## CHURCHWORK

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The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

May 2013

#### ...AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

GENESIS 1:12

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FINANCIALS

On the front cover: The lake at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center offers a peaceful scene.

[photo by Caroline Carson]

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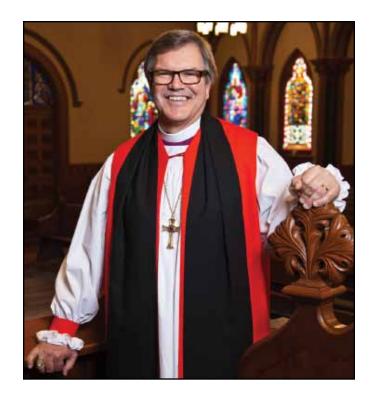
## <u>A Message From Our Bishop</u>

Growing up, I enjoyed working — especially if I got paid. There was a bit of pride knowing that I had earned some pocket change that would support a date night, or even buy a piece of clothing. My most lucrative job was working for Harvey Construction Company. Mr. Harvey and his son, Lucian, ran the company. It was Lucian, or rather Mr. Harvey to me, who I knew the best. The older Harvey made me nervous. He walked around the supply yard with a fat cigar in his mouth and looked like he could swallow my young soul with one bite. "Be very busy" was the word on the yard when old Mr. Harvey was around. Good advice.

However, Lucian was another story. While he could be gruff, he was gentle by nature. He was active in church, which is where I met him. His two little daughters and wife were beloved by him. I worked for Lucian from the time I was fifteen until I left for seminary. It was years later that I came to the realization that Lucian really didn't need me as an employee. I mean, no one took my place when I went back to school. He didn't fill my position when I was absent. Yet, every time I needed to earn money, Christmas, Easter or summer, Lucian let me work. He not only allowed me to work, but he paid me union wages even though I was not in the union. For this old boy, this job was sweet. When my friends were making \$1.10 an hour I was making \$3.40.

One day in seminary it occurred to me how lucky I had been working for Harvey Construction. I had known this fact, but what I hadn't quite understood was their genuine support towards me. I became aware of the generosity of Mr. Harvey and his son Lucian. They knew my circumstances and without saying anything made me feel as if a particular job wouldn't be completed on time unless I worked during spring break or the summer. It was their incredible kindness that gave me a hand when I needed it the most.

I've never forgotten their generosity. It left an indelible mark of what it means to be a giver. Their awareness of me makes me want to be aware of others who struggle and need a helping hand. I think this is why speaking out on the tax issue is important for me. I know the difference between a giving heart and a careless one. I've seen how easy it is to ignore the poor or those who don't have the power to speak up. Some have said this tax issue is a political one and the church has no place in this



arena. I disagree. This is a theological issue and the church must take its rightful stance when the poor are threatened. If the Bible is anything, it is a story of God's salvation to a people who are lost, poor in spirit, and in need of God's protection.

First it was Moses who spoke for the people of Israel who were being held in horrendous circumstances. From there other prophets spoke on behalf of the weak. In the Gospel readings it was Jesus who spoke up for those who could not, giving life to the lifeless, health to the sick, and sight to the blind. Given the fact that Jesus commands us to care for the poor, it should be our joy to notice unjust systems and do what we can to thwart heavy burdens for those already heavily burdened. We must remember that none of us got where we are all by ourselves. We were helped by many people in many different ways. Recalling the generosity of others towards us, we now are in positions to extend that same spirit to others.

The Baptismal Covenant ends with this question: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? There is no respect if our backs are turned.

Brave journey,

+ Malis

### FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE BISHOP'S JOURNAL: FEBRUARY 23RD TO APRIL 10TH

**February 23:** John and Kathy Eastman hosted a Jerusalem reunion to welcome our guide Iyad Qumri and his wife Samoan. This was the first time since our trip we have gathered to share our reflections.

**February 24:** Rebecca and I drove to Incarnation, Amite where I preached and celebrated. Following the service there was a warm reception and potluck luncheon. Later that afternoon we drove to the Solomon Center where I celebrated the closing for Happening #70. Over eighty youth and adults spent the weekend celebrating their relationship with Christ. Amelia Arthur, our Youth and Young Adult coordinator, is doing a fantastic job throughout the Diocese.

**February 25:** Home working on Convention address and other matters. Dinner at the home of Dean and Mrs. duPlantier with our guide from the Jerusalem pilgrimage, Iyad Qumri and his wife Samoan.

**February 26:** Phone conference with Sharon Edmon to discuss UTO grants. Unfortunately we did not have any viable grant requests this year. Worked on convention address and other convention issues. Met with Karla duPlantier regarding ECS. Met with my coach Tronn Moller.

**February 27:** More Convention work followed by lunch with Chris Beary from the Cathedral, followed by a pastoral meeting.

**February 28:** Finished my Convention address, followed by a luncheon at Commanders Palace given by the Rev'd Karen Gay for the outgoing Standing Committee members. Office work followed by dinner with the whole staff in preparation for Convention.

March 1: Traveled to St. Martin's school where Convention will be held. Lunch with the staff and went

over material pertinent to Friday's schedule. At 3pm, I announced the convention will begin a little late. There was a terrible accident on the Bonnet Carre Spillway that had traffic backed up for miles. Many of our delegates were stuck in traffic. We began the 176th Annual Diocese of Louisiana Convention fifteen minutes late. There was a good spirit.

March 2: Convention, Day 2.

**March 3:** No visitation so I walked to Trinity, New Orleans for service. It is nice to sit in the congregation with no responsibilities and be able worship. I left feeling fed by the Spirit. Rebecca and I enjoyed time together.

**March 4:** Dental appointment followed by packing for House of Bishop's meeting at Kanuga.

March 5: Flew out of New Orleans early but didn't arrive at Kanuga until three that afternoon Delays abound! Kanuga is a very peaceful place to visit.

**March 6:** Spent the day in training as a coach for a new bishop. Interesting process. Coaching is different than mentoring.

**March 7:** More training to be a coach. In the afternoon the new bishops arrived along with other seasoned coaches.

**March 8:** HOB meeting began with a teaching from Bishop Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut. The theme of her teaching was "Godly Leadership in the Midst of Acute Loss". Bishop Ahrens gave a moving and challenging delivery surrounding her experience with the Sandy Hook school shooting. The afternoon session centered around violence in our world, especially gun violence.

March 9: HOB meeting continued with another

teaching centering on the theme of Godly Leadership in the Midst of Natural Disaster. Our teacher was the Rt. Rev'd George Councell, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. A powerful teaching about his experience in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy.

**March 10:** Today the preacher at the HOB service was the Rt. Rev'd Oge Beauvoir, Suffragan Bishop of Haiti and his topic was Godly Leadership in the Midst of Earthquake. Very informative upon the great destruction of lives and property and how they are slowly rebuilding and healing. It will take time and help from the broader community. The Province IV Bishops attended a reception at the home of the Director of Kanuga to hear the news of a capital campaign to spruce up the Inn and Lodge.

March 11: Today's teaching was given by the Rt. Rev'd John Tarrant, Bishop of South Dakota. John spoke passionately about the Lakota Native American people who make up most of his diocese. I have the joy of being in the same class (2010) as John and know of his deep devotion in caring for his parishioners. That evening I had dinner with Bishops Diane Bruce and John Bruno of Los Angeles.

March 12: Today was the last day of the HOB. The teaching today was given by Bishop Bruno of Los Angeles on personal loss. John was diagnosed with cancer a year ago and was given a 1% chance of surviving. However, John was persuaded by his family to take that one percent and give it a go. He is cancer free today. When I first entered the HOB John was a tablemate and welcomed me with all 6'4" of his massive person. His heart is as big as his body! The closing Eucharist was preached by the Rt. Rev'd Dabney Smith of Southwest Florida. A year ago Dabney's wife Mary Ellen died of cancer. His sermon was powerful, moving and ended with a reminder that it is God who gives us the space to grieve, question and live the love of Christ one moment at a time.

March 13: Up early and flew back to New Orleans and then drove to Baton Rouge for a crawfish boil with the Wardens of Fr. Mark Holland's Baton

### FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Rouge North deanery. An enjoyable time meeting the Wardens and hearing how things are going in their churches. I look forward to meeting all our Wardens throughout the diocese. Drove home after being gone for too many days.

March 14: In the office to catch up after being at the HOB. In the afternoon I traveled to St. Paul's Church and School to dedicate their new school building. Because of Fr. Courtney's joyful presence, St. Paul's spirit is higher than I've experienced since I've been the bishop.

March 15: Drove to the Solomon Center for an Executive Board retreat, plus a conference call with several clergy from around Louisiana to discuss Governor Jindal's new tax reform. Plans were made to circulate a letter I signed and also attend a news conference a week from today. I very much appreciated Bishop Jenkins' help in this matter.

March 16: Executive Board retreat continued. Much was discussed. I was excited about new individuals on the Board and the next year. Following our meeting I ducked in to say hello and answer questions for the vestry of St. Francis' Denham Springs. Afterwards I drove to Baton Rouge for the night.

**March 17:** I preached, celebrated, confirmed and received at St. Patrick's, Zachary. It was a great day for this growing congregation. They showed the drawings of what their new nave might look like and how they plan to pay for it. I was so excited I asked for a pledge card. What was I thinking?

**March 18:** Home wrapping up my taxes. Ugh! Later that day, a pastoral visit with one of my clergy.

March 19: Meeting with several clergy of other denominations. Later met with visitors from Trinity, Wall Street who have been so generous with their time and resources. It was good to see them and enjoy lunch with them. The day ended with a meeting with the Dean of the Cathedral and several phone calls.

### From the Bishop's Office

March 20: Staff meeting followed by a meeting with Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus. It was good to catch up on the work of Deacons around the diocese. Drove to Baton Rouge for several meetings. Stayed over night at St. James' Place.

**March 21:** Early morning breakfast with Canon Stevenson followed by several meetings with clergy. Lunch with the Very Rev'd Mark Holland and the Rev'd John Miller. Drove back to New Orleans to attend another meeting and end the day over a meal with two of our seminarians.

March 22: Early drive back to Baton Rouge to speak at a press conference along with several other clergy from around the state regarding the governor's tax proposal. The gathering was well attended. I was proud that four Episcopal Bishops from this state signed the letter to Governor Jindal. If the church doesn't speak for the poor, who will? After the meeting had lunch with Bishop Jenkins and the Very Rev'd Mark Holland. Drove back to New Orleans and worked on sermons and tried to catch up with correspondence.

#### March 23: No meetings.

March 24: Rebecca and I traveled to St. Alban's Chapel, LSU where I received and confirmed eight new parishioners. Following the service there was a joyful lunch with the congregation. There is a lot of great energy at St. Albans. Drove back to New Orleans.

March 25: Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. One of my joys is being with the clergy. Following the service we carpooled to Cafe Reconcile for lunch. Back to the office for some phone calls and other work.

March 26: Spent most of the time on the phone.

March 27: Early morning breakfast with David Musser followed by letter writing. Afternoon meeting with Sidney Garmon to discuss issues regarding Alternatives to the Death Penalty. March 28: Sermon preparation. Celebrated Maundy Thursday Service at the Cathedral followed by a simple meal with Rebecca. That evening came down with full-blown flu.

March 29 - April 2: In bed with the flu. Bishop Brown came to the rescue by baptizing, receiving and confirming in my place at the Easter Vigil of the Southwest Deanery in Morgan City. I think I owe Bishop Brown big time!

**April 3:** In the office for staff meeting and then drive to Baton Rouge. Lunch meeting with Canon Stevenson to catch up on several items. Two appointments in the office and two phone conference appointments. As I was leaving my office around 6:15, Fr. Holland noticed my car was still parked in the lot, called and invited me to have dinner with him and his wife Liz. What a nice way to end the day. Spent the night in Baton Rouge.

**April 4:** Consultation early in the morning followed by Contextual Scriptural Study with faith leaders from the community. This is part of a grant from Trinity, Wall Street to help build community among local religious communities in Baton Rouge. Drove back to New Orleans for a meeting with Karla du-Plantier, Director of ECS.

**April 5:** Spent the morning writing. Met with Darlene Dufour who is making a case for my crozier.

**April 6:** Drove to Baton Rouge for Angola training. Anyone who wishes to participate in DOC ministry is required to undergo annual training. Drove back to New Orleans to pick up Rebecca for the SECC birthday celebration tomorrow.

**April 7:** Received word early this morning that TJ (Teddy) Solomon passed away. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. At 11 am, over 600 people gathered at the Solomon Conference Center to celebrate its 20th birthday. It was a grand occasion with the two previous Bishops and countless others

### From the Bishop's Office

who had a hand in birthing the conference center. Ann Butts, Frank Hall and their crew did a fantastic job.

April 8: Drove to Baton Rouge to meet with the vestry of St. James' parish. Returned home late that evening.

**April 9:** Meeting with staff regarding ECS and Youth and Young Adults, followed by clergy consultations in the morning. Lunch with Bishop Joe Doss followed by more clergy consultations.

**April 10:** Drove to Baton Rouge for a lunch meeting with some of the Deans around the Diocese. A couple of clergy annual consultations in the afternoon and then drove back to New Orleans. Ordained to the sacred priesthood the Rev'd Rodney Roehner, Curate at St. Paul's Church, New Orleans.



### FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

## Celebrating 20 Years of the SECC



From the Bishop's Office

## A Great Time Was Had By All!

[photos by The Rev'd Canon E. Mark Stevenson]

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### FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



### From the Bishop's Office



### FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

## **Remembering Teddy Solomon**



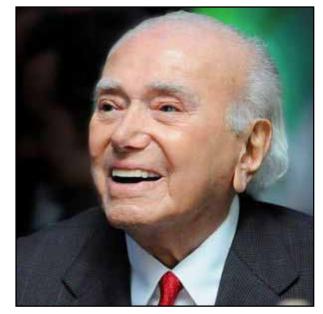
By Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist

How will we remember the impact that <u>Teddy Solomon</u>'s life had on the Diocese of Louisiana? Will it be his financial commitment to acquiring the 172 acres in Tangipahoa parish that bears his name as The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center? How about the generosity to other organizations such as the World War II Museum, the Variety Club and the Louisiana Philharmonic? Maybe you are happy about the many options

available at a cinema complex of choice the Solomon family created. All of the above opportunities and many others are available because of the generous spirit of Theodore Solomon and his family.

As his death was announced at the SECC twentieth birthday picnic on April 7, 2013, so many memories rushed through my head. We had known that it was unlikely that he would be able to be present for the celebration because he had been in declining health, but to hear the announcement from Bishop Brown, who proposed the creation of a rural gathering spot for people to enjoy and worked tirelessly to make it happen, seemed a fitting capstone to a diocesan event that far exceeded planners' expectations.

Although I tried, I was uncomfortable calling him anything other than Mr. Solomon. After all, he was my elder. In demeanor, he conveyed self confidence and compassion that was captivating. He seemed to be giving you his full attention and you knew that



his response to a question or a request for involvement would be made deliberately with the overall good in mind. His faith expression and commitment to St. Paul's were commendable. His wife and family shared this dedication which I admired greatly. What a wonderful family.

As we eulogize this benefactor and profound friend of the Diocese of Louisiana, I implore us to remember and retell the stories that made Teddy Solomon real to us. That is the only way we will keep his presence real to the generations that will continue to enjoy the benefits of his generosity of spirit.

### Dut & About Cursillo 146 Coming in June

"Cursillo ... it only changed my life forever!" Perhaps it won't change yours, but it will certainly provide an opportunity to explore your faith journey.

Cursillo describes itself as a "short course" on Christianity. It is indeed that, but it is also so much more. Cursillo offers the people who are called to attend an opportunity to deepen their faith and strengthen their relationship with the Holy Spirit. Throughout

relationship with the Holy Spirit. Throughout the weekend of lectures, music, discussion, projects, and sheer fun and fellowship, the Holy Spirit works within and among the staff and participants to create a unique, memorable, and moving experience for everyone involved.

Cursillo offers participants an opportunity to dig a bit deeper into their spiritual lives through talks presented by clergy and lay persons on basic foundational elements for living the Christian life. An opportunity to spend a bit of time away, taking time out of your busy life to spend time on "God's time" as you explore the Christian's call to mission and leadership ... An opportunity to explore leadership "God's way" in an organized, efficient, Spirit



filled community of believers! The talks are interspersed with discussion, prayer, songs, recreation, laughter and moments of reflection and quiet. The Eucharist is celebrated daily.

Cursillo No. 146 will be held June 6th through 9th at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (SECC). The lay rector for the weekend is Sarah Saik, a member of Holy Spirit in Baton Rouge. The regular cost for the weekend is \$231 double occupancy or \$300 single occupancy. Due to generous contributions from previous attendees, the full weekend is offered at a reduced cost of \$150 double occupancy. For those desiring a single room, the reduced cost is \$219. If you are able to pay the full cost, please select that option when you register. This will help fund scholarships for others both now and in the future.

The Cursillo weekend will begin after supper on Thursday, June 6. Please eat before you come to the SECC that evening. Cursillo will conclude on Sunday afternoon, June 9, with a closing Eucharist called a Clausura.

#### Click here to register!

## New Chapter for St. James Place

#### By Ellen Rooney

In the late 1970's, a group of forward-thinking parishioners of St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge envisioned a full-service retirement community that would be seen as the first choice for active, successful aging.

In 1983, St. James Place Retirement Community

The first of the new divisions that was unveiled this year was Spiritas Caring Companions. Caring Companions offers a wide range of companionship and home helper services aimed at improving the quality of life for senior adults, allowing them to live at home for as long as possible. This division brings a

opened its doors to the Baton Rouge community and ushered in a gracious retirement lifestyle nurtured by an outstanding staff and beautiful accommodations. Through the years, St. James Place has grown and expanded its facilities and services and today it is the only Continuing Care Retirement Community in



legacy of compassionate care to every home they visit. Caring Companions are available to assist seniors with a variety of everyday needs, enabling them to live their lives with the greatest degree of independence possible. And most importantly to the clients, Spiritas Caring Companions is able to provide

Baton Rouge (and one of only three in Louisiana). The St. James Place name has come to be associated with excellence in the industry.

This year, the St. James Place Board of Directors made the decision to share that excellence with those "outside the gates" of St. James Place. To be positioned to do so, St. James Place of Baton Rouge experienced a corporate name change to Spiritas Senior Services. The new entity serves as a "parent" presence to St. James Place of Baton Rouge, its flagship service, and the other personal service offerings which include: Caring Companions, Senior Care Solutions, Medicine Manager, and Active Lifestyles.

What this means for the people in our Diocese is that they can now enjoy much of the experience and talents of the St. James Place team right in their own homes. this service either individually or on a community level.

Businesses may also employ the services of Spiritas Senior Services. All of the "personal" service divisions can also be utilized by businesses. Other business to business services include Facility Management, Consulting, and Dining and Nutrition. An experienced leadership team stands ready to assist other senior living facilities in optimizing their talents and facilities to bring about a positive result. Spiritas Senior Services remains sponsored by St.

James Episcopal Church and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of business leaders, Episcopal clergy (including our own Bishop Thompson), and community civic leaders.

For more information on Spiritas Senior Services, **click here** or call 225.767.5111.

## A Life-Changing Trip to Zambia

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

In February, I was privileged to be a part of a three person team sent by the Board of Episcopal Relief and Development to Zambia, to help with strategic planning and policy work with the Program Board of the Anglican Church of Zambia, the Zambia Anglican Council (ZAC). I am in my second year serving on the Episcopal Relief and Development Board and this was but the latest blessing this ministry has brought to my life.

The ZAC Program Board has been an important partner of Episcopal Relief and Development since its creation eight years ago. Among other things they have made great strides in implementing the ER-D NetsforLife® program, a ministry that uses methodologies which are being studied and copied by countless other (and in many cases much larger) relief and health agencies around the world in the fight against malaria. The small paid staff and much larger volunteer corps work to teach villagers how to maintain sanitary conditions to promote health-



care, how to balance a diet for better nutrition, and how to become better prepared to raise children under difficult economic circumstances.

One of the most fascinating ministries I witnessed was the Early Childhood Development program. This work is ongoing across the country but I visited the program in the village of Kakwelesa, about



two hours north of Lusaka by car. Children of the village are monitored for their weight and nutrition levels, and care-givers are taught how to provide clean conditions and produce healthy food. Activities are offered that stimulate a child cognitively, verbally, physically and socially. A small

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paid staff is supported by trained volunteers who also live in, or near, the village. It is truly a community-based development effort - not a bunch of us folks from outside telling them what we think they need. (If you have not yet read the book *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton, please do!)

In addition to observing the fine work already underway, the work I got to do with the Board was fascinating. The five bishops and three lay people of the Board bring a diverse set of experiences and hopes to the team and we three Americans got to be a part of some groundbreaking vision work.

Over three days of very hard work and long hours, a new multi-year strategic plan was



developed and structures created to hold the participants accountable. Best practices from both sides of the Atlantic were discussed and tweaked, so that in the end I think I learned as much as any of the Zambians present!

The week I spent with the fine folks in Zambia was truly eye opening and life changing. For the folks there, Christian ministry is pretty simple and straight-forward — help those around you who need help, do it in healthy ways, and make Christians out of everyone who is not one. It was wonderful to see this work in action, and I will be forever thankful for it.





### Out & About Summer Sounds at St. James, Baton Rouge

The St. James Center for Spiritual Formation is pleased to announce the return of the popular Summer Sounds at St. James series of musical concerts. This year, programs are scheduled each Wednesday evening in July at 7:00 p.m., at St. James Episcopal Church, at the corner of Convention at N. Fourth Street in downtown Baton Rouge.

Admission for each concert is \$10; college students with a valid ID will be admitted free. A reception follows each concert so the audience may have opportunity to meet the performers, obtain memorabilia, and music. Tickets may be purchased at www.stjamesbr.org.

The Fourth Annual Summer Sounds series opens on July 3 with a performance by the National WWII Museum's Victory Belles, a charming vocal trio who delight audiences with their spirited performances featuring dazzling costumes, audience interaction, and World War II-era musical classics, all sung in rich, three-part harmony.

The Hot Club of New Orleans will perform on July 10. Born in 2001, this self-described, "meager but hard-working" group of musicians can take "...swing-era music, retain the classical groove, and infuse it with their own modern sensibilities," when described by Offbeat magazine. With guitars, violin, clarinet, and bass, the Hot Club of New Orleans presents deft jazz musicianship.



### Out & About

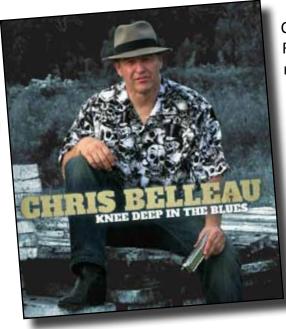


On **July 17**, the musical geography focus moves from the Crescent City to the Atchafalaya Basin with **Donna Angelle and the Zydeco Posse** who have played blues and heritage festivals throughout the US and Europe. The Zydeco Posse features accordion, guitar, and rubboard and is powered by the French dance melodies, exuberant Caribbean rhythms, and bluesy vocals which are the hallmarks of zydeco. A recent recipient of the Wilson "Boozoo" Chavis Heritage Award, Donna Angelle is one of the hardest working musicians on the zydeco circuit, and one of the few females fronting a zydeco band, today.

Baritone **Stephen Rushing** returns to his St. James roots on **July 24**. While an undergraduate at LSU, Rushing sang with the St. James Choir under the direction of then-organist/ choirmaster, Irving Boudreaux. He gained national recognition

as the first place winner in the Man's Solo Voice Division of the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Auditions, and has performed in recital at the United Nations, toured the United States presenting numerous solo recitals, and appeared in concert with choirs, philharmonics, and operas around the country. Rushing will present an all-English program from the works of Henry Purcell, G.F. Handel, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Keith Bissell, Donald Swann, Cole Porter, and others.





Closing out the 2013 season on **July 31** will be **Chris Belleau**. A Baton Rouge native, Chris says his trombone first "chose me," and such innate love and talent shows in the mixture of blues, Tex-Mex and Cajun sounds he now presents, including virtuosity on guitar, harmonica, piano, and accordion. His latest album, Chris Belleau - Knee Deep in the Blues, is full of Louisiana-flavored blues and roots style material.

Season tickets are available at \$30 for any four concerts, or \$40 for all five concerts. Friends of Summer Sounds sponsorship is \$75 and includes two (2) four-ticket season packages, or \$100 for two (2) fiveticket packages. Patrons of Summer Sounds will receive four (4) fourticket season ticket packages for \$150, or four (4) five-ticket packages for \$200. Sponsorship helps support the program's continuation and will be individually acknowledged in the concert programs. Reservations are available **here** or from the church office at 225.387.5141.

The programs of the St. James Center for Spiritual Formation, a ministry of St. James Episcopal Church, are open to all — providing "food for the journey."

### Out & About

# New STAIR Site at St. Augustine's, Metairie



St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is the latest addition to the New Orleans area network of STAIR tutoring sites. STAIR stands for Start The Adventure In Reading, a non-profit afterschool program that provides free reading tutors to at-risk public elementary school students.

The site at St. Augustine's started in February and serves students from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School in Metairie. The Rev'd A. J. Heine, St. Augustine's rector, serves as

one of the tutors along with several members of the church.



of the church. There is another STAIR site at Chapel of the Holy Spirit in New Or-



leans serving children from Johnson and Banneker Elementary Schools.

Additionally, STAIR plans to open another new site in the fall of 2013 at St. Martin's Episcopal Church serving children from Dolhonde Elementary School. For more info on STAIR, visit <u>stairnola.org</u> or STAIR'S Facebook page.

### CHURCHWORK Production Schedule

Publish Date	Submissions Due	
lukz I	May 21	Submit your articles,
July I	May 31	photos, videos and more
September I	July 26	by clicking <u>here</u> or emailing
November I	September 27	Rebecca Pitre at
December 20	November 22	rpitre@edola.org.



## **Ministry for the Ministers**

#### By the Rev'd Elizabeth Becker

Even the most faithful and effective ministers need to restore their spirits and energy, and on April 5-6, a dozen members of the Episcopal Stephen Ministry Council of Baton Rouge gathered for a joyful twoday retreat at the SECC to do just that. For some, this was their first trip to the SECC; for others, it was their return to a much-appreciated oasis. love for us, as expressed in the reflections of writer, speaker, and former Catholic priest, Brennan Manning. Quoting Manning, Wiggins told the group, "God's love is based on nothing, and the fact that it is based on nothing makes us secure. Were it based on anything we do, and that 'anything' were to collapse, then God's love would crumble as well.

Stephen Ministry, a national Christian lay ministry, works with clergy to provide on-going care to people experiencing such difficulties as grief, illness, disability, divorce, hospitalization, or job loss. Baton **Rouge Stephen Ministers** include members of five Episcopal churches—St. James, St. Luke's, St. Margaret's, Trinity, and Holy Spirit. Stephen Ministers are not pastoral counselors, but fellow pilgrims with those in crisis. Their job is to walk with people through their difficulties, to listen, to pray, and to ask questions. Thus, with God's help, people



But with the God of Jesus, no such thing can possibly happen. People who realize this can live freely and to the fullest."

About ministry, Manning wrote, "You are never more like Jesus than when you are choked with compassion for the brokenness of others.

Wiggins said, "Stephen Ministers must minister out of love. But we cannot minister with the love of Jesus until we accept how much we are loved by Jesus. We must stay close to Jesus to understand him."

are enabled to come up with new perspectives and solutions.

It can be an intense ministry. "As caregivers," said Stephen Leader Becky Williams, "we need to care for ourselves, and to be cared for. We were so blessed to be able to retreat to a conference center like the SECC, where our souls could be refreshed."

The retreat was led by Deacon Reese Wiggins (St. Luke's), whose talks centered on God's unmerited

Teaching sessions were followed by free time for reflection. A candle-lit Evening Prayer service, emphasizing ministers as light-bearers; Morning Prayer; and a social hour rounded out the weekend.

For information about the Stephen Ministry program or to ask for the assistance of a Stephen Minister, call Becky Williams at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge at 225.926.5343.

## The 126th Annual Gathering of the ECW

by Shiela S. MacArthur, Diocesan ECW Communications Chair

The ECW Annual Gathering at historic St. George's, New Orleans on April 19 and 20 was a splendid celebration as 80 delegates focused on the theme, "Many Paths, One Journey". Diocesan ECW Vice President and Program Chair, Ann Ball, and Reba Mackey, Co-Chair of the Greater New Orleans Deanery and St. George's parishioner, and a bevy of St. George's ladies graciously welcomed delegates with hospitality and well-ordered and executed events in timely fashion.

Friday events included a history of St. George's and a tour of the church conducted by The Rev'd Richard B. Easterling; a presentation by Katerina Katsarka Whitley; Evening Prayer led by Fr. Easterling; a Gala Reception at the home of The Very Rev'd Dr. Jean Meade and Mr. Louis Koerner, Jr. followed by "A Program of Music for Two Pianos" with pianists Mtr. Meade and Mr. Maximillian Tenney.



Members of Annunciation, New Orleans, Maureen Young (left) and Robin Yeager share some laughter at the evening social.



Penny Reinhardt of Grace, St. Francisville, and Jane Webster of Trinity, Morgan City process church banners in at St. George's.

Saturday's session began with a continental breakfast provided by St. George's ECW, another warm welcome by Ann Ball and devotions by Gloria McKenzie. Diocesan ECW President, Barbara Owens, opened the plenary session with the President's Report followed by Secretary Cintra Willcox's Roll Call and approval of the Minutes of the 125th ECW Annual Gathering in 2012. Treasurer Sharon Edmon presented the Treasurer's Report for approval and the proposed 2013-2014 budget, explained the ECW Special Offerings

continued page 23

Women in the Diocese of Louisiana. As delegates prepared to hear the keynote address by Katerina Katsarka Whitley, they were joined by 16 of the national ECW board members who remained for the Festival Eucharist and lunch. The Festival Eucharist included the Procession of ECW Banners, the UTO Ingathering, and the Installation of Officers. The offertory was dedicated to the Foxley Fund for Women's Leadership Training.

Following a healthy and delicious lunch provided by the Wellness Program

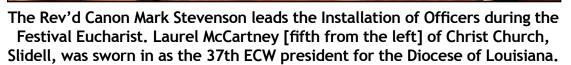
team of St. Philip's, Westbank-Algiers, and served to delegates, guest speakers, the National ECW Board, spouses, and exhibitors, 103 in all, delegates heard The Rev'd Deacon Nancy Crawford of Oregon,

[L-R] ECW Vice-President Ann Ball visits with the Rev'd Dr.

Jean Meade and a guest at Meade's home.

recommendations for 2013-2014, and reviewed the proposed by-law amendment for the Committee on Finance. The proposed 2013-2014 budget, the Special Offerings, and the by-law amendment were all passed by unanimous voice vote. Nominat-

#### )ut & About presentation of Honored



The Rev'd Canon E. Mark Stevenson reported on the State of the Church and highlighted the recent April 7 Bluegrass Eucharist and luncheon held in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center which was attended by over 600 of the faithful in the Diocese of Louisiana. Recognizing ladies for their ministry and service in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Joy Stevenson acknowledged Millie George, Maria Palmer, and Rosemary Sullivan in the 17th

ing Chair Noretta Stackel conducted the Elections and with no nominations from the floor, the slated officers were elected. Elected officers were President Laurel Mc-Cartney and Treasurer Ellen King. With no further business, the plenary session was adjourned.



Members of St. Luke's, New Orleans, attend the evening social: [L-R] Marian McCauley, Ellarose Gray and Kim Kelly-Aaron. Gray serves as historian on the diocesan ECW board. Kelly-Aaron is ECW president at St. Luke's.

Outgoing ECW President Barbara Owens (center) enjoys some time with her husband, the Rev'd Dr. Donald Owens, and Cintra Willcox, an ECW board officer, at the social.





Keynoter Katerina Katsarka Whitley of Louisville, Kentucky, portrays Simon Peter's wife in a dramatic monologue presentation.

CHURCHWORK MAY 2013

the National ECW President, introduce the national officers and speak about the many and varied ECW ministries. Delegates were invited to attend two of four workshops on: "ECSLA - Outreach in Louisiana" put on by Karla Du Plantier and Karen Mackey; "The Wellness Program is for You" by Mimi Lucuro and The Rev'd Stephen F. Craft; "Greek Cuisine and Culture" by Katerina Whitley; "Enriching and Enlivening Your ECW" by Noretta Stackel.

Both days of the ECW Annual Gathering, delegates generously donated camp supplies to ECW's service project, G.R.A.C.E. (God's Really Awesome Camp Experience) CAMP, which is a summer camp initiative for children of incarcerated men and women.

The 126th Annual Gathering of the Diocese of Louisiana's ECW was SPLENDID indeed: meaningful worship, outstanding speakers, great fellowship and fun, sumptuous food, delightful entertainment, time for shopping, the presence of so many clergy and the National ECW Board, and always the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones. Ladies of the diocese, YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

## **ECW Honors Three Members**

**Rosemary Sullivan** is a longtime member of St. Martin's Church in Metairie. A retired school teacher, Rosemary has an abiding love of children. She has organized many programs to involve children in both the life of the church and the community. She has served as a substitute teacher for the Sunday school and recently incorporated the church youngsters in the parish's capital stewardship campaign. She was instrumental in developing a Reading Program that partnered St. Martin's parishioners with children at a local public elementary school.

Rosemary is a stalwart member of St. Julia's Women's Guild at St. Martin's and makes sure her mother, a centenarian, stays active at the church as well. Rosemary has served on the parish vestry and the Altar Guild. She was a member of the diocesan ECW board for several years and served as diocesan United Thank Offering Coordinator. She has attended meetings of Province IV and was a delegate to the national ECW Triennial Meeting.Rosemary Sullivan is a joyful person with many skills and continues in service to her church and community.

Before hurricane Katrina forced a move from New Orleans to the north shore, **Millie George** was a longtime member of St. Paul's in Lakeview. Along with her husband, Scot, she was much beloved in that church community over the years. In her time at St. Paul's she was responsible for countless annual "White Elephant" sales, and took the lead in several other projects as well. For example, in the early 1990s she helped organize and host a deanery-wide fashion show and dinner to benefit the establishment of the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. She was active in the St. Paul's ECW, serving as its President for many years.

Millie's ECW experiences also include serving as both Chair and Co-Chair of the Greater New Orleans Deanery, coordinating the transitions between deanery chairs, and attending Province IV ECW gatherings at Kanuga as a representative of the Diocese of Louisiana. She has served for many years as the parliamentarian for the diocesan ECW, making sure that business is conducted decently and in order.

Of course, Millie is not simply "all business." She is fond of leading those around her in singing old songs, and she enjoys writing light, humorous poetry. She took a workshop at Kanuga several years ago with friends Sharon Edmon and Noretta Stackel to learn how to make rope Anglican Rosaries, and the three laughed so hard that they cried and the rosaries were slightly less than perfect!

### Out & About



[L-R] The Episcopal Church Women's "Honored Women" for 2013 are: Maria Palmer of Incarnation, Amite; Rosemary Sullivan of St. Martin's, Metairie and Millie George of St. Paul's, New Orleans.

Millie George is known for her cheerful and welcoming presence, her dedication and her diligence. She has long been a source of support for the church in Louisiana.

In a small church like Incarnation, Amite, many things have to be done by only a few people, and **Maria Palmer** has never shied away from taking on the task at hand. Over the years she has served as a Vestry Member, Junior Warden and Senior Warden. She will pull on a vestment before church in a hurry if an acolyte or chalice bearer is needed at the last minute, and she keeps up with the pastoral needs of the community with loving attention to detail.

Not long ago the church was without an ordained pastor, and Maria led the charge to find a way to call a new priest. With funding being one of the biggest obstacles she spearheaded the renovation of a home owned by the church so that it could be rented out to pay the bills. Another member of the parish tells the story of stopping by the house with his wife to help with the work and seeing Maria on top of the house with a broom sweeping leaves off the roof! Maria has been described by fellow parishioners as the one person who seems always to be available when things around the church need attention. She makes sure that the heat is working in the winter, and that the air conditioning is working in the summer. On one occasion bugs got into the air conditioner and shorted out the wiring, and Maria took the unit apart to clean it and get it working again. And when a few years ago a cold weather snap froze the pipes, the men of the church showed up to fix them only to find Maria already there, under the building, removing the damaged piping and installing new, upgraded lines.

Maria's dedication also reaches beyond the closeknit group at Incarnation. She has served for many years on the Board of the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. Her efforts with that ministry of the diocese led Bishop Thompson to nominate her last year to be Vice President of the Board, a position she still serves with distinction.

Maria Palmer is thoughtful, prayerful and full of energy for Christ and his church. She always greats others with a big, warm smile, and she does not know the meaning of the word "can't."

## 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, Godgiven 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 Deposit fully refundable if registration cancelled by July 12, 2013 After July 12, 2013, deposit refundable only if your place is filled.

#### To register, <u>click here</u>.

For more information, contact Lisa Holden at Iholden7234@aol.com or call 504.738.7234.

### JERICHO ROAD EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE Living With Purpose Fellow Placed with Jericho Road



Colleen Morrissey, LWP Fellow and Neighborhood Coordinator for Jericho Road

In my first months of working as a neighborhood coordinator for Faubourg Livaudais, I was asked to organize an event for Night Out Against Crime, a national movement to promote crime prevention and to show neighborhood solidarity. Prior to my arrival, Jericho Road had little involvement in the neighborhood (as opposed to Faubourgs Delassize and Lafayette, where Jericho Road has been active in community development for 3-4 years). This meant I spent the first 4 months simply trying to meet people. Night Out Against Crime was particularly difficult for me at first, because I had to try to recruit people I had never met to put on an event. Then I met Miss Irma, who introduced me to her neighbor, Miss Schelita, and the two of them took ownership of the event. They made food, they

set up a stereo, and they invited their neighbors. The best part about the event for me was that Miss Schelita felt it could be even better, and a few days ago she approached me to begin planning for next year – and it takes place in October!

This has been a great gift to me - working in Livaudais. The motivation, talent, and care of the people who live here is astounding. Each month, I publish a neighborhood newsletter with events, stories, and advertisements, and I continually ask residents if the content is relevant. Each time I get a call from a resident with a new idea or a comment on a story, it thrills me. One of my favorite moments was when Joyce, who distributes 200 newsletters around the neighborhood each month, called me to suggest we start a classifieds section so that residents can advertise their skills and services. Each month she calls me with one or two new ads for the newsletter, after walking around the neighborhood and talking to her neighbors.

People in Faubourg Livaudais regularly affirm to me that they want to see change in their neighborhood, they want to have control over their quality of life, and they will work hard to do it. Through house meetings, people of all different backgrounds have met, and talked, and planned. In March, Miss Evelyn and Miss Jeanette hosted in a house meeting on their block and everyone there wanted to do it again. And in April, we met to discuss the possibility of starting a neighborhood association, a formal organization that will act as a network and collective voice for the neighborhood.

Change is happening in Faubourg Livaudais, and to me, it feels like it is happening quickly! I have only been in New Orleans since August, but I've already learned so much about listening, understanding, and working with other people to achieve the change they want to see.

I was placed at Jericho Road by the Living With Purpose Fellowship, through Episcopal Community Services. Living With Purpose is made up of three components: intentional community, faith/spirituality, and service. All three are connected – our site placements inform our community, faith informs our service, etc. All three have taught me the importance of mutual accountability and the strength that results when people work together.

### Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative Homeowner Spotlight: Linda Anderson

Linda Anderson is one of the first Jericho Road homebuyers to live in a house that was rehabilitated by Jericho Road and not built from the ground up. She has the good fortune to be able to enjoy so many architectural features that just can't be replaced. Linda grew up in New Orleans and after being gone for 23 years she is thrilled to be in "an old, New Orleans home that had been redone. I definitely didn't want to be in a suburb, in a new house. You guys [Jericho Road] gave me a chance to move back to New Orleans and get an elegant, rehabbed home."

Linda says that she loves that as a homeowner she gets a say in the neighborhood she lives in. She's proud to be a part of the rebuild-



ing of a good neighborhood. Linda is active in the Neighborhood Association of Faubourg Delassize. She says "It makes me feel informed and I get to hear other peoples' questions and ideas. It lets me know how I can help." Linda has 14 participation hours logged in with her Neighborhood Association events like Neighbors Helping Neighbors cleanup, Night Out Against Crime, and the Halloween Celebration.

## On the Worksite: Before and After

Jericho Road's most recent construction project started in December of 2012 and slated to be complete in the next couple of weeks. This Greek Revival style home on Martin Luther King Blvd. is part of the Saratoga Square development and marks Jericho Road's 29th home construction!!





In December 2012

**Present Day** 

The Diocese of Louisiana -	2013			
Operations Budget 2013 - Analysis 04/30/2013	TOTAL	<b>OTY</b>	<b>TTD</b>	OVER/
(Assessment and Program)	BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	UNDER BUDGET
REVENUE				
Revenues from Congregations	\$1,332,291	\$444,097	397,823	-\$46,274
Other Revenues	\$163,320	\$54,440	\$40,559	-\$13,881
Targeted Donations	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,545,611	\$515,204	\$455,049	-\$60,155
EXPENSES				
Direct Ministry / Programming				
Total Academic Chaplaincies	\$258,611	\$86,204	\$77,044	-\$9,160
Total Christian Education	\$2,000	\$667	\$0	-\$667
Total Commissions	\$11,000	\$3,667	\$4,497	\$830
Total Communications	\$7,950	\$2,650	\$2,278	-\$372
Total Conferences	\$20,250	\$6,750	\$5,972	-\$778
Total Church Mission Ministry & Grants	\$101,190	\$33,730	\$33,347	-\$383
Total Seminarians	\$14,500	\$4,833	\$10,000	\$5,167
Total Specialized Ministries	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,338	\$1,338
Total Stewardship	\$2,500	\$833	\$1,000	\$167
Total Work Outside the Diocese	\$167,254	\$55,751	\$54,899	-\$852
Total Youth	\$94,590	\$31,530	\$40,749	\$9,219
Ministry Support				
Bishop	\$210,876	\$70,292	\$71,738	\$1,446
Canon to the Ordinary	\$139,026	\$46,342	\$47,904	\$1,562
Diocesan Center Payroll & Operations	\$504,075	\$168,025	\$167,028	-\$997
Diocesan Property Reserve	\$7,500	2,500	2,500	\$0
Episcopal Transition Reserve	\$7,500	2,500	2,500	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,551,822	\$517,274	\$523,795	\$6,521
NET INCOME / LOSS	-\$6,211	-\$2,070	-\$68,746	-\$66,676

			ΥТD		ΥТD
JCe	Ask	Pledge	(Jan-April)	Rec'd YTD	Variance
15.33	\$823.00 #0.176.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	80	\$0.00 \$0	\$0.00 \$0.00
	\$20.564.00	\$20.564 00	\$6 855	\$0.00	-\$3 830 67
\$0.01	\$1,463.00	\$0.00	0\$	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.01	\$128,748.00	\$116,266.00	\$38,755	\$38,755.32	-\$0.01
\$0.01	\$68,573.00	\$52,663.00	\$17,554	\$17,554.32	-\$0.01
\$0.83	\$12,209.00 #0.005.00	\$3,500.00 \$500.00	\$1,167	\$1,168.84	\$2.17
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\$0.00	\$3,607.00	\$1,404.00	\$468	\$468.00	\$0.00
78.00	\$958.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.03	\$65,202.00	\$33,646.00	\$11,215	\$11,215.36	\$0.03
32.33	\$7,194.00	\$7,194.00	\$2,398	\$3,000.00	\$602.00
31.00	\$4,120.00	\$4,120.00	\$1,373	\$1,030.00	-\$343.33
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26.00	\$1,153.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
33.50	\$1,801.00	\$1,801.00	\$600	\$300.16	-\$300.17
\$0.01	\$10,317.00	\$1,200.00	\$400	\$400.00	\$0.00
\$0.01	\$29,302.00	\$17,236.00	\$5,745	\$5,745.32	-\$0.01
\$0.00	\$38,173.00	\$8,485.00	\$2,828	\$3,161.68	\$333.35
\$0.01	\$9,627.00	\$9,627.00	\$3,209	\$3,209.00	\$0.00
40.67	\$460.00 #2.402.00	\$460.00 #2.402.00	\$153	\$460.00	\$306.67
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59.50	\$3.075.00	\$3.075.00	\$1.025	\$512.50	-\$512.50
79.70	\$61,278.00	\$34,000.00	\$11,333	\$5,666.66	-\$5,666.67
54.75	\$2,751.00	\$250.00	\$83	\$250.00	\$166.67
33.67	\$19,552.00	\$9,776.00	\$3,259	\$0.00	-\$3,258.67
\$0 <sup>.00</sup>	\$18,105.00	\$1,000.00	\$333	\$333.32	-\$0.01
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\$0.00	\$4,013.00	\$4,013.00	\$1,338	\$1,337.68	\$0.01
\$0.66	\$9,522.00	\$4,285.00	\$1,428	\$1,430.01	\$1.68
00.25	\$3,242.00	\$2,805.00	\$935	\$1,168.75	\$233.75
\$0 <sup>.00</sup>	\$17,436.00	\$1,200.00	\$400	\$672.00	\$272.00
22.67	\$1,786.00	\$1,786.00	\$595	\$1,787.00	\$1,191.67
CZ.04	\$17,423.00	\$5,351.00 \$66,666,66	\$1,784 \$10,004	\$1,783.92	92.0\$
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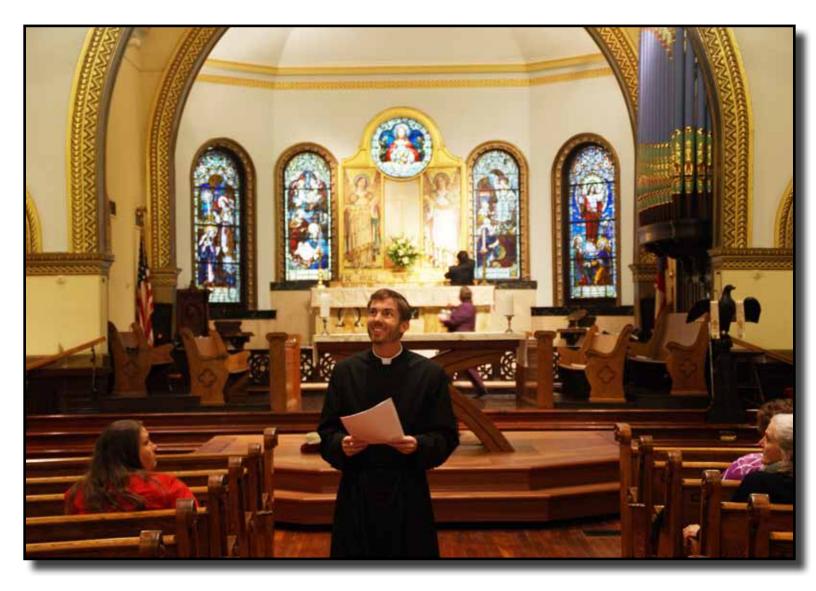
**Denham Springs Bayou du Large** St. Francisville Baton Rouge Baton Rouge **Baton Rouge Baton Rouge** Baton Rouge **Baton Rouge Baton Rouge** Baton Rouge **New Orleans New Orleans** <sup>></sup>onchatoula **Morgan** City Plaquemine **River Ridge New Roads** City **Mandeville** Covington Hammond Thibodaux Bogalusa Vorganza Rosedale <sup>=</sup>ranklin .aPlace Metairie Metairie Zachary Clinton Harvey Houma Kenner Slidell Amite Innis

St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal St. Augustine's Episcopal Church St. Augustine's Episcopal Church St. Margaret's Episcopal Church St. Matthew's Episcopal Church St. Stephen's Episcopal Church St. Timothy's Episcopal Church St. Matthew's Episcopal Church St. Michael's Episcopal Church Church of the Holy Communion St. Andrew's Episcopal Church St. Andrew's Episcopal Church St. Andrew's Episcopal Church St. George's Episcopal Church St. John's Episcopal Church St. Patrick's Episcopal Church St. Francis' Episcopal Church St. Mary's Episcopal Church St. Martin's Episcopal Church St. James' Episcopal Church St. Luke's Episcopal Church St. Mark's Episcopal Church St. John's Episcopal Church Chapel of the Holy Comforter St. Anna's Episcopal Church St. Luke's Episcopal Church St. Paul's Episcopal Church St. Philip's Episcopal Church St. Paul's-HolyTrinity Church St. Mary's Episcopal Church All Saints' Episcopal Church All Saints' Episcopal Church Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church Church of the Annunciation Church of the Incarnation Trinity Episcopal Church Trinity Episcopal Church Chapel of the Holy Spirit **Trinity Episcopal Church** Church of the Holy Spirit Christ Episcopal Church Grace Memorial Church Christ Church Cathedral Grace Episcopal Church 5/8/2013 Christ Episcopal Church and Program Giving Church As of Church of the Nativity St. Alban's Chapel All Souls Totals

**Congregational Assessments** 

### Financial Reports

### LAST LOOK



The Rev'd Richard Easterling, Priest in Charge of St. George's, New Orleans, addresses the 126th gathering of the Episcopal Church Women of the diocese in April.