

CHURCHWORK

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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

August 2013



The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life...

Proverbs 13:14

On the front cover:

Students, faculty and families of St. Andrew's Episcopal School in New Orleans gathered in May for a ceremonial groundbreaking on a new building on campus.

[photo by John Barousse]

Benefit Fundraiser
for Diocesan Ministries

TEE IT UP

WITH

THE BISHOP



Monday, October 14th
Audubon Park Golf Course
New Orleans

Visit edola.org/scramble2013 for more information and to register!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

If this summer has been anything, it has been a twisting, turning flood of rapids down the Mighty Mississippi. This is not what summers in the Deep South are supposed to be. It is too hot to move quickly. One needs time to reflect and ponder. This summer however began like a thoroughbred breaking out of the gate. It began with Canon Stevenson closing his office for his three months' sabbatical. I don't think I've ever seen Mark move so fast. I knew he needed some R&R but I thought his acceleration was a bit much. The next major transition transpired when the funds for Episcopal Community Service were depleted and we simply could not continue the path we had traveled for the past several years. The painful decision to lay staff off is never easy, but it was necessary. In the seven months Karla duPlantier led ECS she gave 110% trying to revive a body that had seen better days. Somewhere along the way Billie Barbier announced that she would be retiring at the end of October. She said something about traveling with her husband in foreign lands.

I know people who say, "Change is good!" Those words do not roll off my lips very easily. I like routine, a rhythm that is familiar. To know what is going to happen before it happens puts me at ease, but life is not stagnant. It changes. If you were to ask me how my summer went, I will tell you it was instructive. With Mark out for a few months our work had to continue. With Karla gone, the remnants of ECS continued. With Billie retiring, her work will be assumed by another. What happened this summer was I had the privilege of sitting in all three chairs and experienced what they did every day. I had no idea the number of phone calls, emails with questions, decisions that were being made without my input. That is what happens when you hire competent individuals. They make decisions and life goes on. I learned a lot. I learned that this diocese has been in good hands, not just the bright individuals mentioned, but others as well, both paid and non-paid. We have so many talented lay-leaders who

make sure this ministry is running well. Everyday I give thanks for the many people whose joy it is to serve.

Two weeks ago Canon Stevenson traveled to New Orleans while on sabbatical to share some news. He said he had been asked to work on the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) as Domestic Poverty Missioner. I waited for the punch line, but there was none. Another change, but this one more than three months. I am excited for Fr. Stevenson. His multiple gifts are being recognized by the larger church. He will bring a voice that is needed and a plethora of organizational competency. I will miss his friendship and will always be grateful for his guidance as he tutored me through the unknowns of being a bishop.

Change happens. What I've gleaned from life is we can either stick our heads in the sand and hope the world passes us by or we can jump in and see where God leads. One of my favorite scriptures is found in Hebrews 12:1; "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

Life goes on for all of us, Mark, Karla, Billie and for us. We have been blessed by their presence and they have taught us how to carry on. God bless them, and God bless us too.

Brave journey,

+ *Mou's*

BISHOP'S JOURNAL: APRIL 10TH TO AUGUST 12TH

April 10: Lunch meeting in Baton Rouge with some of the Deans from around the Diocese. In the afternoon I met with some clergy for each of their annual consultations. Back to New Orleans that evening.

April 11: Officiated at Teddy Solomon's funeral. Mr. Solomon was very generous to our diocese, in particular helping us acquire the land in Loranger, LA to build our Conference Center that bears his name. Following the funeral I attended a conference call in Baton Rouge. I had dinner with Deacon Mark Hudson.

April 12: I attended an Orientation for new board members who are serving on the Spiritas Senior Service Board. I drove back to New Orleans in the afternoon.

April 13: I officiated at the beautiful ordination service at the Cathedral for Kit Sharp and Hal Roark to the order of Deacon. The service was moving with full attendance. That afternoon Rebecca and I actually felt like native New Orleanians walking through the French Quarter Fest.

April 14: Amidst the stormy sky I trudged to St. Martin's in Metairie where I confirmed, received and baptized a host of parishioners. They had an art show in their parish hall this weekend. It was a great day in spite of the torrential rain.

April 15: Mailed my tax returns and learned how to cook fresh collard greens. They were delicious.

April 16: I had appointments in the morning at the New Orleans office and celebrated Mass at the Cathedral. Lunch with the New Orleans staff followed by more appointments and the organizational meeting of the Disciplinary Board.

April 17: The day began with staff meeting, fol-

lowed by individual meetings with staff. Had a wonderful lunch with Fr. LeBaron Taylor. In the afternoon met with an individual interested in the Episcopal Priesthood. Ended the day working on additional staff work.

April 18: I drove to the Solomon Center and spent time with Frank Hall discussing the workings of the Center. In the afternoon the Board of St. Martin's Episcopal School gathered for their overnight meeting and retreat. I am so impressed with the leadership of St. Martin's School. The retreat was informative and energizing.

April 19: The retreat concluded in the afternoon. Later that day the Deacons of the Diocese arrived at the Solomon Center for their annual retreat. This retreat has become one of my favorite times that I spend with the Deacons.

April 20: The Deacon retreat continued on Saturday and my time with them concluded with Mass in the evening. My time is cut short because I must drive to Baton Rouge for my Sunday visit.

April 21: I arrived at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge where I confirmed 6 youth, preached and celebrated. This was my first visit with Fr. Bryan Owen as their new rector. The energy was high with great expectation. After the service I had lunch with the vestry. They are powerfully committed to overseeing the needs and challenges of their church. I learned a lot and value their leadership greatly. Drove back to New Orleans while making some pastoral calls.

April 22: Some office work.

April 23: I took three days off for a little R&R.

April 26: I worked on my sermon in the morning and attended a board meeting in Baton Rouge with

Spiritas Senior Services, a new initiative by Fr. Ken Ritter.

April 27: I went in to the office early for a bit of work and a Standing Committee meeting. Later, Rebecca and I drove to Long Beach for a wedding. It has been a long time since I sat in the congregation for a wedding.

April 28: I had a wonderful time at St. Paul's, New Orleans where I baptized, confirmed and received. The music was absolutely beautiful. Halfway through the service while the choir was singing, "Let's go down to the river to pray..." the sky opened up and I thought we just might have a river outside. My visit ended with a beautiful luncheon.

April 29: The plumber explained to me that we need a new hot water tank at our home. What I wonder is, how are the plumbers going to move it down from the third floor? I went to the office for some work and then home to cook supper.

April 30: I got up early this morning to wish our son happy birthday. Off to the office for a full day of meetings with staff, clergy and a phone conference around the globe.

May 1: Up early to Baton Rouge for meetings, phone conference and staff meeting and a meeting with the Rev'd Maggie Dennis, the Priest-In-Charge of St. Michaels and All Saints. The day ended with "God and Guinness" for young adults. A late night drive back to New Orleans, but the silence soothed me and my mind wondered deeply with the tunes from Yo Yo Ma.

May 2: Sermon prep work and then a meeting with my coach, Tronn Moller. Working with my coach has been an absolute joy. It brings further dimension to my thoughts.

May 3-5: This weekend was the second annual Men's Retreat at the Solomon Center where I led roughly 40 men with the questions, Who do we say Jesus is and who does Jesus say we are? A wonder-

ful weekend of fellowship, teachings, singing, and sharing the love of Christ.

May 6: I enjoyed time with Bishop Wayne and Holly Wright from the Diocese of Delaware. They were here for Jazz Fest.

May 7: Today was filled with meetings with clergy, a school board executive committee and staff.

May 8: Staff meeting in the morning and some prep work for Fresh Start class. In the afternoon I met with some clergy and then went to Trinity, New Orleans and met with forty individuals to be confirmed on Sunday.

May 9: I had an early morning flight to the University of the South, Sewanee where I witnessed the Rev'd Jim Morrison receive his diploma in Anglican Studies.

May 10: The graduation service at Sewanee was magnificent. The chapel was full and the music breathtaking. I left the mountain quickly to catch my flight for New Orleans.

May 11: I spent the morning working on sermons. Our daughter Virginia came to spend the weekend with us. She is a great source of happiness!

May 12: It's Mother's Day and I am visiting Trinity, New Orleans where I officiated, preached, confirmed, and received over forty people. It was a great day. Virginia prepared a wonderful meal for all of us!

May 13: Spent time with the plumber as he put in a new hot water tank. In the afternoon I had one appointment with Merry Sorrells, the new head mistress at St. Martin's School. She is doing a fantastic job.

May 14: The day was packed with meetings with clergy, and diocesan leaders. In the afternoon I drove to Baton Rouge for more meetings followed by a wonderful business dinner at the new Gala-

toire's in Baton Rouge.

May 15: The day began with an uplifting service where I celebrated the last chapel for the school year at St. Luke's School. The rest of the day was spent in meetings with clergy and then I drove home to get a haircut. My schedule had kept me from getting my hair cut and the comments from the laity became unbearable.

May 16: Up early and drove to Covington for their high school's first Baccalaureate service. Six seniors graduated in their first graduating class. On to Baton Rouge for Episcopal High School's Baccalaureate Service where I celebrated.

May 17: I spent the day working on sermons and writing letters. In the evening I attended the graduation service at Episcopal High School. It is always joyful watching seniors full of hope and expectation.

May 18: Spent the day working on sermons and relaxing.

May 19: I spent the morning at St. James, Baton Rouge where I preached, celebrated, confirmed and received many new members. Following the service was a parish picnic. In the evening I celebrated and preached at Mother Maggie Dennis' Institution of New Ministry at St. Michael's All Saints. It was a wonderful evening with good turnout. I returned to New Orleans after having been away for several days.

May 20: Day off.

May 21: Early breakfast with John Musser followed by prep work for the noon Eucharist at the Cathedral where I celebrated and preached. The New Orleans staff gathered for lunch. The afternoon was full of meetings followed by the Executive Board meeting in the evening. I am grateful for those who serve on the executive board and the time they give.

May 22: Early morning drive to the Solomon Center where I was joined by the clergy of the diocese for a day meeting. It is always good to be with our clergy and to hear how they are doing. We received into our fellowship the Rev'd Jim Morrison. Jim is an excellent addition to the Episcopal Church. Later that afternoon I met with the counsel of Deans and discussed the disaster plan. Drove back to New Orleans

May 23: I attended the groundbreaking ceremony at St. Andrew's School. They are adding a three floor school building. I drove to Baton Rouge where I preached and celebrated at Trinity Church for the diocesan parish administrators' luncheon. The administrators do a fabulous job keeping our parishes operating. That evening Canon Stevenson and I drove to Donner, LA for a dinner with some folks from Trinity, Morgan City and St. John's, Thibodaux. It was a great meeting.

May 24: Work in office then lunch with Cove Geary, our Chancellor. Rebecca and I drove to Jackson, MS for the weekend. It's good to be with family.

May 25-28: Memorial Day Weekend. Much needed rest.

May 29: Staff meeting and then I drove to Baton Rouge for a lunch meeting with Nannette Noland. I had several meetings in the Baton Rouge office, then drove back to New Orleans.

May 30: Full day of meeting with clergy, seminarians and staff. The day ended with a much-needed meeting with my spiritual director.

May 31: Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge in the afternoon.

June 1: Rebecca and I drove to Grace, St. Francisville for the ordination of Suzi Johnston to the sacred order of Deacon. It was a wonderful service and the Rev'd John Senette preached the best deacon's ordination sermon I've ever heard. Drove back

to New Orleans that afternoon.

June 2: Rebecca and I started the drive to Christ Church Covington, but when we got to the Causeway the sign said it was closed due to weather. I didn't know they closed it for cars, but now I do. We immediately turned around and headed west on I-10 in torrential rains. We arrived at Christ Church with just a few minutes to spare. I preached, celebrated, baptized, confirmed and received several youth and adults. It was a day to remember. Later that evening I preached and celebrated at the service of Institution for the Rev'd Edward Thompson at All Souls, New Orleans. It was a joyous service.

June 3: Day off running errands.

June 4: Day spent meeting with staff, committee members, clergy and community leaders.

June 5: Busy day with staff meetings. Today was the last staff meeting for Canon Stevenson before he left for his three months sabbatical. He's rubbed it in a bit too much. At least he could have acted like he was going to miss us! He deserves this time of rest and reflection. That evening Rebecca and I went to the Quarter to celebrate our 31st wedding anniversary at Mr. B's. I'm looking forward to the next 31 years.

June 6: A long phone conference in the morning followed by lunch with Fr. Michael Kuhn. Worked in the office and ended the day with an eye appointment.

June 7: Rebecca left for Jackson and I worked on paper work and sermons for this weekend.

June 8: I drove to the Solomon Center for a board meeting. We followed the meeting with lunch and then I drove home to watch Mississippi State in their Super Regional win over Virginia.

June 9: I went to the Chapel of the Holy Comforter in the morning where I preached, celebrated and

confirmed. The music this morning lifted me high upon the clouds. I ate with the parishioners and then drove to the Solomon Center for the closing of Cursillo. From all I can tell, the weekend of Cursillo was a great experience. I am grateful for the dedication shown by so many people. I drove back to New Orleans that evening.

June 10: Day off. Took my car and truck in for an oil change.

June 11: Phone conference early in the morning followed by Fr. Bill Terry's annual consultation. I celebrated the noon Mass at the Cathedral and made phone calls later in the day.

June 12: Early phone call to Deacon deGravelles and then a meeting with Deacon Hackett. Drove to the Solomon Conference Center for the ECW Board Retreat. In the afternoon a phone conference that dealt with issues of the property on Canal St.

June 13: Celebrated Mass for the ECW Board and then spent time discussing events around the church and diocese. I always enjoy my time with the ECW. They are deeply committed to serving God's church.

June 14: Rebecca and I had an early flight to Durham, NC for the ordination/consecration of Anne Elliott Hodges-Copple, Suffragan Bishop. Anne will be the first female bishop ordained in Province IV. A welcomed event.

June 15: The Ordination and Consecration of Anne was held at the chapel of Duke University a magnificent structure. We had to leave immediately after taking communion so we could catch our plane. I had never left early like this and it felt strange and rude.

June 16: I celebrated and preached at Christ Church, Slidell. Their spirits were high and the service, joyful.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

June 17: Met with Karla duPlantier early in the day. A difficult and painful decision was made to reorganize ECS due to the lack of funding. Later in the day Rebecca and I left for Sandestin for some much needed rest.

June 18-23: Vacation (with some work just to keep me on my toes).

June 24: Pastoral visit with a parishioner followed by a meeting with Amelia Arthur. ECS Board meeting in the afternoon.

June 25: Rebecca and I flew to Charleston, SC for the Province IV Bishops and Spouse conference. Over the next two days we heard heartbreaking stories surrounding the abandoning congregations and the heroic measures taken by many to remain in the Episcopal Church.

June 27: We flew back to New Orleans and then drove to Jackson for the weekend. I had no visitation on Sunday.

July 1: I had two meetings in the morning and a doctor's appointment in the afternoon. I needed to find out why I kept running a fever.

July 2: More doctor appointments and some office work.

July 3: Office work. Agatha and I got caught up and I actually cleaned off my desk.

July 4: Rebecca and I flew to Washington, DC and spent the holiday with our son and daughter-in-law. One of the many highlights was watching the Marine Corps parade at 8th and Barracks. It was very moving to see all the Marines in their dress blues.

July 7: We attend church where our son will do his field work later this year. It's nice to sit in the congregation and worship with the family. Our flight was supposed to leave at 8 pm but didn't actually leave until 11. Long day.

July 8: Day off but went in later for a pastoral meeting with the rector and wardens of one of our parishes.

July 9: Early meeting with Les Bradfield who serves on the Executive Board. I met with board members to get to know them and to listen. This was followed by annual consultations with Fr. Paul Bailey and Mtr. Anne Maxwell. I had to rush back to hospital for more blood tests and return for a meeting with Deacon Elaine Clements and later with Deacon Quinn Bates. The day ended with a long meeting with our Trustees.

July 10: Staff meeting in the morning and then drove to Baton Rouge. I had lunch with Marsha Wade followed by a meeting with Nick Auck, Vista Manager for Louisiana. An afternoon annual consultation with Mtr. Mary Ann Garrett and then returned phone calls from the day. Stayed over night at St. James' Place.

July 11: The anniversary of my entry to Paris Island, SC, Marine bootcamp. I had an early breakfast meeting with Treasurer Lucius Butts followed by a meeting with Executive Board member Francis Neziyanya. I had time to work on sermon material for the two sermons for next week and then made a phone call to the Solomon Center. Drove back home.

July 12: Spent the morning working on sermons and then lunch with Fr. Henry Hudson. I drove back to Baton Rouge for the Living with Purpose closing service. After the service I treated the fellows to dinner along with Fr. Mark Holland who has generously assisted in the establishment of a LWP program in Baton Rouge. I spent the night in Baton Rouge.

July 13: Executive Board meeting. We completed our work in record setting time, 38 minutes. I was grateful for the attention the board members gave to this important work.

July 14: I had a wonderful visitation at St. Mar-

garet's, Baton Rouge. Their energy was vivid and strong.

July 15: Day off. Met with my spiritual director and later traveled to Christ Church Covington for a meeting with their vestry.

July 16: Early morning coffee with a parishioner followed by prep work before I went to Lambeth House for Mass. A faithful group of folks showed up for the service. Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus provides wonderful care and pastoral direction for this community. I returned for annual consultations with Fr. Fred Devall and Mtr. Minka Sprague, the new chaplain at Tulane. I'm excited about her presence. I drove to Holy Comforter for a meeting and dinner with their vestry. I was impressed with the ministry taking place under the leadership of Fr. John Craft.

July 17: After staff meeting I drove to Christ School, Covington and saw their new building. I was not prepared to see it almost completed. It will house classrooms, offices, a theater, and gathering places for students. Headmaster John Morvant showed me around and later we ate lunch together. After lunch I drove to Baton Rouge for Fr. Ken Ritter's annual consultation. That meeting was followed by a two hour conference call for a Standing Commission of the Episcopal church. I spent the night.

July 18: Early morning meeting with Randi Ellis, Executive Board member followed by a conference call with Cove Geary and Marsha Wade. Later I met Fr. Drew Rollins for his annual consultation. I had lunch with Margaret Lawhon and Bob Furlow and discussed retreats. Following lunch I drove to Ponchatoula for a meeting with Fr. Lebaron Taylor. The day ended with a good meeting with a small committee I've gathered to help me assess the workings of the diocesan office. I finally got back home to New Orleans.

July 19: Lunch at Mandina's with a couple of St. Martin's board members. Was able to work on sermon and other items.

July 20: Had a wonderful meeting with the vestry of St. Luke's, New Orleans. They have been very busy with community ministries.

July 21: A delightful visit with St. Michael's, Mandeville where I celebrated and preached.

July 22: Day off.

July 23: Morning began with a meeting with Billie Barbier and then Fr. Harry Jenkins' annual consultation. I celebrated mass at the Cathedral and then bought lunch for the staff. It was good to spend time with all of them. The afternoon was spent with Canon Steven Roberts' annual consultation and phone calls. Ended the day meeting with Gillian Knowles, a member of the Executive Board.

July 24: Early meeting with Lee Crean, head of the Racism committee. They are working on the service in January when the Presiding Bishop will be with us. Drove to Baton Rouge for a lunch meeting with Mtr. Margaret Austin who moved back to Louisiana several months ago. Met with Deacon Linda Armstrong for her annual consultation. The day ended with a pastoral meeting with a parishioner. Spent the night in Baton Rouge.

July 25: Started the day off by attending the morning eucharist at Trinity, followed by coffee with some of the attendees. Got to the office for a meeting with Fr. Ernie Saik followed by a meeting with Jennifer Hirstius, a staff member. Edgar Cage, Vice President of the Executive Board and I had lunch and then I drove to St. James' Place for board meeting. Drove back to New Orleans

July 26: Phone conference with Fr. Kevin Kelly followed by a meeting with Fr. Henry Hudson. The day ended with a meeting with a couple of wardens.

July 27: No meetings.

July 28: A joyful day with the folks of St. Timothy's, LaPlace, where I preached and celebrated. Their

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

facilities were flooded by hurricane Isaac and the nave has been redesigned. Sunday was the day of blessing the baptismal font, lectern, banner, altar and nave. The day concluded with a thanksgiving feast.

July 29: Day off.

July 30: Early meeting with Amelia Arthur regarding Living With Purpose followed by Fr. Craig Dalferes annual consultation. Craig and I grabbed a bite to eat and then he headed back to Houma. In the afternoon I had annual consultations with Deacon Dick Almos, Fr. Edward Thompson and Deacon Joann Garma. Ended the day with some last minute phone calls.

July 31: Staff meeting in the morning followed by a visit with the Rev'd Amity Carrubba, Executive Director of Episcopal Service Corps. Received a sad message that Doris Solomon died early in the morning. She and Teddy have been very supportive of the Diocese. Later in the morning Harriet Murrell and I spoke about the archives and other projects that Harriet is overseeing. She is a wealth of historical information. The afternoon began with a meeting with Tronn Moller who will be leading the retreat for priests in October. This was followed by some phone calls and calendaring with Agatha. We are on the verge of completing the visitation schedule for 2014. The day ended with a productive meeting with the Racism Committee.

August 1: Study in the morning followed by a lunch meeting with the Very Rev'd Ron Clingenpeel. More catching up and arrived home at a normal time.

August 2: Hearing Aid appointment followed by lunch with Bishop Joe Doss. Canon Mark Stevenson dropped by late in the day. This was the first time I had seen him since he left for his sabbatical.

August 3: Celebrated the funeral mass for Doris Solomon at St. Paul's Church. Bishop Brown preached. Following the service I drove to Angola where I celebrated and confirmed several inmates.

I am energized every time I travel to Angola. Good ministry is taking place there by many dedicated lay people and clergy. After the service I returned to Baton Rouge where I spent the night.

August 4: Preached, celebrated, baptized, received and confirmed at two services today at Trinity, Baton Rouge. A nice reception followed the service.

August 5: Day off.

August 6: Morning meeting with Dean David du-Plantier, catching up on all that is going on at the Cathedral. The afternoon was spent with the Living with Purpose Fellows in orientation. They are energetic and excited about their new beginnings.

August 7: Happy Birthday to Rebecca!!! Spent most of the day on the phone or catching up on paper work. Home early to cook for the birthday girl.

August 8: Another day without appointments. These are nice respites after a hectic summer.

August 9: Lunch meeting with Chancellor Cove Geary and then an afternoon meeting with Fr. Edward Thompson.

August 10: Drove to the Solomon Center for a board meeting and then on to Baton Rouge for the night.

August 11: I preached and celebrated at Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge.

August 12: Met with a committee that is helping me think through the way we operate the office. I took them to Cafe Reconcile for lunch. Took the rest of the day off.

Announcing My Departure



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

Dear Friends -

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that I am announcing my departure from the staff of the Bishop of Louisiana. With sadness, because a journey begun eight years ago with some of the most wonderful people in the world is coming to an end; and yet with excitement, because a new journey is beginning.

I have accepted an offer from Bishop Stacy Sauls, the Chief Operating Officer of the Episcopal Church, to be the Domestic Poverty Missioner of the Episcopal Church. This work will focus on coordinating the efforts of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the real, actual name of what is often called "the national church") to engage the members of the church in working with and aiding the poor across the United States. Our Lord reminds us that when we feed, clothe and shelter those in need we feed, clothe and shelter him; and it is the vision of those involved in this ministry that by supporting existing programs and creating new opportunities for engagement we might offer an encounter with the Living Christ to Episcopalians across the country.

My last day in the bishop's office will be Friday, September 13th. The nature of my new work allows me to live in one of a handful of major cities, and, since I will be traveling a great deal, Joy and I have chosen to move to Dallas to be near family. (We will stay in Baton Rouge until we sell our home.) I will, though, remain canonically resident as a priest in Louisiana, so I will still see all y'all from time to time.

If I were to list the names of all those to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for the many blessings of these past eight years the roll would be like the stars Abraham was asked to number in the sky. Let me simply take this opportunity to thank you all, as a group, for allowing me to serve you. It has been the best job imaginable.

However, I do want to thank two men in particular. First, Morris Thompson, for his friendship and his graciousness in our time together. He inherited me as his canon, and from day one he made me feel welcomed and appreciated. I could not have wished for anything more. And second, Charles Jenkins, who took a chance on me time and time again, often when he had much to lose. From him I learned more than I can say, but no lesson was greater than the ability to laugh in the face of adversity. For God is good, *all the time*.

May God bless each and every one of you as the days go forward. Joy and I ask for your prayers as we set out on our new adventure. Our times are in the hands of the Lord, and that is a truly wonderful thing.

To read more about Canon Stevenson's new role, click [here](#).

Saying Farewell to the Stevensons

*Thursday, September 12th, from 4 to 6 pm
Third Floor Atrium
St. James Ministry Center
205 N. Fourth St. in Baton Rouge*

RSVP to Agatha Townsend at 504.895.2401 or atownsend@edola.org.

Ida Richardson: City's Great Benefactor



By Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist

The more we learn about Blessed Frances Gaudet, the early twentieth century pioneer in the education of black children in Louisiana and prison reform nationally related to incarceration of minors, the

more we learn about the people who championed her causes, provided entree to public officials with power and supported her ambitious activities.

A stellar representative of such a group is Ida Slocomb Richardson whose was described in her obituary as the city's great benefactor. Mrs. Richardson's support is recognized as among the primary reasons that the Episcopal Diocese was asked to assume oversight of the Gaudet educational programs as Mrs. Gaudet was aging and losing her eye sight. Mrs. Richardson's story is interesting in and of itself. In this first article, we will be introduced to this woman who was a giant of generosity and determination. In *So Great A Good*, written by Betty and Hodding Carter, they report that people who remembered Mrs. Richardson described her "a short, moon-faced woman with a beneficent smile, a large tortoise shell hearing trumpet, and a gold topped cane with which she rapped for attention".

Born in 1830, she is described in her obituary eighty years later as "one of New Orleans most generous citizens, one who for many years has been pre-eminently identified with its charity and it public causes...Mrs. Richardson's giving was ever of the most unostentatious sort, and even her princely gifts to Tulane were subjects conscientiously avoided by her in conversation."

She was the recipient of the *Times-Picayune* Loving Cup in 1907, the second female recipient. Her financial gifts were often given anonymously, some presumably in response to causes for which she



was soliciting public support. The "worthy poor" attracted her interest and she was quick to take on the challenge of eliminating overwhelming debt for a not for profit institution. Christ Church Cathedral was the successful recipient of her rescue campaigns more than once. Other women were frequently solicited to assist her in her causes. She founded the Woman's Auxiliary of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Episcopal Church (now known as Episcopal Church Women) in Louisiana and was president for over twenty one years. More than once she took her cook to the national Woman's Board of Missions meetings not to provide meals for her but so her congregation, St. Luke's Church, could be informed and involved. St. Anna's Asylum was one of her favorite charities as was Christian Women's Exchange. Mt Vernon (George

Washington's home) was a frequent recipient of funds.

Her family members were long time parishioners of Christ Church. She was very active there until she moved her membership to St. Paul's Church (then located in the Lower Garden District) because of the missionary zeal of the rector. She was buried from St. Paul's Church. In her will she left \$5,000 each to Christ Church and St. Paul's.

No mention of Ida Richardson can ignore her tremendous involvement in the founding and expansion of Tulane University. She is credited with being one of the founders of the University. She gave lavish financial support of the medical school where her husband became dean, and is said to have masterminded the appointment of William Preston Johnston as first president of Tulane in 1884. She is the person credited with presenting the idea to Josephine Newcomb that she memorialize her deceased adolescent daughter by establishing Newcomb College. Mrs. Richardson memorialized her husband by giving \$100,000 to build the Richardson Building on Tulane Avenue, a part of the Tulane Medical complex.

Mrs. Richardson became very interested in medicine upon her marriage to Dr. Tobias Gibson Richardson in 1868. A widower whose first wife and children were lost at sea while returning to New Orleans from New York, he shared his second wife's zeal for doing good. He was an author and leader in national medical circles. During the Civil War, he served on General Braxton Bragg's staff. Dr. and Mrs. Richardson shared a very happy marriage and were generous with their inherited wealth. They had a wide circle of influential friends. They had no children. Traveling was a great shared interest and in her obituary the paper noted that Mrs. Richardson was reported to be the first woman to ever ascend Mount Popocatepetl.

Indeed she was a remarkable woman. Next issue, we will concentrate on Mrs. Richardson's involvement with Frances Gaudet and the Gaudet School.

Bishop's Visitation Schedule



- 8/25: St. Augustine's, Metairie
- 9/8: St. Andrew's, Clinton
- 9/15: St. Francis, Denham Springs
- 9/29: Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans
- 10/6: St. Anna's, New Orleans
- 10/13: Nativity, Rosedale
- 10/20: All Souls, New Orleans
- 10/27: St. Paul/Holy Trinity, New Roads

St. Andrew's Episcopal School Continues to Grow



On Thursday, May 23rd St. Andrew's Episcopal School in New Orleans conducted a ceremonial ground-breaking of a new three-story classroom building on the St. Andrew's campus on the vacant lot of Oak and Short Streets. The need for additional teaching and learning space has been significant on the campus of St. Andrew's for many years, and particularly so in the past several years following the additions of the St. Andrew's Cottage (18 months-four years) and the St. Andrew's 7th and 8th Grade Program. With over two hundred children presently on campus it is time to expand our physical offering to provide essential 21st Century teaching and learning space for our children.

The new building will consist of approximately 10,000 square feet of new teaching and learning space and will provide much-needed classroom space for a new music room, science and math labs, homeroom class-

rooms, and a new multi-purpose room for indoor recess, PE, and student exhibitions and performances. The new building will also create space for a new art studio on campus.

St. Andrew's, the oldest Episcopal School in New Orleans, provides a strong academic program from pre-kindergarten through 8th Grade. Small classes and caring teachers provide a challenging learning environment where children grow intellectually, socially, and spiritually.

For more information, contact Lisa Witter, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at 504.866.6553.

[photos by John Barousse]



St. Luke's Honors New Clergy Wives at ECW Reception

The ladies of St. Luke's in Baton Rouge gathered Sunday, June 30th in Pope Hall to honor their newest clergy wives, Julie Owen and Katie Lamb. Julie is the wife of St. Luke's new rector, the Rev'd Dr. Charles Bryan Owen, and Katie is the wife of their new curate, the Rev'd Watson Lamb.

St. Luke's ECW members hosted a lovely reception, and invited guests to bring their favorite South Louisiana recipes for the honorees. Julie and Katie went home with baskets full of recipes and notes about family ties to these culinary specialties.

Other clergy wives in attendance were Glenn Wiggins, wife of St. Luke's Deacon Reese Wiggins, and Dr. Martha Pope, widow of the late Bishop Clarence Pope.

Bishop Pope was rector of St. Luke's from 1963 until 1984. Fr. Bryan Owen is now the sixth rector of St. Luke's. Welcome, Julie and Katie to St. Luke's and to the Diocese of Louisiana!



Left to right: Julie Owen, Katie Lamb, Dr. Martha Pope and Glenn Wiggins.



Bishop and Rebecca Thompson visited St. Michael's in Mandeville in July.

Pictured with the bishop are St. Michael's Vestry and Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd Sharon Alexander.

Bill Evans, Senior Warden of All Saints, Ponchatoula displays the custom face painting he "commissioned" during the church's Strawberry Festival fund raising activities in April.

While the ECW offered face painting, other members volunteered their time selling strawberry snowballs and other concessions.



Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

By Orissa Arend, Trinity Church, New Orleans

In the first chapter of *Journeying Toward Wholeness*, a book I would describe as a practical, prophetic guidebook to the Kingdom of Heaven, Joe Barndt reminds us that “our sisterhood and brotherhood in the family of God is imprinted in our hearts, minds, and souls. It is part of our spiritual DNA. We did not choose it and we cannot choose to undo it. We may love it, we may hate it, we may protest it, or we may ignore it. But the truth is, regardless of our color – red, brown, yellow, black, or white – we are all in the family for good.”

Over a decade ago Barndt, a Lutheran pastor, experienced teacher and organizer, came to my church, Trinity Episcopal, in his role as director of Crossroads Ministries with his team of multi-racial trainers to teach us to be anti-racist Christian organizers. Barndt stresses that he learned to understand racism from people of color. He had to unlearn the lies that he had learned about racism from white people. He sees his responsibility as taking a true analysis of racism to white people to help them heal and change.

Our church was large and powerful with affluent, well-connected parishioners almost all of whom were white. Despite our considerable commitment of money, time and energy for new learning and new relationships, and the formation of a continuously functioning anti-racist team called TURN (Trinity Undoing Racism Network), our church looks pretty much the way it did then. It is wealthy, privileged, and white, enfolding not so much the down and out as the up and about. Why has there not been more of a visible and substantial change in the last decade? Barndt’s book is a right-on-time answer to that question.

I’ll briefly recount Trinity’s recent important efforts in order to make Barndt’s point. During those years a small but steadily expanding group developed a shared analysis of racism, not just from Crossroads but from the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (based in New Orleans) and from an Episcopal anti-racist workshop called Seeing the Face of God in Each Other. Institutionally Trinity partnered with Black congregations through Jeremiah, an interfaith grassroots group working to solve community problems. It participated in the St. Thomas Irish Channel Consortium (STICC) to enhance accountability to our brothers and sisters of color in our many wonderful outreach efforts – Hope House, Kingsley House, St. Thomas Health Clinic, Trinity Counseling and Training Center – to name just a few.

Trinity hired a brilliant female African American priest. Mother Phoebe Roaf, with her dreadlocks and her law degree and consummate spiritual and racial grounding, won the hearts of most of the congregation. She initiated a Christian/Muslim dialogue which included a cultural sharing excursion to Turkey. Trinity took seriously a mandate from the national church to study our local complicity with slavery. You can read the report at www.edola.org/ministries/slavery-edola. Annually, Trinity celebrates the Feast of Absalom Jones who was born into slavery in Delaware in 1746, purchased the freedom of his wife and children, and finally his own in 1784. He helped build the Black church in Philadelphia and became known as “the black bishop of the Episcopal Church.” TURN helped Trinity examine its policies and procedures and programs and found ways to make them more welcoming and inclusive and colorful. We strengthened personal and social relationships with people of color. Our priests and our bishop are all on board.

And so it never occurred to many of us, in fact it never fully registered with me until I read Barndt's book recently, that the entrenched white culture and structure of decision-making and leadership at Trinity between 1998 and 2013 was the result of racism.

A QUICK HISTORY LESSON

Race, Barndt explains, is not a Biblical concept. It is nowhere in the Bible. It was invented, with pseudo-scientific inaccuracy, by 16th century Europeans to establish white supremacy and to justify slavery, colonialism, and a host of other evils. The structures of racism in the U.S. have been in place for 500 years – as has resistance to racism.

“Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492 with a sword in one hand and a cross in the other. He was pathetically lost . . .” but he claimed people, resources, and land for God and Queen, initiating on these shores an unholy union. Obviously, the Christian church was complicit from day one. The American Revolution with its message of freedom and independence “remained exclusively aimed toward reaping benefits for immigrants from Europe. . . It was the will of God, they were sure, for the United States to be a white nation. Even those who argued fervently against slavery could not imagine a multiracial nation, particularly a nation that included indigenous Americans and immigrant Africans among its citizenry.”

Another hundred years brought the end of slavery but not the end of what were considered divinely inspired principles and political programs of white supremacy and its economic benefits. Then it took

another hundred years to end segregation. And no wonder, because “In the United States, every system and every institution was created originally and structured legally and intentionally to serve white people exclusively.” Is it any wonder, then, that many of these institutions resisted change? Is it any wonder that they don't do a good job of serving everyone, now that they are mandated to do that? In theory institutions do what they were created to do. That's the function of institutions. American institutions, with just a few exceptions, were not created to serve everyone.



Considered at the tail end of this 500-year spread when racism was institutionalized in our country with the help of the white church, our 15-year effort at Trinity to undo racism and begin to institutionalize anti-racism looks pretty small. But Barndt pulls out the scholar, the resister, the organizer, and theologian in us. He celebrates those who have resisted racism from its inception by confronting the facade of white superiority and the structure of white domination. The social gospel

movement, the ecumenical movement, the Black church, and heroes and heroines of all colors are examples.

Barndt gives us a precise definition of racism. It is about the “disproportional distribution of power, that is, the control of and benefit from systems and institutions in a society. . . Racism happens when the collective prejudices of one racial group are enforced by the systems and institutions of a society for the benefit and advantage of that racial group and to the detriment and disadvantage of all other

racial groups.”

And then he takes racism into the theological realm. Personal prejudice or bigotry is an individual sin. But institutionalized racism is a communal and corporate sin. An individual sin calls for confession, atonement, and forgiveness. In addition to these elements, communal sin requires liberation. We can only kill racism in the church with this crucial understanding. “Racism’s most devastating power is that it takes all of us prisoner. It controls and threatens to destroy us all.” We internalize superiority or inferiority and act out our socialized and racialized identities like puppets. We are all captives of an evil power, and that includes the church. The oppressor is also oppressed, losing her/his humanity, authenticity, and freedom.

I’ll use myself as an example. I’ve been socialized (brainwashed, if you will) to think of myself as anything but a captive, anything but broken. I’ve been taught to see my sins as individual and freely chosen by me. Forgiveness, I’ve assumed, is between me and God. But without an awareness of the communal nature of the sin in which I participate, how would I think to seek redemption or liberation? And why would I actively work to kill racism, the goose that laid the golden egg for me?

These insights are Barndt’s way of trying to prepare white people for the last tough stages of accepting the death of racism in our world and in our church. Accepting that death for a predominantly white society is a letting-go process similar to the stages of death and dying. Even though important civil rights legislation was passed in the 1950s and 1960s, denial of racism as something that had to die was the norm, Barndt contends, until the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Then the 70s brought guilt on the white side and anger from people of color. The next stage, bargaining, came in the 80s when most institutions tried a species of multiculturalism which said, “We’ll let you in, but you have to act like us.”

We now face a spiritual identity crises that turns our usual ways of making decisions and running things upside down. Barndt gives us tools and markers as we approach this process, but he freely admits that there is no path. We are in uncharted territory. He counts on the real Gospel, loving all of our neighbors as ourselves, not the distorted one that has been used to oppress, and the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Meanwhile, back at Trinity the 20 somethings who have taken over the leadership of TURN have renamed it Trinity Undoing Racism NOW. They are an impatient lot and thank God for that. Above and beyond Trinity, our Bishop has convened a committee to put together a large service in 2014 of reconciliation and repentance for the collective sins of racism committed by the white church. In preparation for that, there have been screenings in four parishes around the diocese of the award winning documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* tracing the journey of nine cousins into the dark past of the slave trade which enriched their white New England family. One of the cousins and his African American wife led discussions afterward to help us understand and come to terms with our white skin privilege.

How else will we prepare ourselves for this service and for the enormous next task of the white church? Who will our partners be? How will the liturgy incorporate communal sin and liberation? What songs will we sing? Barndt reminds us, “Like the early New Testament church, we have to learn that God’s acceptance and inclusiveness is far more radical and far more unconditional than we could imagine.”

*Orissa Arend is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, TURN, and the Diocesan Committee for Racial Reconciliation and author of **Showdown in Desire: The Black Panthers Take a Stand in New Orleans**. You can reach her at: arendsaxer@bellsouth.net.*

Summer Fun Around the Diocese

St. John's Church in Kenner hosted an art camp this summer. The theme was "Loving God's Creation and His Creatures."



Meanwhile, St. Francis, Denham Springs hosted "Sonwest Ranch", a western-themed Vacation Bible Study.



EDOLA Youth's Texas Mission Trip

By Amelia Arthur, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries



“Grace which like the Lord, the maker, never fails from age to age.” These lines from hymn 522 resounded in my head on a daily basis while serving as the leader for the Diocese of Louisiana Youth Mission to Texas July 7-12. The verse above served as our theme for our week of mission, and from the beginning our trip was truly grace filled.

Ever since coming to work for the Diocese of Louisiana I’ve dreamed of taking a group of enthusiastic youth and adults on a mission trip, and never in the wildest of those dreams did I imagine a week so filled with love, compassion, fellowship, and laughter as the week I’ve just been a part of. Never did I imagine that our week long experiment in temporary community would produce such good fruit, such amazing gifts to be shared, and such a living testament to the power of God’s love for us and the world.

When we left Baton Rouge I was a little nervous about how a group of kids who didn’t know each other and who hadn’t gone on a mission trip before would do when they arrived in Waco, Texas in the heat of summer. I didn’t know how they would respond to service that wasn’t glamorous or a hotel that was the epitome of class in 1982. I didn’t know if they would shy away from Michael, one of the mentally handicapped adults they would meet at Friends for Life, or if they would think scrubbing out a refrigerator at Meals on Wheels wasn’t their idea of service. In spite of the unknown I was really hopeful. I knew that we had all the right things to make our week a success. We had great chaperones, a great plan, and great fellowship, worship and work opportunities. I knew we had all of our ducks in a row, but I couldn’t begin to imagine how amazing the week would become when our ducks started to fly for themselves.

Over the course of our week in Waco I witnessed our young people sharing the Good News in powerful and extraordinary ways. I saw them carry groceries from the food pantry to the cars of the elderly and infirmed, I saw them dance, play checkers, and sing with mentally and physically disabled adults, I saw them hammer nails and paint siding on a Habitat house, I saw them deliver meals and pet food to the shut in and the sick, and I saw them live out what Jesus calls each of us to do, love our neighbors as ourselves.

Our youth really, truly understand that our neighbors are the people we encounter on street corners and in soup kitchens, not just the people we are comfortable with or already know well. Each evening of our trip I saw them eat, pray, worship, play, and have fun in community. Over the course of the week I saw the community care for those who were struggling, I saw them living out all of the things Paul means when he writes to the Corinthians about the members of the body. I saw them be the hands and feet of God living and serving the community, I saw our young people be the ears and eyes and mouths of God, speaking truth and love and peace to the people traveling with them and to the people they were serving.

The young people who volunteered to spend a week with the EDOLA Youth Mission Team were extraordinary. During the week they impressed me with their ability to be graceful about changes in the schedule and their ability to be graceful with the four of us adults charged with their care and safety. Over and over I saw them make the unselfish decision when it would be easy to be selfish. Over and over I saw them show sincere care, love, and compassion for the people they met and the stories they heard. Over and over my heart was joyful because of their laughter.

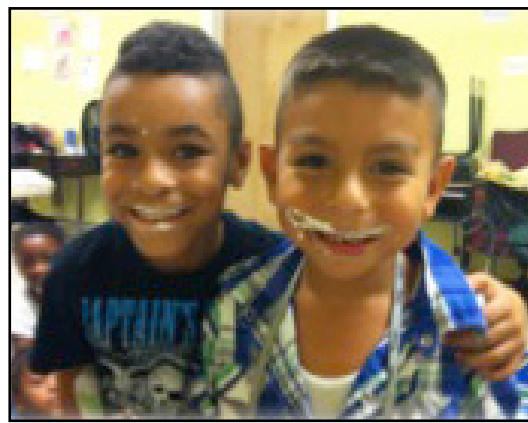
It's hard to summarize a week in just a few paragraphs, but if this reflection has intrigued you a little then I invite you to be a part of the next trip. We are going back, EDOLA Mission to Waco 2014 is happening and I hope you will join us. July 7-12, 2014 we will be back in Waco to serve at Friends for Life, Habitat for Humanity, the Caritas Center, the Waco Wetlands project, and more. The trip will be open to youth in grades 8-12 and we'll need some good drivers, cooks, and chaperones. Save the date and plan to join us in 2014.



Collaborations at St. Anna's

By the Rev'd Bill Terry, Rector of St. Anna's, New Orleans

After spending ten years as priest of St. Anna's Church I have had no small experience in trying to cobble together collaborations. Collaborations are hard work, demanding work; such work takes sacrifice for all the parties. It is like trying to achieve consensus which is equally difficult. At this point I believe that there are two forms of collaboration: passive (offering support or funding) and active (providing personnel and engagement). In real terms a church collaboration is the hallmark of being a catholic church. It speaks deeply to The Body of Christ and Kingdom building. But again, it is hard work and hard to accomplish because each collaborator has his or her own internal needs, wants, goals, and agenda. Reconciling all of that is the task of those who sit at the table and work on collaboration. This is what the summer at St. Anna's looked like; perhaps we were the hub of collaboration but that in no way diminishes the vast potential that our partners in mission provided. The ministry is called ArtScape!



ArtScape is a summer camp for gifted and talented urban youth (often called "at risk") and was hosted by St. Anna's, All Souls Church, Progressive Baptist Church, and The Freret Neighborhood Center. The venues for the camp included All Souls Church, Loyola University and Christ Church Cathedral. The funding for the program was disbursed between the various participants each sharing the load which included grants and donor giving (individual collaborations). In no small part the New Orleans Musicians Foundation, part of The New Orleans Musicians Clinic (funding collaborations), assisted with funding for tradition bearers. Imagine getting all of the various entities to work schedules around and to agree on times and space use. The outcome was that about 100+ children, generally lower income but gifted and talented, enjoyed six weeks of engaging tutoring, arts instruction, choral instruction, and field trips.

But the collaborations did not stop here. In order to help pay for this adventure in creative summer teaching and fun, a delightful evening introduced New Orleans to the start of a children's choristers program, the Treme Community Choir, and an ensemble of supporters from the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra. The evening was titled *Champaign and Chocolate!* The venue, yet again another great collaboration, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where over 200 attended this delightful evening of delectables and music.

No story would be complete without the human enterprise called “volunteers” and “interns.” Yes, they are part of the Kingdom story. Four young ladies were paid by their university to work this summer with ArtScape. These wonderful lovely and loving friends all hail from Washington and Lee University. The wonderful musical family, The Boutte’s, provided voices and talent; Ms. Linda Mauskopf, a talented educator who works for the joy of teaching the most difficult of children, provided education direction; chefs provided food; and the list could go on. And as the camp session closed, the last two weeks were Vacation Bible School populated by and taught by members of The United Congregational Church of Bridgeport, CT.

The net has been cast broad and wide. What is exciting is the degree of support found within our own denomination, within our own diocese. Often silent, rarely commended churches like All Souls, St. Anna’s, St. Paul’s, and Christ Church Cathedral joined in a unified way to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, “... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS



**Happening #71
August 23-25
@ Solomon Center
Register @
solomoncenter.org
\$150 per person
Youth in grades 10-12**

**Diocesan Acolyte and Choir Festival
September 29 @ Trinity, NO
3 to 7 pm
\$10 per person
All ages welcome!**

**Bowling with the Bishop
November 9th
@ Rock-N-Bowl in New Orleans
3:30 to 7pm
\$10 per person**



For more information and a complete list of youth events click [here](#) or visit edola.org/ministries/youth

St. John's Holds Veteran's Forum

By the Rev'd Charmaine Kathmann, Deacon of St. John's

St. John's Church in Kenner, LA held a Veteran's Forum on June 22, 2012 at the church. There was a large mobile clinic parked in front of the church which offered counseling to any veteran and their family members. The forum featured a distinguished list of speakers and was opened by Senior Warden, Sergeant 1st Class, James Scaruffi, who is a veteran of Desert Storm/Desert Shield plus several tours of duty in Iraq. The event was dedicated in the memory of Matthew Scaruffi and Health Kelly who grew up at St. John's and died having the heart of soldiers.

Ms. Eleanor Chapital, Captain, USAF Nurse Corp. gave a background of what our troops have to face when coming home. Ms. Chapital is the program director of all returning veterans in the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System. This system includes many community based clinics in Baton Rouge, Laplace, Houma, Slidell, Bogalusa, Hammond, and other area clinics. Ms. Chapital introduced the concept of what OEF/OIF/OND means. "OEF" is Operation Enduring Freedom, which is the war in Afghanistan. "OIF" is Operation Iraqi Freedom, which is the war in Iraq. "OND" is Operation New Dawn and is the draw-down of U.S. military personnel in the Middle East.

Vietnam veteran, Dr. John Claiborne Baye, Jr., D.Min. is the Patient and Family Outreach Coordinator for the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and he spoke about the care given to our men and women returning home. Sometimes coming home is a difficult journey, depending upon the experiences of the soldiers during their tour of duty. Several physicians, psychologists and social

workers spoke about PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) and "Polytrauma" which includes mental, physical and cognitive issues affecting some veterans as they return home. Many veterans have a combination of polytrauma conditions running the gambit from severe to very mild deficits. All are cared for and appreciated by the speakers at the forum.



A representative of the Veterans Administration system was there to speak on the Veteran's Justice Outreach program for incarcerated veterans. Other speakers included service officers, who are experts in Veterans Benefits. Ms. Heather Cherniak, Iraqi Army Medic, spoke about the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and she explained benefits that are in place for veterans and their families. Non-Profit organizations included NOLA Patriots speaking about veterans who are homeless, Blue Star Moms and Soldier's Angels, which are two organizations that send care packages to our U.S. military personnel far from home. These groups offer so much support to our veterans. Ms. Lolita Glass spoke on the "Housing Program and Community Development Organization" which builds and refurbishes handicapped housing for anyone, including veterans. Paul G. Harch, M.D. spoke about the positive affects of Hyperbaric Oxygen treatment on veterans with polytrauma and traumatic brain injury.

There was a lovely lunch provided by the members of St. John's Church and there was an exhibit of the art of James Wade Mouton, a WWII soldier who painted his way through his traumatic experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. James Mouton died two

years ago and is famous for painting Louisiana life and scenes of Mardi Gras, oak trees, religious saints — as well as portraits of some New Orleans Saints. During his lifetime he painted over 10,000 images of life in New Orleans. He played the organ every Sunday at a Catholic Church Mass from the time he returned home from the war until one week before he passed away at 85 years old.

At the forum, St. John's Church announced that more AA groups will be forming dedicated to Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans with substance abuse issues. It is the vision of St. John's Church to create a "Veterans Respite House" for all veterans and their families to stay overnight, or stay longer. It will be named, "CAMP KINDNESS OF KENNER." This home is to give solace and comfort while veterans come in from rural places in South Louisiana to see physicians in Greater New Orleans. St. John's Church will offer respite for those who need Sabbath Rest or who need a temporary home environment with case management services. Please pray that this dream comes true. Donations to this ministry are accepted.

Enneagram Workshop at St. James

What is my greatest obstacle to my deepest prayer? What stands between me and my experience of the Divine? I do, of course. Which begs the question, "Who am I?"... a foundational theological question.

St. James, Baton Rouge is hosting *A Narrative Tradition Workshop, Exploring Personality in the Spiritual Journey: Nine Panels of Types Speaking for Themselves*.

The Enneagram Personality System names type-specific paths to a compassionate heart, as well as the barriers that each personality encounters on the journey to wholeness. The power of the Enneagram is that it names the fears that bind us and identifies filters of perception that blind us to the love and compassion present in each moment.

This system can be a powerful tool for personal, spiritual and professional development as we learn ways to "un-stick" ourselves from fixed and limiting patterns of viewing ourselves and others. Miscommunication lessens when we become aware of how we filter information. As we deepen our spiritual awareness, we become less reactive and more compassionate.

During this workshop, participants will learn:

- attentional patterns and world views of the nine Enneagram personality types
- gifts and inner resources of each personality type
- energetic habits of each type
- strategies for loosening automatic patterns of per-

ception and behavior

Those new to the Enneagram will gain insights into what drives their behavior and the internal stories that shape their perceptions. Those who know the Enneagram will learn more of its complexities and the felt sense of type.

This workshop will be of particular interest to therapists, coaches, spiritual directors and those who manage others, or work closely with others, as well as those who want to grow in their intimate relationships.

The workshop is Friday and Saturday, September 27th and 28th from 9 to 4:30 pm. Register by September 14 and the cost of \$135 includes workshop materials, basic beverages, and boxed lunches both Friday and Saturday. After September 14, the cost is \$150. You may register at stjamesbr.org, by check, payable to "St. James CSF" and mailed to PO Box 126, Baton Rouge LA 70821-0126, or, at the door, space permitting.

Sandra Smith, M.Div., has been teaching the Enneagram throughout the southeast since 2002. Sandra creates and leads workshops and staff trainings using the Enneagram as a map for deepening self understanding. Additionally, she facilitates type and study groups, and works one-on-one with individuals as an Enneagram workplace consultant and also offers spiritual companionship.



In observance of Arbor Day, the Denham Springs Garden Club members joined a gathering of friends, relatives, and members of St. Francis, Denham Springs to honor the memory of The Rev'd Bert & Mrs. Frances DeLoach. A Japanese Red Maple was planted in their honor. Fr. DeLoach served as priest at St. Francis in its early development.

Those present for this planting were (from left, front) Shirley Frank, Virginia Bruce, Susan Haris, Lois Burton, (middle) Earline Sceroler, Henrietta Thames, Alice Pittman, Betty Jo Pirie, Susan Johnson, Janie Rainey, Becky Gautreaux, Midge Magee, (back) Jim Pirie, Betty Amacker, Dale Zuelke, Dianne Gill and Becky Barbier.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Planned

By the Very Rev'd David duPlantier, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

By popular demand, I have scheduled another Holy Land pilgrimage June 2-15, 2014. We will be following the same itinerary and using the same guide as the 2012 trip. We have a limit of 37 pilgrims, and participants are required to attend monthly preparatory meetings beginning in January 2014. Episcopalians from the Diocese of Louisiana will be given first priority on this trip and a non-refundable deposit is required to hold a space.

Pricing and specifics will be finalized over the summer, and I will schedule informational meetings in September to go over this information. It is necessary to attend one of these informational meetings to register for the trip. The meeting dates will be announced in the near future via the E-DOLA newsletter and Peliclergy. If you would like to get a direct email notice, please send your name, phone number and email address to carolbutcher@cccnola.org.

17th Annual Women's Creative Process Retreat

"The Power of Blessing to Transform Our Lives"

Creating a space among women to explore where kindness, hope, and vulnerability converge with the lost art of blessing will be the focus of this retreat. Using gleanings from John O'Donohue's book *To Bless the Space Between Us*, Brené Brown's *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*, and the spiritual work of Jan Richardson's art and writing, the Rev. Susan Garrity will lead us in seeking to recover the art and power of blessing in our lives and the rich connection we have with each other.



We will create a healing and sacred space for participants' natural, God-given creativity to emerge. The focus is always on the process and never on the product, so please don't worry if you believe you are not very creative. All are welcome! Newcomers especially welcome!!

- Offerings:** Worship, art, individual spiritual direction, sacred dance, music, Taizé, creative writing, dream work, gentle bodywork (bring comfortable clothes), rest and renewal.
- Date:** October 10-13, 2013
Thursday 6:30 pm through noon on Sunday
- Presenter:** The Reverend Susan Garrity
Rector, St. Thomas' Episcopal
Dover, New Hampshire
- Cost:** Single Room: \$ 403 Dbl/Triple: \$325
Deposit \$ 140
** Discounted cost if registered by July 1 AND paid in full by September 29, 2013 **
Single \$378 Dbl/Triple \$300

To register, [click here.](#)

For more information, contact Lisa Holden at lholden7234@aol.com or call 504.738.7234.

LAST LOOK



Children at ArtScape, a camp hosted by St. Anna's, All Souls Church, Progressive Baptist Church and The Freret Neighborhood Center enjoy a fun game this summer in New Orleans.