

Accountability report for 2005 Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal

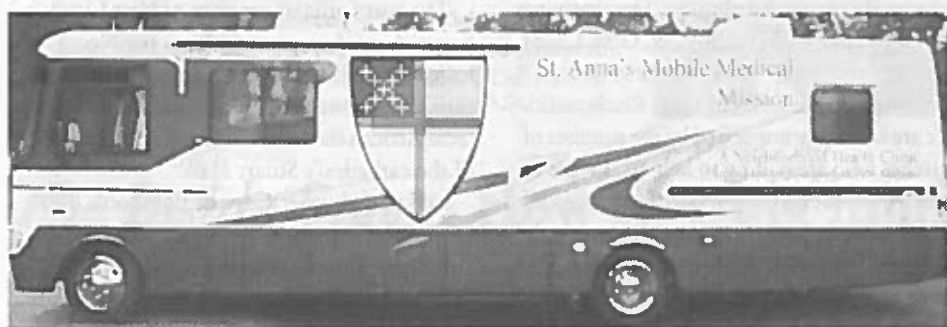
A record amount was given to the 2005 Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal in support of mission and ministry across the Diocese of Louisiana and beyond.

Thanks to all who offered a gift, as *One Church In Mission*, the diocese was able to share the Good News of Christ Jesus in many ways: reaching out to youth, young adults and college students, supporting poorer urban and rural congregations in their ministries, enhancing lay ministries and education, assisting diocesan seminarians and future clergy, and promoting addictions recovery ministry. These are but a few examples of how the gifts made a significant difference in the life of our diocese.

Gifts to the 2005 Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal provided \$98,034.74 in funding for local ministries, programs and initiatives while sending a further \$13,263 to our diocesan Partner in Mission, the Diocese of Honduras.

Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal is a growing success each year proving to be a symbol of unity, hope and progress.

Year	# of Donors	% Participation	Amount Pledged	Average Pledge
2003	471	5.24	\$ 42,435	\$ 90
2004	519	5.78	\$ 52,438	\$101
2005	920	10.24	\$142,972	\$155



Artist's drawing of the text and graphics that will adorn St. Anna's Mobile Medical Mission RV.

St. Anna's launches Medical Mission

In December, a group of parishes now called, St. Anna's Network, gathered and cast a collective vision for the future mission and ministry of St. Anna's Church in the French Quarter area of New Orleans. The theme was "Restore, Renew, Rebuild, and Reconcile." One of the principals identified was the need for the medical mission to be mobile.

Participants noted that there were no viable or accessible medical facilities readily available to the returning public below Canal Street. They noted that of six or more major hospitals, only one was operational. The challenge was in building infrastructure, protocols, and acquiring a mobile unit.

A key player in the mobile medical mission has been Diana Meyers, a parishioner and Registered Nurse, whose job disappeared when her hospital was flooded in East New Orleans. In November, Meyers arranged for a team to come into the area to administer flu shots. Meyers has since joined the staff on a full-time basis and committed herself to the mission.

St. Anna's Network has formed a partnership with Tulane University School of Psychiatric

Medicine as a clinical rotation site for students and residents; has partnered with a local doctor under his fellowship for Public Health Medicine UCLA as protocol supervisor and oversight; has contacted Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals who supports St. Anna's mission and calls the church "a blessing."

St. Anna's has also begun to partner with The New Orleans Musicians Clinic in a related ministry as well as the Daughters of Charity Clinic.

The mission to bring health care and wellness care to the neighborhoods most impacted by Katrina and neighborhoods without viable medical consultancy is about to be launched with the mobile unit.

The diocese is making the Medical Mission work possible through its Hurricane Relief Fund. It has agreed to supply a driver and at least one deacon for spiritual guidance and support. The diocese has approved a \$100,000 Congregational Ministry Initiative grant to St. Anna's for the acquisition of the mobile medical vehicle along with money from Episcopal Relief and Development. (See article below.)

Diocese begins local grant initiative

Bishop Charles Jenkins has appointed a five-person Advisory Committee to review grant proposals and make recommendations to the diocesan Executive Board for the recently created Congregational Ministry Initiatives.

The committee is chaired by Dr. Warren Billings, a member of the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans, and Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus, of the University of New Orleans.

Other committee members are: the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, canon to the ordinary, who serves as secretary for the committee; the Rev. Fred Devall, rector of St. Martin's Church, Metairie; Ed Starns, a member of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, and treasurer of the Diocese of Louisiana; and Cliff Sutter, a member of Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.

The Congregational Ministry Initiatives are one-year grants funded by the diocesan Hurricane Relief Fund for worthy projects based in local congregations. The grants are given in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Application guidelines can be found on the diocesan web site, www.edola.org.

"As chair, and as one who drew up the guidelines, I thought the committee worked well together in its initial stages," reported Dr. Billings in a telephone interview. "We did most of our work over the internet. We wanted a regular procedure that people could follow. The grants are for one year at a time but we can consider future funding."

Several grants have already been recommended by the committee and approved by the Executive Board. These have been given to: the Dragon Cafe feeding ministry at St. George's, New Orleans; an administrative partnership between St. Paul's and Annunciation, New Orleans; a mobile medical RV clinic based at St. Anna's, New Orleans; a suicide-prevention ministry supervised by Christ Church, Covington; and a day care center at St. Andrew's, New Orleans.

Billings was glad to "get the news out" about the Congregational Ministry Initiatives and encourages churches in the diocese to apply.



[L-R] Officer of Disaster Response Volunteer Coordinator Holly Heine meets with the New Orleans area Volunteer Housing Coordinators: Linda Ireland of Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans (prospective coordinator Diana Meyers of St. Anna's, New Orleans); Deacon Michael Hackett of St. Augustine's, Metairie; Elaine Clements of St. Andrew's, New Orleans; and Kathleen Jones of St. Martin's Church, Metairie. [EDITOR PHOTO]

Local volunteers are vital part of hurricane relief network

The efforts of hundreds of volunteers have brought a profound sense of hope to the victims of the 2005 hurricanes. The Diocese of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response has found the service of willing volunteers an invaluable link in the chain of relief work.

Volunteers are coming from our own backyard as well as from all over the country to help in many capacities through diocesan-sponsored relief efforts. The volunteers are cleaning up and gutting flooded homes, helping on the Mobile Respite Care RV Unit, preparing and serving meals at St. George's Dragon Cafe in uptown New Orleans and assisting with the distribution of supplies at the Church of the Annunciation in the Broadmoor section of New Orleans.

One of the key necessities for a volunteer team coming to Louisiana from out-of-town is housing. The Office of Disaster Response has worked closely with four of our churches in the New Orleans area to establish and maintain volunteer housing space. The churches that are currently housing volunteers through the Office of Disaster Response are St. Andrew's, New Orleans; Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans; St. Martin's Church, Metairie; and St. Augustine's, Metairie.

Part of the work in establishing volunteer housing has been to identify a coordinator for each place. A volunteer from each of these congregations has stepped forward and taken on the very meaningful work of coordinating volunteer teams and maintaining housing space at their churches.

Elaine Clements has been briefing all

ODR volunteer teams coming to the city for several months. She created an informative and sensitive orientation for the visiting teams about New Orleans and what to expect in their volunteer work here. She is also serving as the housing volunteer for Chairston House at her church, St. Andrew's, in the Carrollton section of the city.

Linda Ireland is the volunteer housing coordinator at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Chapel House near Tulane University in New Orleans. Ireland has prepared the Chapel House in such a way that it almost runs by itself.

Kathleen Jones is the coordinator for the teams staying at St. Martin's Church in Metairie. She goes the extra mile to make sure that teams have everything they need while they are at the church in the Old Metairie section of Jefferson Parish.

Deacon Michael Hackett coordinates the volunteer housing at St. Augustine's in Metairie, also in Jefferson Parish.

Hackett and Jones have the extra challenge of organizing shower facilities off-site since neither St. Martin's Church nor St. Augustine's have showers in their facilities.

As reconstruction work begins in many places, there will be an even greater need for volunteers and for other churches to offer space and manpower to help house volunteers and to assist New Orleanians in their reconstruction efforts.

Contact ODR Volunteer Coordinator Holly Heine at hheine@stjamesbr.org or 504.895.4304 for more information about recovery ministry.

CHURCHWORK MAILBOX

La. Day in Washington DC

- ALEXANDRIA, VA

To: Ann Ball
Churchwork Editor
Dear Ann,

I attended the major state day honoring Louisiana at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington DC, last Sunday, April 30. I was very moved by Bishop Jenkins' sermon.

As you know, I work for an Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA. We, and many other parishes in this area, print the sermons and make them available in a printed format after the service.

I guess I am spoiled by this. Do you know if there is a printed version of his sermon? I have seen the ENS article (dated today), which includes some of what he said, but

not everything. I think it is one of the most positive sermons, especially considering the circumstances. I've heard.

The celebration of Louisiana was wonderful. I didn't know anyone (we were identified by name tags with a magnolia on it), but we were all from the same place, and it felt wonderful. I get to have another Louisiana experience on May 20, when the Loyola University alumni will gather at Visitation School in Georgetown and eat crawfish (boiled in New Orleans or Metairie and flown up here; so they are "real.")

I missed seeing you all at Mardi Gras, perhaps next year.

Charlotte Wright
formerly of St. George's, New Orleans

[Editor's Note: The bishop's sermon from Louisiana Day at Washington National Cathedral is on the diocesan web site: www.edola.org]



JERICH ROAD Episcopal Housing Initiative board members gather at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, prior to their May meeting: [L-R] Ronald Markham, the Rev. Susan Gaumer, Chris Beary, Ellen Ball, the Rev. John Pierre, Julie George, the Rt. Rev. Charles Jenkins, the Rev. Dabney Smith and the Very Rev. David duPlantier. [EDITOR PHOTOS]



City street sign marks the beginning of the "Jericho Road" initiative.



Brad Powers, Dean David duPlantier, John Pierre and Bishop Charles Jenkins look over the property where the first Jericho Road homes will be built.



Jericho Road

Episcopal Housing Initiative

Elizabeth Brady
Director of public relations

Bishop Charles Jenkins announced the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative (Jericho Road), a first of its kind Episcopal housing plan targeting New Orleans' Central City neighborhood.

Jericho Road is a faith-based, non-profit organization formed in response to the destruction caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. According to Bishop Jenkins, chair of the Jericho Road board, Jericho's mission is to provide quality affordable housing in pre-existing neighborhoods in New Orleans.

"Our first goal is to construct 150 homes in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans," he said. "While doing so, we pray that we will be able to collaborate with other faith groups in sharing this ministry so important to the future of New Orleans."

The Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative,

LLC was formed in March and is a partnership of the Diocese of Louisiana and Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). ERD provided the initial funding totaling \$2.3 million which will be used for administrative management, property acquisition and construction. The funding from ERD, combined with planned financing from the Whitney Community Development Corporation will result in an investment in Central City of over \$20 million.

According to vice-chair of the Jericho Road, the Very Rev. David duPlantier, dean of Christ Church Cathedral, this is a challenging time in New Orleans but it is also an exciting time for opportunity and change in all neighborhoods.

"Jericho Road through its broad and diverse partnerships will transform New Orleans into an American City that will again set the standard for people of diverse ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds to live together in

mixed and vibrant communities," duPlantier said. "One of our city's most unique characteristics is that for hundreds of years people of vastly different backgrounds have lived in close proximity to one another inspiring and influencing culture, religion and family life. Jericho Road will continue that vital New Orleans neighborhood tradition."

The Jericho Road 'Pilot Program,' launched in mid-May with the purchase of five empty lots from the Whitney Community Development Corporation, is the first step for the Jericho housing initiative.

The purpose of the pilot program is to implement and then critique all aspects of Jericho Road including: site selection, client identification and training, availability of homeowners insurance, cost of mortgage products and a realistic understanding of the building process post-Katrina.

A variety of housing stock is being considered including: modular, steel, cement as well

as traditional lumber. Jericho Road has led to build neighborhood partnerships in the area of the newly acquired properties throughout the Central City neighborhood.

The Jericho Road Governing Board consists of a Board of Directors, Members at Large and a Non-Voting Membership.

The Board of Directors are: Bishop Charles Jenkins, chair; Dean David Allard duPlantier of Christ Church Cathedral, vice-chair; Warden Chris Beary, Esq., of Christ Church Cathedral, treasurer.

Members at Large are: Ellen Ball Representative, of Trinity, New Orleans; Rev. Susan Gaumer of St. Andrew's, Orleans; Julie George, Esq., Lay Representative of Trinity, New Orleans; the Rev. Dr. P. Keen of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Orleans; Mr. Ronald Markham, CEO of New Orleans Jazz Orchestra; Superintendent John E. Pierre of Living Witness Church Orleans; the Rev. Dabney Smith of Trinity New Orleans.

Non-Voting members are: Bradford Powers, Esq., executive director and recording secretary; Elizabeth Brady, director of public relations; Canon Mark Stevens, canon to the ordinary, Diocese of Louisiana; Dr. Courtney Cowart, director of staff for the diocesan Office of Disaster Response and Archdeacon Dennis McMillan, director of operation for the Office of Disaster Response.

Christ Church, Slidell, celebrates its centennial anniversary

Christ Church, Slidell, was to have hosted the 169th Diocesan Convention in 2006 in honor of its centennial year but Hurricane Katrina had her way instead.

On Sunday, April 26, 2006 Bishop Charles Jenkins rededicated Christ Church, Slidell, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The bishop exhorted the congregation to make the second 100 years better than its first. He also blessed the newly purchased grand piano, raised with funds gathered by the "88 Keys" group, which was led by Karen Roberts and Melinda Epperson. A gala reception followed the rededication Eucharist service.

An historic perspective was created outlining events in the church's life from 1906 to the present day which is excerpted here.

In 1906 a petition was submitted to the Bishop Davis Sessums to establish an Episcopal mission under the name of Christ Church in Slidell, Louisiana. In 1922 a little green chapel was built on the corner of Third Street and Fremaux Avenue at a cost of \$4,000. A Sunday school was begun in 1949. An organ was purchased in 1951 for \$446.62. Through these years Christ Church Mission was served

by priests from Christ Church, Covington.

In December 1953, Christ Church Mission purchased property on Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue with a house to serve as a rectory and enough ground for a church and proposed parish hall.

In January 1954, the little green chapel was moved to the Seventh Street property. Both the Episcopal Men's Fellowship and the Women's Auxiliary were active. In 1965, with the building of the present church structure, the Little Green Chapel was demolished.

In November 1956 the Carrie H. Comfort Parish Hall was built and dedicated with Mrs. Comfort in attendance.

Christ Church, Slidell, became a parish on Jan. 20, 1958. Construction of a new church commenced in 1965 and was completed and dedicated in January 1966. Bishop Girault Jones officiated at the church dedication, along with Rev. John Arthur, rector of the parish.

During the late 1970s there was an active youth group, directed by John and Marky Stevenson and Bobby Spencer. There were 60-80 students in the Christian Education program on Sunday mornings with a part-time

paid education coordinator. It was during this time that the church became active with the Cuban and Haitian Boat Crisis, offering support to Haiti in numerous ways.

In March 1984, the church purchased the Michigan Avenue property known as Wheeler House and the adjacent lot. The Morgan Library was dedicated during this time in memory of Sheldon Morgan, a former vestryman. Many of the books in the library are from his private collection. In 1989 Toni White, who had no formal training, worked for a year to create stained glass Stations of the Cross for the church.

In October 1998, the church mortgage was retired. During the summer of 2001 the church purchased the Eighth Street property for future expansion. A three-year capital campaign provided for the expansion and renovations, with the project being completed in the winter of 2002. Other renovations were completed in 2003 and 2004.

Christ Church called its new rector, the Rev. Brian Grantz, in May 2006. Visit the church's web site: www.christchurchslidell.com to see its many ongoing, vibrant ministries.



Christ Church, Slidell

Trinity Counseling Center sees different kinds of needs after Katrina



Bishop Charles Jenkins (left) and Episcopal Relief and Development President Robert Radtke (right) listen as Debbie Poitevent describes Trinity's counseling program. [EDITOR PHOTO]

Debbie Poitevent, director of the Trinity Counseling Center at Trinity Church, New Orleans, pointed out to a recent group of visitors that "a lot of [local] people are experiencing anxiety as the next hurricane season approaches."

"Even if we were not personally hurt by the storm, we are part of the population here; we are traumatized daily by what we see and hear. It affects us physically. We need to be restored," she told the visitors.

Poitevent noted that the center is not doing long-range planning now because the planning needs change on a daily basis.

"Ours minds are constantly full," she said. "People here need to have frequent breaks."

Bishop Jenkins, who attended the session with the out-of-town guests, spoke of the many church camps and conference centers, "in every direction, east and west," who have offered Louisiana clergy vacation time for rest and recuperation from fatigue.

He echoed Poitevent's comments saying, "Living on the edge of disaster is constantly with us."

Poitevent said she would like to reinstitute the center's fellowship program for informal, non-structured counseling opportunities.

"People need a witness – a witness to their 'beingness' – it's like being held like a baby. It's incredibly supportive," she said.

"We need to wrap an 'attachment membrane' around things," she added. "My role is to listen and build an attachment community. Future case managers in the diocese will need to build attachments in the compassion centers where the people will be hanging out – the places where the people will be talking, and the managers will be listening."

Poitevent hopes to be able to raise another \$100,000 in grant money to add supervisors for the Counseling Center so that more work can be done interactively with the diocese's planned Compassion Centers.

St. Thomas Clinic has open door policy for health care services

In 1988, Dr. Don Erwin, a respected physician at Ochsner Hospital and member of Trinity Church, New Orleans, ventured into the poverty and crime of the St. Thomas Housing Project and began an amazing medical clinic that served the needs of the poor. The St. Thomas Clinic was very successful until the housing authority tore down the St. Thomas Project to begin building what it would come to call mixed-usage housing – however, not much of it for the poor.

But after Katrina, there was a desperate need to restart a clinic, and Erwin did, near the corner of St. Andrew and Magazine streets.

"We see you whether you have insurance or not," he said. "Whether you are a citizen or not. Seven thousand teachers lost their insurance after Katrina. Seventy-three percent of the primary care physicians are gone from this city. Only 30 to 40 percent are insured. We are a major source of health care here."

"I was at Ochsner for 30 years so we have an idea how to do this. We have grants but to generate money and support ourselves we have to use business models."

Wife and fellow doctor, Mary Abell adds, "This clinic and Hutchinson are the only ones seeing these kinds of people (cardiac patients.) We have a bigger capacity and have a fuller menu of services which we can provide. And we do a lot of pediatric work. We can do everything under this roof."

Erwin summed up his feelings admirably.

"It is a lot of fun to get up every morning. I don't have to worry if the head of the hospital is mad. I just have to know if we helped someone today. I can talk to someone and know we are fulfilling our mission. Sometimes I feel like the MVP at the Super Bowl – if I can just get the bus money to get to the game! Sometimes I really feel like this is the work of the Holy Spirit."



Dr. Don Erwin (right) explains a point to Bishop William Persell (left) of Chicago as he tours the St. Thomas Clinic in New Orleans. Clinic Manager Linda Lowe looks on. [EDITOR PHOTO]

New Orleans musicians long to be "Inn That Number" at St. Anna's



A local musician plays at St. Anna's "Inn That Number" dinner and fellowship evening.

In its continuing series of Wednesday night concerts and jam sessions, the "little stone church," St. Anna's at 1313 Esplanade Ave., offers musicians and New Orleanians a chance to restore their souls with worship and music New Orleans-style.

Through grants, St. Anna's has been able to fund its Ministry to Musicians program, providing a wonderful evening of healing, worship, food, fellowship, music and support for the local community at-large and local musicians as well.

A mass and healing service is held at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. During the worship time, a truly talented musical group offers sacred music in the persons of noted local artists: Esquizito, Khari Allen Lee on sax, Dave Easeley on guitar, Greg Smith on bass and Dylan Hicks on drums.

After the service, everyone is invited for a community supper and jam session with the

warm-up band, The Storyville Stompers.

"If musicians want to sign up to be a paid band for an evening they can sign up for a future date," reports Diana Meyers of St. Anna's.

The jam session and dinner start at 7 p.m. with music lasting until 9 p.m. Musicians seeking a place to play and network are encouraged to join the jam session.

"Community resources are also available including mental health professionals, medical screening, and transitional housing specialists," reports Meyers who is St. Anna's parish nurse and the disaster relief coordinator for her church.

The public is invited to the music events. Grants from St. Anna's and the New Orleans Musicians Clinic make this venue possible.

St. Anna's is currently partnered with St. Francis, Stamford, Connecticut; St. Matthew's, Louisville, Kentucky; and Incarnation, Dallas, Texas.

"Disaster Kits" delivered to all congregations, time for home preparation

Hurricane season is June 1 - Nov. 30.

Every congregation in the diocese has received a Disaster Kit designed to assist each church in the event of another evacuation.

The kit is a sturdy, plastic file box in which

If you need further information or assistance with the disaster kits, e-mail Valerie Hendrickson at: vhendrickson@stjamesbr.org.

Home Preparedness

Every family should work out ahead of time

Organize your important documents (such as the disaster kit) ahead of time so they are ready to go when a storm threatens. Pack them in plastic bins.

Essentials: Bring prescription medicines;

and you cannot take them with you.

Communications: Bring cell phones, Palms or Blackberries and printed e-mail addresses.

Fill your gas tank as soon as possible.

Place gallon containers of water (not quite full) in your freezer to freeze and/or take as