served as a member of the Public Schools Progress Committee, and collaborated with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana-Hispanic Business Resources & Technology Center, Southeastern Louisiana University, Jefferson Parish Public Schools, National Council of La Raza, Policy Link – National Black Latino Summit and the US Small Business Association.

As Interim Executive Director, Karla Sikaffy duPlantier brings a wealth of resources for sustainable programs through regional collaboration and leveraging resources in order to impact and empower larger communities. It is her passion to help support churches throughout the diocese to help build capacity for parish ministries. Mrs. duPlantier is looking forward to meeting with rectors and ministry leaders to explore ways of expanding and deepening community connections between our churches and their surrounding communities.

## Hurricane Isaac Update

After responding to five hurricanes, one or two tropical storms, and countless floods in the past seven years, Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana is working with parishes to bring relief after Hurricane Isaac. ECSLA has partnered with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Homecoming Center to provide relief services in Braithwaite, with St. Anna's and All Soul's to assist needy families affected by the storm in Orleans Parish, with St. Augustine's to provide relief in Metairie, with St. Timothy's in LaPlace and Christ Episcopal Church in Slidell.

As of October 31st, over \$15,000 in assistance has gone directly to survivors of the hurricane, and another \$20,000 in assistance is scheduled. While much of that money has been through emergency relief grants from Episcopal Relief and Development, ECS also wants to thank the many churches that have responded so generously to the need of our brothers and sisters in south Louisiana.

To further support this ongoing effort, donations may be made through the secure ECSLA website ([ecsla.org](http://ecsla.org)) or by making checks payable to Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana, 1623 Seventh Street, New Orleans, LA 70115. Please be sure to mark your check for *Hurricane Isaac Relief*.

# The Struggle of Surrender

by Forrest Cook, Living With Purpose Fellow ('12-'13)

Two of the themes which our community will be focusing on over the next couple months are struggle and surrender. As our community becomes more accustomed to the daily routine of work, eat, pray, play, these themes will resonate between and within us. I am currently struggling in my attempt to not write this entire blog post about the "struggling" Cincinnati Reds, who after going up 2-0 in San Francisco, just gave up two games to the Giants at home forcing a game 5. That's all I will say about that.

As we move into our second full month in the program, I am trying to look back on these last few weeks and discover what areas I have struggled in, and what areas I may need to surrender a little bit more. Don't get me wrong, moving to a new city which I had never been to and knew nothing about, into a house I had never seen, with roommates I had never met, committing to a program run by someone I had spoken to for a little over an hour during our interview, was not a cake walk. But for me, the hardest part of all that was leaving the town (Cincinnati) and people (family and friends) I loved. Once I was gone, throwing myself fully into the program and community was not a problem. Yes, I have had to allow myself to think communally. Yes, I have had to change personal habits that I had grown accustomed to. But the opportunity to experience so much (music, art, culture, spiritual practice) with a community of like-minded individuals who have a common purpose is worth not being able to watch the Reds in my own living room, or waiting for 6 other people to use the bathroom before I do, or cooking for 6 other people whose tastes and preferences are different (and letting them cook for me!). Surrendering a small part of myself allows me to open myself up to new experiences which



*Living with Purpose is part of the Episcopal Service Corps.*

those in my community can provide. And, in turn, I am able to provide new experiences to my Fellows (that's what we are called) as they surrender a part of themselves. But this idea of surrender and struggle goes much deeper, to the heart of my journey this year as a Fellow Living with Purpose.

There is within me, and I like to think within most people, a constant struggle to hear our calling, and to truly find an equilibrium spiritually. As I have journeyed these past months, and as I continue along my path this year, I will struggle physically, emotionally and mentally. Those are expectations. But I also expect to diminish the spiritual struggles that hinder my becoming a better Christian, and coming closer to God. I expect to do this by surren-



dering myself, my plans, expectations, baggage, and intentions to the common goals my fellow Fellows (haha..) and I have set out together this year. Through this program, I will learn to face my fears, engage myself and my community in a more real and meaningful way, and come to understand my place in this world and God's plan for me.

Still being in the beginning of this whole adventure, I have more and more questions and not so many answers. But I figure that should be how we make our way through this world. I can surrender my need for finality and truth in order to find joy in the adventure.

## JERICHO ROAD EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE

# Jericho Road Working for Families

Jericho Road has completed construction of our 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th homes. These newly constructed homes were built in partnership with local non profits and with city and federal government — everyone committed to FAMILY! These latest four houses are our “greenest”, thanks to the Neighborhood Stabilization Funds 1 and 2, featuring energy efficiencies like roof mounted solar electric (photovoltaic) panels, Energy Star appliances, high performance envelope, high performance windows, spray foam insulation, high efficiency lighting, rainwater collection barrels, and high efficiency HVAC systems.

It is for working families that Jericho Road commits its work. And it is working families who, within one month of completed construction, had each of these four homes under contract for purchase! The ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and Christ Church Cathedral through Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative provides affordable homeownership opportunities in a revitalizing community. It is a beautiful thing — bringing bountiful change and opportunity to those who seek it. Aren't we fortunate to be a part of such work!?!



*We installed new permanent signs at the Faubourg Delassize Community Garden and the Saratoga Street Fruit Tree Orchard. Plus, Warren Wilson College students helped start the process of installing permanent walkways between the rows of trees at the Orchard this fall. These are signs (no pun intended) to the community that the green spaces Jericho Road is supporting in Central City are here to stay! Resident involvement at each of these sites grows with each and every season!*





**JERICHO ROAD**  
EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE

*Saratoga Street Fruit Tree Orchard invites you to*

## Adopt a Tree

... and help Nourish  
the Roots for a  
Sustainable Community!



Help us celebrate our anniversary by  
giving a \$200 gift to adopt a tree for one year.

### What will my gift do?

It will help us to buy fertilizer, tools, supplies, and everything else in-between to make our baby trees grow big and tall, and to welcome our community with activities, events, and workshops. You can be a part of making our orchard grow *big, green, and beautiful!*

### Adopters Receive:

- Featured name on our big, green, beautiful map.
- An adoption certificate and a special surprise.
- The joy in knowing your tree will *grow!*



### Wanna Adopt?

Please email your donation request to Holly Heine at [hollyheine@jerichohousing.org](mailto:hollyheine@jerichohousing.org) or call (504) 895-6763.

[www.jerichohousing.org](http://www.jerichohousing.org)

The Diocese of Louisiana		2012				OVER/ UNDER BUDGET
Operations Budget 2012 - Analysis 10/31/2012		TOTAL	YTD	YTD		
(Assessment and Program)		BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL		
REVENUE						
Subtotal - Revenues from Congregations		\$1,319,731	\$1,099,776	\$994,945.97		-\$104,830
Subtotal - Other Revenues		\$116,676	\$97,230	\$97,008		-\$222
Subtotal - Targeted Donations		\$75,000	62,500	\$62,500		\$0
TOTAL REVENUE		\$1,511,407	\$1,259,506	\$1,154,454		-\$105,051
EXPENSES						
Total Diocesan Center		\$848,396	\$706,997	\$675,576		-\$31,421
Diocesan Property Reserve		\$7,500	6,250	6250		\$0
Episcopal Transition Reserve		\$7,500	6,250	6250		\$0
Total Academic Chaplaincies		\$284,123	\$236,769	\$254,928		\$18,159
Total Christian Education		\$2,000	\$1,667	\$1,500		-\$167
Total Commissions		\$11,000	\$9,167	\$5,277		-\$3,890
Total Communications		\$45,350	\$37,792	\$36,003		-\$1,788
Total Conferences		\$20,250	\$16,875	\$17,174		\$299
Total Church Mission Ministry & Grants		\$87,500	\$72,917	\$53,770		-\$19,147
Total Seminarians		\$7,000	\$5,833	\$7,500		\$1,667
Total Specialized Ministries		\$3,000	\$2,500	\$3,000		\$500
Total Stewardship		\$2,500	\$2,083	\$1,000		-\$1,083
Total Work Outside the Diocese		\$159,925	\$133,271	\$134,067		\$796
Total Youth		\$84,655	\$70,546	\$70,801		\$255
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,583,699	\$1,319,749	\$1,281,992		-\$37,757
NET INCOME / LOSS		-\$72,292	-\$60,243	-\$127,538		-\$67,295

## and Program Giving As of 11/5/2012

	Church	City	2012 ASSESSMENT				2012 PROGRAM				
			Assessment	YTD (Jan - Oct)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance	Ask	Pledge	YTD (Jan - Oct)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance
As of 11/15/2012	Church of the Incarnation	Amite	\$1,163.23	\$969.36	\$1,050.00	\$80.64	\$1,047.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Church of the Holy Spirit	Baton Rouge	\$7,250.80	\$6,042.33	\$6,042.50	\$0.17	\$9,426.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	St. Alban's Chapel	Baton Rouge	\$11,425.61	\$9,521.34	\$8,569.37	-\$951.97	\$19,424.00	\$19,424.00	\$16,187	\$14,568.13	-\$1,618.54
	St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$2,510.50	\$2,092.08	\$2,092.50	\$0.42	\$2,259.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	St. James' Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$79,918.75	\$66,598.96	\$54,935.36	-\$11,663.60	\$135,862.00	\$102,664.00	\$85,553	\$66,786.64	-\$18,766.69
	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$40,894.10	\$34,078.42	\$34,078.40	-\$0.02	\$69,520.00	\$44,106.00	\$36,755	\$36,754.90	-\$0.10
	St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$11,058.40	\$9,215.33	\$8,293.65	-\$921.68	\$18,799.00	\$1,880.00	\$1,567	\$1,409.87	-\$156.80
	St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal	Baton Rouge	\$2,406.85	\$2,005.71	\$2,000.00	-\$5.71	\$2,166.00	\$500.00	\$417	\$500.00	\$83.33
	Trinity Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$32,211.60	\$26,843.00	\$29,527.63	\$2,684.63	\$54,760.00	\$38,332.00	\$31,943	\$35,137.63	\$3,194.30
	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Bogalusa	\$3,406.45	\$2,838.71	\$2,838.30	-\$0.41	\$3,066.00	\$1,394.00	\$1,162	\$1,161.70	\$0.03
	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Clinton	\$794.18	\$661.82	\$794.18	\$132.36	\$715.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Christ Episcopal Church	Covington	\$35,863.75	\$29,886.46	\$27,257.28	-\$2,629.18	\$60,968.00	\$24,136.00	\$20,113	\$20,113.30	-\$0.03
	St. Francis' Episcopal Church	Denham Springs	\$5,548.95	\$4,624.13	\$4,625.00	\$0.88	\$7,214.00	\$7,214.00	\$6,012	\$6,012.00	\$0.33
	St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Franklin	\$5,253.03	\$4,377.53	\$3,926.25	-\$451.28	\$6,829.00	\$8,280.00	\$6,900	\$6,210.00	-\$690.00
	Grace Memorial Church	Hammond	\$13,201.64	\$11,001.37	\$9,901.53	-\$1,099.84	\$22,443.00	\$22,443.00	\$18,703	\$16,832.25	-\$1,870.25
	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Harvey	\$3,813.75	\$3,178.13	\$3,180.00	\$1.88	\$3,432.00	\$3,432.00	\$2,860	\$2,860.00	\$0.00
	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Houma	\$13,930.20	\$11,608.50	\$11,608.34	-\$0.16	\$23,681.00	\$13,930.00	\$11,608	\$11,608.34	\$0.01
	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Innis	\$2,588.10	\$2,156.75	\$2,588.10	\$431.35	\$2,329.00	\$2,329.00	\$1,941	\$2,323.00	\$382.17
	St. John's Episcopal Church	Kenner	\$1,142.10	\$951.75	\$0.00	-\$951.75	\$1,028.00	\$514.00	\$428	\$514.00	\$85.67
	St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	LaPlace	\$2,188.00	\$1,823.33	\$1,640.98	-\$182.35	\$1,969.00	\$1,969.00	\$1,641	\$1,476.72	-\$164.11
	St. Michael's Episcopal Church	Mandeville	\$13,085.30	\$10,904.42	\$7,632.94	-\$3,271.48	\$22,245.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000	\$900.00	-\$100.00
	St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Metairie	\$16,746.35	\$13,955.29	\$13,955.00	-\$0.29	\$28,469.00	\$16,746.00	\$13,955	\$13,955.00	\$0.00
	St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Metairie	\$19,275.30	\$16,062.75	\$16,062.50	-\$0.25	\$32,768.00	\$7,710.00	\$6,425	\$6,425.00	\$0.00
	Trinity Episcopal Church	Morgan City	\$6,736.15	\$5,613.46	\$5,051.98	-\$561.48	\$8,757.00	\$8,757.00	\$7,298	\$6,567.75	-\$729.75
	St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Morganza	\$510.45	\$425.38	\$510.00	\$84.63	\$459.00	\$459.00	\$383	\$459.00	\$76.50
	All Souls	New Orleans	\$2,525.00	\$2,104.17	\$1,300.00	-\$804.17	\$2,273.00	\$2,273.00	\$1,894	\$0.00	-\$1,894.17
	Church of the Annunciation	New Orleans	\$7,484.05	\$6,236.71	\$3,000.00	-\$3,236.71	\$9,729.00	\$4,490.00	\$3,742	\$0.00	-\$3,741.67
	Chapel of the Holy Comforter	New Orleans	\$4,137.20	\$3,447.67	\$3,447.50	-\$0.17	\$3,723.00	\$3,723.00	\$3,103	\$3,102.50	\$0.00
	Chapel of the Holy Spirit	New Orleans	\$2,397.55	\$1,997.96	\$2,397.55	\$399.59	\$2,158.00	\$2,158.00	\$1,798	\$2,158.45	\$360.12
	Christ Church Cathedral	New Orleans	\$25,213.70	\$21,011.42	\$16,809.36	-\$4,202.06	\$42,863.00	\$42,863.00	\$35,719	\$28,575.36	-\$7,143.81
	Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$2,743.62	\$2,286.35	\$2,286.64	\$0.29	\$2,469.00	\$400.00	\$333	\$400.06	\$66.73
	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$15,943.15	\$13,285.96	\$1,328.58	-\$11,957.38	\$27,103.00	\$13,552.00	\$11,293	\$1,129.33	-\$10,164.00
St. Anna's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$10,617.40	\$8,847.83	\$8,847.50	-\$0.33	\$18,050.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00	
St. George's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$16,421.55	\$13,684.63	\$13,685.00	\$0.38	\$27,917.00	\$13,959.00	\$11,633	\$11,166.80	-\$465.70	
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$9,348.24	\$7,790.20	\$7,790.10	-\$0.10	\$12,153.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$31,310.55	\$26,092.13	\$23,483.06	-\$2,609.07	\$53,228.00	\$26,614.00	\$22,178	\$19,960.75	-\$2,217.58	
St. Philip's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$9,464.75	\$7,887.29	\$7,890.00	\$2.71	\$12,304.00	\$9,843.00	\$8,203	\$8,203.00	\$0.50	
Trinity Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$110,851.70	\$92,376.42	\$92,376.58	\$0.16	\$188,448.00	\$144,148.00	\$120,123	\$120,123.42	\$0.09	
St. Paul's-Holy Trinity Church	New Roads	\$3,773.20	\$3,144.33	\$3,144.27	-\$0.06	\$3,396.00	\$3,396.00	\$2,830	\$2,829.93	-\$0.07	
Church of the Holy Communion	Plaquemine	\$7,868.65	\$6,557.21	\$7,868.65	\$1,311.44	\$10,229.00	\$4,091.00	\$3,409	\$3,761.59	\$352.42	
All Saints' Episcopal Church	Ponchatoula	\$3,648.10	\$3,040.08	\$3,040.10	\$0.02	\$3,283.00	\$2,760.00	\$2,300	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	
All Saints' Episcopal Church	River Ridge	\$9,626.35	\$8,021.96	\$8,297.00	\$275.04	\$12,514.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000	\$1,202.91	\$202.91	
Church of the Nativity	Rosedale	\$1,938.20	\$1,615.17	\$1,938.20	\$323.03	\$1,744.00	\$1,744.00	\$1,453	\$1,744.00	\$290.67	
Christ Episcopal Church	Slidell	\$9,655.15	\$8,045.96	\$8,850.55	\$804.59	\$12,552.00	\$2,345.00	\$1,954	\$2,149.60	\$195.43	
Grace Episcopal Church	St. Francisville	\$24,263.40	\$20,219.50	\$16,377.84	-\$3,841.66	\$41,248.00	\$41,248.00	\$34,373	\$16,377.66	-\$17,995.67	
St. John's Episcopal Church	Thibodaux	\$6,192.10	\$5,160.08	\$5,676.02	\$515.94	\$8,050.00	\$4,025.00	\$3,354	\$3,689.60	\$335.43	
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	Zachary	\$7,582.80	\$6,319.00	\$6,320.00	\$1.00	\$9,858.00	\$10,350.00	\$8,625	\$8,625.00	\$0.00	
Totals			\$655,929.95	\$546,608.29	\$504,316.29	-\$42,292.00	\$1,044,927.00	\$663,801.00	\$553,167.50	\$490,075.19	-\$63,092.31

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Matt Holt, Amelia Arthur (Diocesan Coordinator for Youth & Young Adult Ministries) and David Musser take a break from Bowling with the Bishop to catch up with each other.

[photo by Debra Edens]

Participants of an annual Stephen Ministry retreat gather in Our Father's Garden at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge.

[photo by Debbie Copeland]




• • • •  
**THANK YOU**  
 TO EVERYONE  
 WHO DONATED  
 IN 2012  
 • • • •



A new sign for the Saratoga Street Fruit Tree Orchard in New Orleans welcomes neighbors to the community space.

This orchard, as well as a garden, are projects of Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative.



*From Everyone on the  
Bishop's Staff —  
Merry Christmas &  
Many Blessings for 2013!*