

# CHURCHWORK

Volume 64, Issue 4

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

January 2015



"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"  
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD AND NOT FOR  
DISASTER, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

Jeremiah 29:11

**FRONT COVER:** In August, the Rev'd John Kellogg speaks on his first Sunday as Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's, Harvey. Fr. John will also serve as Canon Missioner in the Diocese of Louisiana.

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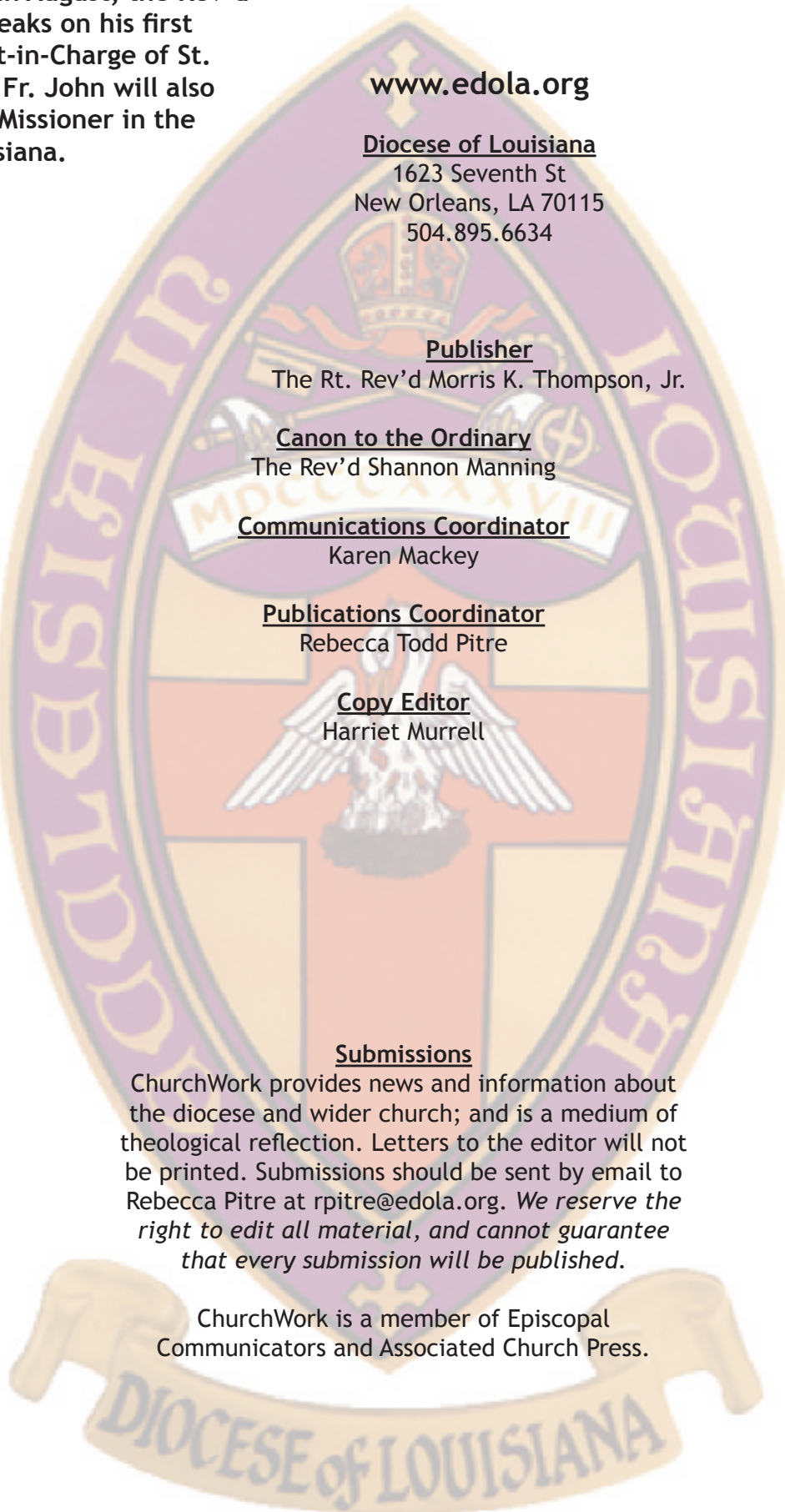
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ChurchWork provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Rebecca Pitre at [rpitre@edola.org](mailto:rpitre@edola.org). *We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.*

ChurchWork is a member of Episcopal Communicators and Associated Church Press.





# **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## **MAY IT BE FULL OF BLESSINGS AND PEACE**

**— Bishop Thompson and the Diocesan Staff**

# BISHOP'S JOURNAL: JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> TO DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

**July 18:** Much of the early morning is spent working on my sermon and then head to the office to meet the new headmaster of Trinity School, Fr. Gary Taylor. He is excited about his new calling and I am glad he is here.

**July 19:** Stephen Crawford is ordained to the Priesthood at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge. There is a very nice turn out of clergy and the three congregations that claim Stephen as the child they raised.

**July 20:** I had a very nice visitation to St. Michael's Church in Mandeville. I first met with the confirmands followed by the worship service where I preached and celebrated, confirmed and received new members into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church. It was a great day. St. Michael's has come a long way in the past five years.

**July 21:** I take the first of the day off to run errands. Later in the day Canon Manning and I drive to Trinity Church, Baton Rouge to meet with their search committee and vestry. It was a productive meeting. We returned later that evening to New Orleans.

**July 22:** The day begins with our weekly staff meeting followed by Fr. Harry Jenkins' annual consultation. At noon I celebrate and preach at the cathedral. Once a month our office worships together and followed by a brown bag lunch. I look forward to spending time with all of the staff and catching up on non work conversation. My first afternoon meeting is with Canon Steven Roberts annual consultation. Following this meeting I drive to Covington to meet with Anne Maxwell for her annual consultation and then head on to Baton Rouge for the evening.

**July 23:** The day begins with breakfast with Fr. John Miller. Fr. Miller will soon become the priest in charge at St. Francis. Later that morning Canon Manning and I meet with Fr. Drew Rollins and others from St. Albans Chapel to discuss matters pertaining to the college ministry. I'm able to grab a quick bite for lunch and then have back to back meetings with Fr. Dan Krutz regarding his retirement and then a conversation with a minister of another denomination wanting to enter the process to become a priest in the Episcopal church. I drive to Plaquemine to meet with Mother Karen Gay who has been quite ill and has taken a leave of absence from her parish. I am encouraged by her resilience to persevere. I arrive back in late that evening.

**July 24:** I meet with all the deans in New Orleans. I always look forward to being with them and hearing about their ministries. That meeting is followed by a delightful lunch with Deacon Joann Garma. I have time in the afternoon to return phone calls and end the day with a meeting with a person inquiring about ordination.

**July 25:** I spend the whole day working on sermons and catching up on paper work.

**July 26:** No meetings and I enjoy the day off.

**July 27:** Rebecca and I drive to St. Andrew's Bayou Dularge to preach and celebrate their 100th anniversary. It is a grand day of celebration, fish and frog leg fry and other delicious food. Bishop Brown also vests. The good people of Bayou Dularge refer to Bishop Brown as "their Bishop." It warmed my heart to see him honored with such affection.



**July 28:** I gladly take my day off.

**July 29:** The day begins with our weekly staff meeting followed by Fr. Jay Angerer's annual consultation. It also happens to be Fr. Angerer's 44th birthday. I thought he was much older than that! That afternoon I drive to Baton Rouge for the evening.

**July 30:** I have a meeting with the Archdeacon followed by a board meeting with Spiritas. I drive home later that afternoon and am in time to have dinner with Rebecca.

**July 31:** I meet with representatives of UBE (Union of Black Episcopalians). The rest of the day is filled with meetings surrounding the property on Canal St.

**August 1:** Today is spent working on sermons and other office matters.

**August 2:** I drive to Baton Rouge for the evening and to have dinner with David Seger. He was a wonderful host and took me to one of the local hot spots for dinner.

**August 3:** My visitation takes me to Trinity, Baton Rouge where I preach, celebrate and confirm. Fr. Seger is doing a fine job as their interim.

**August 4:** I take my day off.

**August 5:** Several staff members are out on vacation so we skip the staff meeting. Later in the morning I meet with Deacon Louis Ogle for his annual consultation. Canon Kellogg and I have lunch and then I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with the vestry of Holy Spirit. They inform me they will run out of money at the end of August and will be closing their doors. This is a first for me, a church running out of energy. I spend the night in Baton Rouge.

**August 6:** I meet with an aspirant for Holy Orders. Later I have lunch with Deacon Mark Hudson. I have two consultations in the afternoon. The first is with Deacon Linda Armstrong who serves at the LSU chapel and the second is with Fr. Skully Knight, one of the chaplains at Episcopal. I arrive home around 8 that evening.

**August 7:** Rebecca's Birthday!!! Unfortunately we have to postpone celebrating. The mother of a dear friend of mine died and I drive to Jackson to pay my respect. I return home late that evening.

**August 8:** Home working on sermon and other items. Several staff members are on vacation.

**August 9:** Canon John Kellogg and I drive to the Solomon Center for their board meeting. It is the first time John has visited our conference center. Later Rebecca, Virginia, her friend and I dine at Mr. John's Steak House, to celebrate her birthday. We enjoy ourselves very much.

**August 10:** I drive to Christ Church, Slidell for my visit where I celebrate and preach. I meet with the vestry prior to the service. The morning ends with a delightful luncheon.

**August 11:** The day is spent running errands.

**August 12:** My nemesis returns with high fever and I'm out for the next eight days.

**August 18:** Phone conference to discuss a pressing matter with one of our congregations.

**August 19:** I return to work and have several in-office meetings and then go home early to rest.

**August 20:** I have a morning meeting with Fr. Walter Baer followed with a planning meeting regarding our Diocesan Convention. That afternoon Maggy Charles from Trinity, Wall Street calls to talk about Trinity's trip to New Orleans. Trinity

# FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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continues to be a strong partner with our Diocese and I am very grateful for their presence. After my phone conference, Cannon Manning drives me and two other clergy over to St. John's, Thibodaux for Fr. Doug Lasiter's new ministry service. The church is full of excitement for this new beginning. We return to New Orleans late that evening.

**August 21:** Mid-morning, I meet with representatives of ECW and that is followed by a meeting with an aspirant. In the afternoon I have a phone conference with Bishop's Against Gun Violence and then I go home to change clothes for the ALS ice bucket challenge. The challenge is COLD ([click here to watch](#)). Canon Steven Roberts put plenty of ice in the bucket. After the douse, I go home to take a hot shower.

**August 22:** I have a morning conference call with Bishop Matt Gunter and then return home to finish my sermon for Sunday.

**August 23:** Rebecca and I drive to St. Francisville where Peter Kang was ordained to the order of Deacon at Grace Church. It is a nice day and the congregation of Grace is generous with their reception.

**August 24:** My visitation takes me to St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge. We have a wonderful time but have to leave early to make it to the Solomon Center for the closing of Happening. One of the youth that would have been confirmed at St. Augustine's is not able to be at the church because she is on the Happening staff so I confirm her at the closing of Happening. It is wonderful to be able to confirm one of our youth at a youth event surrounded by so many of her friends. I return to New Orleans around 6 that evening.

**August 25:** I take the day off.

**August 26:** The staff meets off-campus at Christ-

wood Retirement Community for a day-long retreat. Fr. Stephen Holzhalt is a gracious host. The facilities are amazing and I can see why one might want to retire at Christwood. The day is very productive and relaxing. Following the retreat I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with a prospective youth coordinator. I stay over night in Baton Rouge.

**August 27:** The day is a full one beginning with a meeting with Edgar Cage. This is followed by a meeting with Cannon David Seger, interim rector at Trinity Church. At 11:30, I meet with Deacon Suzie Johnston for her annual consultation; She is placed at Grace St. Francisville. In the afternoon I meet with Mtr. Maggie Dennis who is assigned to St. Michael's and All Angels. This meeting is followed by two consultations with Fr. Drew Rollings, Chaplain at LSU and then Fr. Craig Dalferes. I am lucky to have their leadership in the diocese. I drive to Jackson to take care of some family business and relax over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

**September 2:** I meet with Gary Solomon to show him the plans for the Canal Street property. I return to the office for paper work.

**September 3:** We begin the day with Executive Board planning followed by a meeting with Dean David duPlantier. He has returned from his sabbatical and I enjoy hearing about his adventures. One of these days I am going to look into taking a sabbatical. I later have a phone conference with Canon John Kellogg and then an annual meeting with Fr. LeBaron Taylor. The day closes with Deacon Jay Albert. Jay is not assigned to a parish but is heavily involved with our AIDS ministry and Bridge House.

**September 4:** Maggy Charles from Trinity, Wall St. and I touch base and then another phone conference with our architects. After this meeting I drive to Baton Rouge for a Board meeting with Spiritas Senior Services. I rush back to New Orleans so

Rebecca and I can have dinner with some friends from Kentucky.

**September 5:** I give our friends from Kentucky a tour of the Cathedral. I finish the morning with sermon work and then drive to SECC for a Racial Reconciliation Retreat.

**September 6:** The retreat with the Racial Reconciliation Commission ends in the afternoon. This has been an informative and relaxing retreat for me.

**September 7:** My visitation is at St. John's, Thibodaux. It is a wonderful visit and delightful luncheon that followed. Before we leave we are encouraged to go to the antique show held annually in Thibodaux. We do and I am amazed at the number of vendors from all over the south. On our way home we get word that our neighbor's condo is flooding and that ours might be wet as well. Blessedly, we find ours dry.

**September 8:** As I sit in our living room I notice something yellow on the floor that is sticky. This substance follows the wall next to our neighbor's flooded house. I next notice that the baseboard is bowed out. Yes, we have a wet wall. Ugh!

**September 9:** I have morning meetings with Deacon Kathy Comer and then Deacon Elaine Clements. This is followed by prep work for the monthly staff Eucharist at the Cathedral followed by our brown-bag lunch. After lunch with the staff I drive to Baton Rouge.

**September 10:** I have morning meetings with Fr. Watson Lamb who is serving at St. Luke's followed by a meeting with Fr. Krutz to sign papers. I end the day with my annual visitation with Fr. Ken Ritter then drive home.

**September 11:** I spend time getting ready for the House of Bishops meeting in Taiwan.

**September 12:** Sermon prep and reading during the day. Then an evening at the Cathedral for a wine and cheese party to welcome the Dean back from his sabbatical.

**September 13:** We have an Executive Board meeting and then I drive to Baton Rouge for the night. Rebecca lost her glasses and she must replace them before we leave for Taiwan on Monday. Because of this, she is not able to travel with me to Baton Rouge and then on to St. Patrick's.

**September 14:** My visitation is with St. Patrick's, Zachary. The nave is undergoing construction and expansion so we meet in the parish hall. There was something sweet and gentle about a much simpler service in this space.

**Monday, September 15-24:** Taxes are due, and Rebecca and I drive to the airport at 5:45 a.m. to fly to Taiwan. We are excited about our trip. Rebecca has never been to this part of the world and it's been thirty years since my first experience. We arrive the next day at 10 p.m. and encounter extreme heat and humidity...This makes New Orleans feel cool. Taiwan is part of the Episcopal Church and we are invited to visit one of our dioceses. The people are extremely appreciative and generous with their hospitality. Their church is small comprising only 4% of the 10% who are Christian but they are active. There is much to see and experience — from schools, parishes and missional work, the Diocese of Taiwan is as engaged as any diocese I know.

**September 25:** We spend time recovering from jet lag and washing clothes. I drop by the office to check in.

**September 26:** Rebecca and I drive to Jackson for the ordination of Mississippi's bishop-elect.

**September 27:** The ordination of Brian Seage is beautiful. There is a good turnout of bishops and

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other clergy. It is also nice to visit with old friends. I experience a proud moment walking in the procession with my son who is a seminarian from Mississippi.

**September 28:** Rest.

**September 29:** I go to the office to begin catching up after being gone for a while.

**September 30:** Fr. Hill Riddle, Rebecca and I drive to Franklin, LA for the funeral of 16 year old Parker Evans. Parker is the son of Jim Evans, IV who was Sr. Warden when I arrived in the Diocese. The church is filled with so many youth from Parker's school. We drive back to New Orleans where I drop off Hill and Rebecca and then drive to Baton Rouge for the evening.

**October 1:** I meet early with a candidate for one of our parish searches. Later in the morning I drive to St. Alban's to eat with the students and to listen to Fr. Drew Rollins' C.S. Lewis series. There is a good turn out and I am always impressed with the commitment of the chapel parishioners in cooking for such a large crowd. I leave to drive back for a 3 p.m. meeting and the day ends with a meeting with the St. Luke's, New Orleans vestry. There is a good spirit at the meeting and they are engaged in new ways.

**October 2:** I meet with Fr. Kellogg in the morning followed by a phone call by Frank Hall at SECC. At 2 p.m. I drive to All Souls to see the work Trinity, Wall Street is completing and then go to the Canal St. property to show some of the Trinity staff our dream for the church. The day ends with watching the video conference for Reimagining the Episcopal Church at St. Augustine's. Reimagining the Church is needed but few are interested in the working of the details.

**October 3:** Trinity, Wall St. has moved from All Soul's to St. Mark's Harvey. They are getting to

know our Diocese well. Later that night Rebecca and I dine with the group from Trinity. It is a wonderful time of reunion.

**October 4:** Rebecca and I drive out to St. Mark's to see what is going on. The parishioners of St. Mark's have fried fish, chicken, and shrimp for their workers from NY. Welcome to Louisiana!

**October 5:** My visitation takes me to Christ Church Cathedral where I preach, celebrate and confirm. It is good to be back in my cathedral.

**October 6:** Day off.

**October 7:** Our weekly staff meeting is at 9 a.m. followed by my annual consultation with Fr. Stephen Craft at St. Philips. He is doing some creative things with healthy eating with food grown out of their garden. I preach and celebrate at our monthly Eucharist service at the Cathedral. The staff sings happy birthday to me since we were so busy on the actual day. After a nice lunch I drive to St. Paul's for a meeting and then on to All Saint's, Ponchatoula to meet with their vestry. Following the meeting, I drive to Baton Rouge for the evening.

**October 8:** I arrive at the office for an early meeting with Fr. Dan Krutz and then with Deacon Charles deGravelles. Fr. Mark Holland and I have lunch and then I have another annual meeting with Fr. John Sloan, who has become the priest-in-charge at St. Francis, Denham Springs. Following this meeting I meet with our Trustees and then head home.

**October 9:** Agatha and I have some time early in the day to do some calendaring before a call from Fr. Mitch Smith. At 10 a.m. Cannon Manning and Cannon Kellogg meet to discuss the upcoming vestry teaching. This is followed by a meeting with Fortunata Jefferson, the new chair of UEB. I



quickly drive to St. Martin's School to have lunch with Fr. Jeff Millican for his annual consultation. Fr. Jeff is the chaplain for the upper school. I drive back for a meeting with Tronn Moller and then go home.

**October 10:** I have lunch with Fr. Henry Hudson and then work on sermon material and other items.

**October 11:** The vestry training takes place at St. Paul's and we have a good turn out. I am reminded of how blessed this diocese is with good leaders and presenters.

**October 12:** My official visitation is with St. Alban's at LSU where I preach, celebrate and confirm. It is a good day for St. Alban's. I end the visit to Baton Rouge with a groundbreaking service at St. Margaret's. They are expanding their worship space — there is a good spirit here.

**October 12:** The second annual golf tournament is held and as expected I do not finish in the top tier. In fact it may have been the bottom but that is not the point (or at least that is what I'm told). We have a nice time, great food and wonderful fellowship.

**October 13-17:** I travel to Sewanee to meet with the faculty of the School of Theology, other bishops and the Board of Trustees. I enjoy this trip every year to see what is new and how the school of theology is growing. I get home late in the evening on the 17th.

**October 18:** We have a Standing Committee meeting to deal with some pressing issues. Later that evening we had our annual Bowl with the Bishop. We had roughly 80 youth present. It is a great night.

**October 19:** My annual visit with St. Luke's in

New Orleans is as always a grand day with drums, dancing and food that is unbelievable. I have to go home and take a nap!

**October 20:** I have a couple of personal appointments and then I drive to the Canal Street to meet with Canon Manning. I'm off the rest of the day.

**October 21:** I fly out early for Nashville. Tonight the College for Bishops is honoring several individuals who gave generously to help fund part of the College, the teaching arm for Bishops. I am privileged to know one of the donors, Mr. and Mrs. John Hall from Lexington, KY. When I approached John about giving he was very gracious in saying yes. Because of his gift, and along with others, the College for Bishops will be able to better prepare Bishops in their role as leaders in the Episcopal Church. The dinner honoring the donors was very lovely, held at Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville.

**October 22:** I get up early and fly to Virginia Seminary and team up with Cannon Manning to interview prospective candidates for our Diocese. We also meet with the The Rev'd Dr. J. Barney Hawkins, a long time fixture at the seminary. That evening we have dinner with David Musser, who is in his middle year of studies.

**October 23:** David and I have breakfast together and then I'm back on campus to begin more interviews. I must say, the quality of students at VTS is impressive. All were under the age of 33, very excited about ministry and have more energy than I ever had. I am confident the future of the church is in good hands. Before lunch Cannon Manning and I go to mass and hear a fine sermon by one of the professors, and then we head to the refectory for lunch. Following lunch we are met by the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Ian Markam, who gives us a tour of the new chapel. Virginia's chapel burned to the ground four years ago, but

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the new structure is absolutely stunning. We have a couple more interviews in the afternoon and then some down time before dinner with my son and daughter-in-law.

**October 24:** I begin the day by attending Morning Prayer with my son and then to the airport to fly back to New Orleans. We arrive around four that afternoon and then Rebecca and I spend a very lovely evening at the home of Henry and Sandy Jackson, parishioners of the Cathedral.

**October 25:** Sermon prep and catching up with house duties.

**October 26:** My visitation takes me to St. Anna's, New Orleans where I preach, celebrate, confirm and receive several parishioners. As always, my time with the good people of St. Anna's is simply wonderful. A lovely lunch follows.

**October 27-29:** The College of Presbyters meet for the next three days at the SECC. Our guest teacher is the Rev'd Rodney Kennedy, a Baptist minister who is lecturing on preaching. He is quite entertaining and our time together is fruitful. I always enjoy being with the Presbyters and hearing some of the most hilarious stories. We are blessed with fine clergy.

**October 30:** I'm beginning to feel fatigued and stay close to the house with hopes of diverting fever and headache.

**October 31:** I have lunch with Fr. Rob Courtney and then head home. My fever is returning, so I call Bishop Brown and ask if he can take my place at the ordination on Saturday. He is very gracious and agrees to stand in for me.

**November 1:** I'm in the bed nursing whatever it is that I have.

**November 2:** Bishop Brown makes my visitation

to All Saint's River Ridge for me. I owe him big time!

**November 3:** I'm still at home but feeling much better.

**November 4:** Rebecca and I begin the day by going to vote, hoping there are no runoffs. The political adds are just about to do me in — they are so negative and filled with half-truths. I arrive at the office for our weekly meeting and a meeting with our Stewardship officer, Debbie Hudson. At lunch I meet Amelia Arthur who formerly watched over the Diocesan youth and young adults ministries. In the afternoon I have several meetings and end the day with Constitutions and Canons meeting.

**November 5:** I drive to Chatawa to meet with Sister Ruth. I spend the night, resting in quiet peace.

**November 6:** I drive home from Chatawa in the afternoon.

**November 7:** Spend most of the day on sermon material.

**November 8:** Drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

**November 9:** My first visitation is with St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge. While they are a small congregation they have a very nice spirit about them. In the afternoon I drive to St. Michael's and All Angels where we celebrate baptism and veterans day. There is a nice reception that follows. I drive back to New Orleans late that evening.

**November 10:** I take the day off. It's the Marine Corps birthday!

**November 11:** We start the day off with the weekly staff meeting followed by Mtr. Minka Sprague's annual consultation. Minka is the chaplain at Tulane and Loyola and I enjoy hearing her

stories of ministry. That meeting is followed by meeting with Agatha to begin looking at committee members for the Diocese. In the afternoon I meet with Canon Manning to go over some matters that need attention and the day ends after a meeting with Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus.

**November 12:** I meet The Rt. Rev'd Joe Doss at the Canal St. property and then we have lunch next door. The rest of the day is spent in the office.

**November 13:** Agatha and I do some calendar-ing and then I drive to Baton Rouge. I first meet with Canon David Seger who is leaving Trinity, where he has been the interim. David is returning to South Dakota to really retire this time. The day ends with a meeting with the vestry of St. Michael's and All Angels. They are going through a tough spot without a priest. I spend the night in Baton Rouge.

**November 14:** I preach and celebrate at St. James school and what an event we have. The students present me with a pair of very colorful running shoes at the beginning of the service. I put them on and wear them the rest of the service. In fact, I wear them the rest of the day. I don't think I've ever seen such bright shoes. Now I blend right in with the rest of the students! I remain in Baton Rouge for a board meeting and then return to New Orleans that afternoon. That evening I have dinner with my sister who is visiting for one night. It's good to see her.

**November 15:** The Executive Board meets but we do not have a quorum, which is very disappointing. We have so much work to do. That afternoon I drive to Morgan City for my visitation the next day.

**November 16:** I preach and celebrate at Trinity, Morgan City. It is a nice day and the church is full. Following the service they have an enormous

spread of delicious food. I quickly drive home for All Soul's "Soul-A-Bration". Their auction raises good money for their ministries in the Lower Ninth Ward.

**November 17:** A special Executive Board meeting is held to vote on matters we could not on Saturday. I take the rest of the day off.

**November 18:** We arrive at the office with no electricity. After about an hour when our fingers begin to really get cold, I tell the staff to go home. Electricity is restored later that day. I return home and work from there. That afternoon Rebecca and I drive to Camp Weed, Florida for the Provence IV Bishop's meeting. It is great to have time alone with Rebecca in a car instead of on a plane. We spend the night in Mobile.

**November 19:** We take our time getting on the road and have a leisurely drive to Camp Weed which is between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Camp Weed is the Diocese of Florida's camp and conference center. It is a very nice place on a beautiful lake.

**November 20:** We continue our meeting. There is a good spirit among the bishops, which is what the IV Province is known for. We like gathering together. Bishop Dabney Smith is the leader of this meeting.

**November 21:** After some morning meetings, we wrap up around 11. Rebecca and I hit the road back to New Orleans.

**November 22:** Bishop Gray and his wife Kathy spend the night with us. Bishop Gray is the stewardship speaker for St. Paul's, New Orleans.

**November 23:** My annual visit is at St. Andrew's, New Orleans. Today is Fr. Jim Morrison's first Sunday as their rector. A great spirit. That evening I drive to Annunciation Mission to celebrate the

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Rev'd Duane Nettle's new ministry.

**November 24:** I take the day off to wait for the plumber to install faucet.

**November 25:** Staff meeting in the morning and then I have lunch with Bishop Brown and Jim Wyrick, former Diocesan Financial Manager. It is wonderful hearing their war stories. Jim Wyrick served the Diocese for over 40 years. I return for several meetings that afternoon and end the day with a phone conference.

**November 26:** I meet with Fr. Rob Courtney for his annual consultation. Good things are going on at St. Paul's, New Orleans. The office closes at noon but I have one more meeting — I meet Cove Geary, our chancellor, for lunch. Cove gives so much of his time to the Diocese. It is always good to catch up with him.

**November 27-30:** Off for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**November 30:** I attend the Real Presence service at the Cathedral. This is not my visitation — I sit in the congregation to experience this unique service. I have never attended Real Presence and am a bit apprehensive, but the moment the music began I am hooked. A cello, piano and one soloist produced amazing sounds. The first piece of music brings tears to my eyes. What a way to end the day.

**December 1:** I have a doctor's appointment to try to figure out why I have been a bit puny lately.

**December 2:** Staff meeting begins the work day, followed by Fr. Henry Hudson's annual consultation. Henry is the rector of Trinity, New Orleans. They are a powerful witness in this community. Later that morning I meet with a parishioner who is interested in the discernment process. In the afternoon Fr. John Craft, a bi-vocational

priest comes for his annual consultation. John is the rector of the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, ministering to students and faculty at UNO. I am impressed with the ministries taking place, especially since their budget is very small. Later Mother Susan Gaumer, newly retired, comes in to give me an update on her retirement. She looks very relaxed. In the evening I drive to All Souls in the lower Ninth Ward to visit with some of their leaders. Even though they have a very small pledging community, they work very hard to create ways they can engage the community in extremely poor surroundings.

**December 3:** I have a little time in the office to do paper work and then drive to St. Paul's Senior Citizen's Community Center for lunch. It is amazing to see ministries of our parishes reach beyond their walls. Four days a week, senior citizens gather at this home for fellowship, teachings and hope. Later, I meet with Lee Crean regarding the Racial Reconciliation Commission. The day ends with Rebecca and I attending St. Anna's annual Evensong and dinner honoring the retired clergy and spouses. It was a very lovely event.

**December 4:** I have no appointments so I am free to work on items that have been put aside. Half the staff are away visiting churches so I take the few remaining to Café Reconcile for lunch. We have a very nice time catching up and relaxing a bit.

**December 5:** I have an early breakfast meeting with a priest being considered for a position in the Diocese. Later I receive a text from my daughter-in-law that reminds me today is my anniversary of being elected bishop of this wonderful diocese. What a joy these years have been. I drive to the Canal St. property to meet with several individuals who will have connections to the work to be accomplished. Following this meeting, Canon John Kellogg and I drive to the Solomon Center to welcome Province IV youth who have gathered.



Seventeen of the twenty diocese are represented. It is nice to showcase the conference center and to see so many youth excited about the church.

**December 6:** I celebrate and preach at the Integrity meeting at the Cathedral. This group has grown over the last several years and they continue to seek ways to be witnesses for Christ.

**December 7:** My visitation takes me to All Souls, New Orleans where I preach, confirm and celebrate. The congregation is growing and living fully into their mission to be a witness for Christ. After

watching a dreadful Saints game I make another visitation to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Mother Minka Sprague has prepared a youth for baptism. It was nice to end the day.

**December 8:** Christmas shopping. Yikes, I'm behind! In the evening Fr. Hill Riddle and his wife Macon host the "Watering Hole", a group of retired clergy that gathers often for fellowship and dinner. They are kind to invite us and we thoroughly enjoy ourselves.

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# Serving Jesus Among Us: The 2014 Community Mission Appeal

*by Max Niedzwiecki*

*... Come, you that are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...*

*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*  
— Matthew 25:34-36, 40

Like so much of what came from Jesus' own mouth, this passage defies simple explanation: At one and the same time it centers on a mystery beyond our full understanding, and it points the way to our salvation, responsibilities, and calling in the here-and-now.

All around the Diocese of Louisiana, parishes are serving Jesus as they serve those in need. They understand that the Church is not just a building, but a community that is charged with creating the Kingdom of God on earth.

That sounds grand, but in reality it is about one human being reaching out to another: We provide food to the hungry, visit prisoners, tutor children, teach English to immigrants, and do so much more for people who are in need, including those who are not members of our parishes. Often that work starts spontaneously, motivated by a simple calling followed by the grace to answer "yes." And sometimes one person's calling develops into what we tend to call a "mission": a planned and sustained effort on the part of many people working together.

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The Community Mission Appeal – formerly known as the Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal – exists in order to support the development and continuing strength of mission work at parishes throughout the Diocese. The amount distributed will depend on the amount collected through donations. Applications will be accepted through January 30, 2015, and decisions will be announced at the Diocesan Convention on February 27th and 28th. Visit [www.edola.org/cma-grant](http://www.edola.org/cma-grant) for more information and the application. Those needing more information and those without internet access are encouraged to call 504-450-2017.

The Community Mission Appeal is an opportunity for parishes to start new missions, and to strengthen or maintain their existing community outreach. It is also an opportunity for all Episcopalians in the Diocese – and, indeed, for all people – to serve Jesus as he lives and breathes in Louisiana. Even if your responsibilities or your health prevent you from teaching children how to read and write or feeding the hungry, you can participate in the Church's mission work simply by supporting the Community Mission Appeal.

Please include the Community Mission Appeal in your 2015 giving. To make a tax-deductible donation, [click here](#), or mail your check (with "Community Mission Appeal Donation" written in the memo line) to us at 1623 7th Street New Orleans, LA 70115. Thank you!

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## Gaudet Community Grant Applications Now Available

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana desires to fund not-for-profit agencies that create, manage, and expand educational opportunities for African American children within the Diocese of Louisiana. Not-for-profit organizations and agencies are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Grant applications will be available December 15 and carry the application deadline of January 31. The period of funding is for one calendar year, and grants may be applied for annually. Programs that receive Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana funds may be required to submit an external program evaluation, quarterly financial statements, an end of year Income & Expense statement, and/or periodic progress reports.

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is proud to honor the legacy of Blessed Frances Gaudet, a turn-of-the century educator and activist. Mrs. Gaudet had the wisdom to leave her trust to the Episcopal Church in such a way that her mission would continue to find new ways of expression in changing times.

Mrs. Gaudet dedicated her life to building alliances with people of every race and class. The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is committed to keeping her purpose alive.



**[Click here to learn more and to get an application.](#)**

# Another Milestone, Recognition for Lawrence Brooks



Harriet Murrell, Diocesan Archivist

In a recent issue of *ChurchWork*, you were introduced to Lawrence Brooks who was identified as the oldest person in the diocese at 104. We received no correction on that awesome milestone so presume it was correct. Now we can add another recognition for this remarkable man as Mr. Brooks was honored at the National World War II Museum on September 12, 2014 as he celebrated his 105 birthday. It was a wonderful celebration for a vigorous, articulate World War II veteran who believes that being nice to others explains his long, fulfilling life.



A proud member of St. Luke's Church, New Orleans, Mr. Brooks arrived at the main lobby amid the planes, tanks and arms of the war in which he proudly served in the Pacific theater accompanied by his daughter with whom he lives and several members of his church family. He was praised by at least a dozen representatives of state and military dignitaries all bringing proclamations and printed recognitions of his service to his country and verbal praises for his willingness to serve his country during a time of great calamity. Delight radiated from his facial expression and modesty typified his words as he accepted the accolades heaped upon him.

Several museum visitors from foreign countries sat with the invited guests to appreciate the event. Mr. Brooks was overheard talking with a couple from Australia about his memories of their country when he was there during his time of service. Appropriately, a cake with many candles was rolled out and with one breath, the honoree blew out the many candles. The morning event ended with huge cupcakes for all, lively conversation and hugs for a delightful man.



# 2014 Clergy Transitions

**Harry Arthur Roark, III** was ordained a priest at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Riverside, CT on December 10, 2014. Fr. Hal is serving as Curate of St. Paul's, New Orleans.

**Stephen Howard Crawford** was ordained a transitional deacon at St. Alban's Chapel, Baton Rouge on December 28. He is completing his last semester of seminary at Duke Divinity School.

On January 1, the **Rev'd Edward Thompson** accepted the call to serve as part-time Priest-in-Charge of St. Luke's, New Orleans. Fr. Ed will continue to serve as Vicar of All Soul's Episcopal Church & Community Center, New Orleans.

**The Rev'd G. Nelson Tennison** resigned as Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew's, Bogalusa effective January 1.

**Katherine "Kit" Thomas Sharp McLean** was ordained a priest at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Hammond on January 4. Mother Kit is serving as Curate of the Church of St. Michael & St. George, St. Louis, MO.

On January 5, the **Rev'd Richard B. Easterling** was installed as Rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, New Orleans.

On January 20, the **Rev'd Canon Jarvis Burns** was called to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bogalusa. He was serving as supply priest at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Bayou du Large.

On January 26, the **Rev'd Dennis Ryan** began serving as Interim Rector of Christ Episcopal



*Mtr. McLean's Ordination*

Church, Covington. Fr. Dennis comes to us from the Diocese of Mississippi where he most recently served as Rector of St. John's, Pascagoula.

The **Rev'd George Kontos** passed away on February 1. Fr. George was serving as Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen's, Innis. He served at St. James, Baton Rouge for 12 years where he developed the St. James Center for Spiritual Formation.

On March 30, the **Rev'd Harry Jenkins** was installed as rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Slidell.

**The Rev'd R. Kevin Kelly** was called to St. Michael & All Angels Church in Savannah, GA. He took up the new cure at the end of March.

On April 30 at Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans, **Duane Nettles** was ordained a transitional deacon. Duane is serving at Church of Annunciation. In late November, Annunciation



installed him as Rector.

On June 1, the **Very Rev'd Susan Gaumer** retired from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, New Orleans, where she has served as rector since 1999. A celebration of her ministry was held on June 1 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, New Orleans.

On Sunday, June 1 the people of Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, welcomed their new Associate Rector and his wife, the **Rev'd Terence and Amy Johnston**. Fr. Terry was ordained in 2012 after attending the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA.

In June, Bishop Thompson appointed the **Very Rev'd. Henry Hudson Dean** of the Uptown Deanery. Fr. Henry is the rector of Trinity, New Orleans.

*Fr. Nettle's Ordination*



*Mtr. Gaumer's Celebration of Ministry*

**The Rev'd Dr. Michael Kuhn** resigned as Headmaster of Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans. Fr. Michael has been a part of the school since 1994, first as chaplain and then as headmaster in 2001.

Fr. Kuhn joined the St. Augustine's staff on September 14th and is beginning as Chaplain for the Middle and Lower School of St. Martin's.

**The Rev'd E. Gary Taylor** began serving as the Headmaster of Trinity Episcopal School on July 1. He moved to Louisiana from the Diocese of Delaware where he was serving as chaplain at St. Anne's School in Middeltown. We welcome him and his wife Karen to the Diocese of Louisiana.

**The Rev'd Quin Bates** was assigned to serve at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Bayou duLarge. He will assist with worship services. Deacon Quin had served at St. Mark's in Harvey since his ordination in 2005.

On Sunday, June 8 the **Rev'd Maggie Dawson** retired from her diaconal ministry at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Metairie. Deacon Dawson has faithfully served this diocese since her ordina-



*Fr. Crawford's Ordination*

tion to the diaconate in September 2003.

The **Rev'd Stephen Howard Crawford** was ordained a priest in Christ's holy catholic Church on Saturday, July 19 at Trinity, Baton Rouge. Fr. Stephen is serving as associate priest at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Bishop Thompson appointed the **Rev'd Jay Albert** as the representative from the Diocese of Louisiana to serve with the Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries of the Episcopal Church. Deacon Albert will work to build opportunities for people with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends, caregivers, and people involved in AIDS ministries to come together for spiritual and emotional renewal, expressed within the traditions of the Episcopal Church.

On August 1, we welcomed the **Rev'd John Kel-**

**logg** as Canon Missioner to the Diocese of Louisiana. In this role he will oversee congregational development, young adult ministries and will also serve as part time priest-in-charge at St. Mark's, Harvey.

**The Rev'd Rob Courtney** was installed as rector of St. Paul's, New Orleans on August 17. Fr. Rob served as priest-in-charge of St. Paul's since December 2012. He was called as rector in May of 2014.

**Dr. H. Peter Kang** was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, August 23 at Grace Church, St. Francisville. Peter will serve as the part-time administrator of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Innis, and also serve as a chaplain at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

On September 20, Trinity Church in Morgan City came together with St. John's to celebrate the installation of the **Rev'd Doug Lasiter** as Rector for both parishes. The service was held at St. John's, and was well-attended with representatives from both congregations.



*The Rev'd Kang's Ordination*





*Fr. Easterling's Installation*

On October 5, the people of St. Francis Church in Denham Springs joined together for a Celebration of Ministry and the retirement of the **Rev'd Dan Krutz**. Fr. Krutz began his ministry in the diocese in Amite in April of 1974 and became priest-in-charge at St. Francis, Denham Springs in September 2007.

The **Rev'd John Sloan Miller** was called to be next priest-in-charge at St. Francis, Denham Springs, starting October 12. Rev'd Miller comes from St. James, Baton Rouge, where he has served as Associate Rector for the last 8 years.

On October 13, St. Mary's, Franklin celebrated a Holy Eucharist and an Ending of a Pastoral Relationship between the church and the **Rev'd Dr. Calvin Lane**. They celebrated new seasons of ministry for both St. Mary's and for Fr. Cal and his family as they made their move to a new call.

The vestry of St. Andrew's, New Orleans, called the **Rev'd James Morrison** to be their new priest-in-charge in November. He was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, where he served for 20 years in Houma-Thibodaux. In 2010 he was received into the Episcopal Church and was received as a priest in our diocese in May 2013. He has served as an associate rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans, since June 2013.



*Fr. Krutz's Celebration of Ministry*



# *The 178th Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana*

*February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Trinity, New Orleans*

## **FRIDAY**

12:30 pm: Registration  
2 pm: Call to Order  
6 pm: Holy Eucharist

## **SATURDAY**

8 am: Registration  
8:45 am: Morning Prayer  
9 am: Reconvene

*Times subject to change.*

Registration materials have been mailed.

Visit [edola.org/2015-convention](http://edola.org/2015-convention) or **click here** to get all official materials.

Resolutions must be submitted by **January 23rd**  
per the rules of order of the Convention.

Completed annual reports are due by  
**February 13th.**

For more information, contact  
Joy Shackelford  
at 504.895.6634 or  
email her by **clicking here**.





## Congregational Assessments and Program Giving As of 12/12/14

	Church	City	2014 ASSESSMENT				2014 PROGRAM				
			Assessment	YTD (Dec)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance	Ask	Pledge	YTD (Dec)	Rec'd YTD	YTD Variance
	Church of the Incarnation	Amite	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00	\$1,853.00	\$0.00	\$1,668.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	Church of the Holy Spirit	Baton Rouge	\$6,150.00	\$6,150.00	\$4,100.00	-\$2,050.00	\$7,995.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	St. Alban's Chapel	Baton Rouge	\$12,074.00	\$12,074.00	\$9,096.00	-\$2,978.00	\$20,526.00	\$20,526.00	\$20,526	\$15,399.00	-\$5,127.00
	St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,069.00	\$0.00	\$962.00	\$400.00	\$400	\$400.04	\$0.04
	St. James' Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$75,311.00	\$75,311.00	\$69,035.12	-\$6,275.88	\$128,029.00	\$116,689.00	\$116,689	\$106,964.88	-\$9,724.12
	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$41,232.00	\$41,232.00	\$37,796.00	-\$3,436.00	\$70,094.00	\$51,768.00	\$51,768	\$47,454.00	-\$4,314.00
	St. Margaret's Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$11,992.00	\$11,992.00	\$10,992.74	-\$999.26	\$20,387.00	\$4,004.00	\$4,004	\$3,670.26	-\$333.74
	St. Michael's & All Angels' Episcopal	Baton Rouge	\$2,555.00	\$2,555.00	\$2,555.00	-\$0.00	\$2,299.00	\$500.00	\$500	\$0.00	-\$500.00
	Trinity Episcopal Church	Baton Rouge	\$32,009.00	\$32,009.00	\$32,008.92	-\$0.08	\$54,415.00	\$22,491.00	\$22,491	\$22,491.00	\$0.00
	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Bayou du Large	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Bogalusa	\$3,766.00	\$3,766.00	\$3,452.13	-\$313.87	\$3,389.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Clinton	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00	\$0.00	\$1,254.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	Christ Episcopal Church	Covington	\$40,521.00	\$40,521.00	\$35,157.76	-\$5,363.24	\$68,885.00	\$31,479.00	\$31,479	\$30,842.24	-\$636.76
	St. Francis' Episcopal Church	Denham Springs	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00	\$6,088.00	\$0.00	\$7,914.00	\$7,914.00	\$7,914	\$7,914.00	\$0.00
	St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Franklin	\$5,453.00	\$5,453.00	\$4,089.75	-\$1,363.25	\$7,089.00	\$7,089.00	\$7,089	\$5,309.25	-\$1,779.75
	Grace Memorial Church	Hammond	\$14,779.00	\$14,779.00	\$12,925.00	-\$1,854.00	\$25,125.00	\$20,100.00	\$20,100	\$14,375.00	-\$5,725.00
	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Harvey	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00	\$3,588.00	\$0.00	\$3,229.00	\$3,229.00	\$3,229	\$3,229.00	\$0.00
	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	Houma	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00	\$13,460.00	\$0.00	\$22,881.00	\$10,100.00	\$10,100	\$10,100.00	\$0.00
	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Innis	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,591.00	\$0.00	\$2,332.00	\$2,332.00	\$2,332	\$2,332.00	\$0.00
	St. John's Episcopal Church	Kenner	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,798.00	\$0.00	\$1,619.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	LaPlace	\$1,770.00	\$1,770.00	\$885.00	-\$885.00	\$1,593.00	\$1,593.00	\$1,593	\$796.50	-\$796.50
	St. Michael's Episcopal Church	Mandeville	\$7,822.00	\$7,822.00	\$7,174.63	-\$647.37	\$10,168.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
	St. Augustine's Episcopal Church	Metairie	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.00	\$17,236.08	\$0.08	\$29,302.00	\$17,236.00	\$17,236	\$17,236.08	\$0.08
	St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Metairie	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00	\$21,385.00	\$0.00	\$36,355.00	\$8,485.00	\$8,485	\$8,485.00	\$0.00
	Trinity Episcopal Church	Morgan City	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00	\$7,015.00	\$0.00	\$9,119.00	\$9,119.00	\$9,119	\$9,119.00	\$0.00
	St. Mary's Episcopal Church	Morganza	\$726.00	\$726.00	\$726.00	\$0.00	\$654.00	\$654.00	\$654	\$654.00	\$0.00
	All Souls	New Orleans	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,383.33	-\$441.67	\$2,543.00	\$2,543.00	\$2,543	\$1,184.67	-\$1,358.33
	Church of the Annunciation	New Orleans	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00	\$7,713.00	\$0.00	\$10,027.00	\$7,713.00	\$7,713	\$7,713.00	-\$7,713.00
	Chapel of the Holy Comforter	New Orleans	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	\$0.00	\$6,818.00	\$6,818.00	\$6,818	\$6,818.00	\$0.00
	Chapel of the Holy Spirit	New Orleans	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00	\$3,207.00	\$0.00	\$2,886.00	\$2,886.00	\$2,886	\$2,886.00	\$0.00
	Christ Church Cathedral	New Orleans	\$60,349.00	\$60,349.00	\$45,261.72	-\$15,087.28	\$102,592.00	\$42,863.00	\$42,863	\$32,147.28	-\$10,715.72
	Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$3,183.00	\$3,183.00	\$2,918.00	-\$265.00	\$2,864.00	\$100.00	\$100	\$100.00	\$0.00
	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00	\$13,063.00	\$0.00	\$22,206.00	\$11,103.00	\$11,103	\$4,128.02	-\$6,974.98
	St. Anna's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$14,188.00	\$14,188.00	\$13,005.63	-\$1,182.37	\$24,119.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$4,583.27	-\$416.73
	St. George's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$17,051.00	\$17,051.00	\$15,630.23	-\$1,420.77	\$28,987.00	\$14,494.00	\$14,494	\$13,286.13	-\$1,207.87
	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$7,596.00	\$7,596.00	\$6,963.00	-\$633.00	\$9,875.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00	\$29,105.00	\$0.00	\$49,479.00	\$29,688.00	\$29,688	\$29,687.92	-\$0.08
	St. Philip's Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00	\$9,614.00	\$0.00	\$12,499.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250	\$11,250.00	\$0.00
	Trinity Episcopal Church	New Orleans	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00	\$127,871.00	\$0.00	\$17,381.00	\$127,129.00	\$127,129	\$127,129.00	\$0.00
	St. Paul's-Holy Trinity Church	New Roads	\$4,173.00	\$4,173.00	\$4,169.40	-\$3.60	\$3,756.00	\$3,756.00	\$3,756	\$3,756.00	\$0.00
	Church of the Holy Communion	Plaquemine	\$8,447.00	\$8,447.00	\$3,519.60	-\$4,927.40	\$10,981.00	\$5,553.00	\$5,553	\$2,115.08	-\$3,437.92
	All Saints' Episcopal Church	Ponchatoula	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00	\$3,719.00	\$0.00	\$2,910.00	\$2,910.00	\$2,910	\$2,910.00	\$0.00
	All Saints' Episcopal Church	River Ridge	\$10,187.00	\$10,187.00	\$9,338.12	-\$848.88	\$17,318.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200	\$2,061.65	\$861.65
	Church of the Nativity	Rosedale	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00	\$2,131.00	\$0.00	\$1,917.00	\$1,917.00	\$1,917	\$1,917.00	\$0.00
	Christ Episcopal Church	Slidell	\$10,676.00	\$10,676.00	\$9,716.87	-\$959.13	\$18,148.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$5,033.13	\$5,033.13
	Grace Episcopal Church	St. Francisville	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00	\$22,305.00	\$0.00	\$37,918.00	\$37,918.00	\$37,918	\$37,918.08	\$0.08
	St. John's Episcopal Church	Thibodaux	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00	\$6,001.00	\$0.00	\$7,801.00	\$4,001.00	\$4,001	\$4,074.18	\$73.18
	St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	Zachary	\$10,225.00	\$10,225.00	\$9,372.00	-\$853.00	\$17,383.00	\$18,253.00	\$18,253	\$16,731.00	-\$1,522.00
	Totals		\$713,510.00	\$713,510.00	\$659,167.03	-\$54,342.97	\$1,148,128.00	\$674,003.00	\$674,003.00	\$617,687.66	-\$56,315.34

As of 12/12/14

## EfM Open House at Christ Church, Covington

On January 21st, Christ Church, Covington will host an open house for the new Education for Ministry program.

The seminar group will introduce you to the current text books for each year's study and will demonstrate the mysteries of Theological Reflection.

Please meet in Saint Cecilia House, on the corner of South New Hampshire Street and East Independence Street, across the road from Christ Episcopal Church. The open house will be from 6 to 8 pm with wine and cheese served. For more information and directions, please call 985. 892. 3177.



### **Train The Trainer class for Safeguarding God's Children**

Saturday, January 24  
9AM until 4 PM  
At the Diocesan Offices  
1623 7th Street, New Orleans

Please email  
**[Safeguarding@edola.org](mailto:Safeguarding@edola.org)** if you  
would like to participate.  
The necessary paper work and  
fees will be sent to you.

If you have any questions  
please contact Luigi Mandile at  
**504.947.2121** or Joy Shackelford at  
**504.895.6634.**



# UBE Installs Diocesan Chapter

by Alma Flowers, President, UBE Southern Region

The Curtis Sisco Memorial Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians was installed at St. Luke's, New Orleans by Bishop Thompson. President Fortunata Jefferson and Secretary Trevor Daniel Bryan were presented for blessing. The Chapter Charter was presented by the Southern Regional Director Alma Flowers. President Jefferson and Bishop Thompson were present with official UBE pens and chapter members had the UBE prayer on laminated cards.

Curtis Sisco's sister, Bernetta Sisco, was present at the service and expressed how touched she was that her brother was honored with the naming of a chapter after him. She stated that she only came to church when Curtis said he had something for her to do and felt as if he had gotten her back in the church again. She felt that this is what Curtis would have wanted, bringing people together to make things better for all.



Bishop Thompson said, "You would have thought Fr. Sisco was at the church for 20 or 30 years, when he was actually only there for a few". This spoke to his influence and commitment to bring people together for God's work.

Bishop Thompson also expressed how proud he was to have the UBE back in Louisiana as a Diocesan Chapter. This gives the entire Diocese the opportunity to become a part of the organization and spread the word and work, according to the mission of UBE.



The chapter's Regional Director, Alma Flowers, encouraged members to step up to the plate and use their time and talents to tell their stories, struggles and how our youth can continue the work. She reminded them that we are not a social club and if we are to live up to our Baptismal Vows and show our love for Christ, "we must sing to Christ with songs to the world". She continued to remind them that if they were interested in the UBE simply to get their picture in the paper and to say that they belonged, that they were in the wrong church and the wrong pew. Alma ended by encouraging all to "go where God leads us with joy".

# Christwood Holds Third Annual Odile Simpson Lecture



Residents and friends of Christwood were recently treated to a presentation by Katie Moose, author and lecturer, for the Third Annual Odile Simpson Fall Lecture. The late centenarian and longtime Christwood resident, Odile Simpson, loved nature, outdoors, and “holy food,” and was a devoted Episcopalian.

Mrs. Moose is a lifelong Episcopalian and member of Christ Church in Easton, Maryland, where she is a Lay Eucharistic Minister, member of the Stewardship Committee and coffee hour committee. She has also served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and served on the Cathedral Fund Committee at the Washington National Cathedral. She attended an Episcopal girls’ school and has always been deeply involved in the Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Moose has recently written *God’s Bounty: 365 Days of Inspirational Cooking*, which will be sold at the National Cathedral. In the book she pairs Biblical passages, favorite hymns and inspirational writings with a recipe for each day of the year. In her talk she said that food is mentioned throughout the Bible and quoted passages which spoke of fruit, meat, vegetables, herbs and spices. If you are familiar with the Mediterranean diet, you know the benefits of these foods with herbs and spices even having medicinal benefits.

She spoke of how many uses the herbs and spices have and mentioned some perhaps little-known facts such as cinnamon was once considered more precious than gold, that mint was used for tithing at one time, and that saffron is the most expensive spice in the world. She compared the Passover Seder meals with Easter, as some of the same foods are used. Following a question and answer period, she prepared appetizers using foods that would have been used in Biblical times.



# Trinity Day School, Baton Rouge Honors Teacher's Life

Article by C.J. Futch. Photos by Angela Major.

This article and photos originally ran in *The Advocate* on September 17, 2014. It is reprinted courtesy of *The Advocate* and can be viewed on their site [here](#).

Before her death in 2009, Amber Lousteau spent many hours on Trinity Episcopal School's playground.

She'd started working there as a kindergarten teacher's aide nearly 20 years before, and the playground came with the territory, said Brooke Johnson, Trinity's development director.

As part of their 2013-14 Building Our Future fundraising campaign, the school decided to replace the aging pre-kindergarten playground with a newer, safer, more durable one. With the blessing of the family, they decided to build it in honor of Lousteau's long career at Trinity.

It turned out to be the most successful targeted fundraiser in the school's history.

"Most years, we are able to raise around \$30,000 to \$40,000. Our most successful year was \$60,000," she said. The 2013-14 campaign in Lousteau's memory raised \$191,000.

"It was amazing. First of all, everyone we asked to give said yes," she said, adding that many supporters ended up giving additional gifts outside of the memorial campaign.

In addition to that, word of the campaign spread on Facebook, and the school received contributions from all over the country. Johnson said she attributes much of the momentum to Lousteau's reputation and connections she made at the school, both with students, teachers and parents.

"She touched so many lives over the years," Johnson said. "We began with our Trinity school families who all responded with enthusiasm over making this change, we reached out to church parishioners, and then began using Facebook to get the word out."

"Many students of Amber's found out through Facebook and wanted to give back. Some of them were in other states and wanted to be a part of the effort because of their love for Trinity and for Miss Amber. It was wonderful hearing from former students and friends that had so many fond memories of their days at Trinity, days that they spent on the very playground we were renovating."

Both Lousteau's children, a son and a daughter, attended Trinity as students.



**Amber Lousteau**

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“She started the job the year I started prekindergarten here,” said daughter Jennifer Lousteau, who also decided to become an educator. She said the choice of where to teach was a natural one.

“So I have an incredibly strong connection to the school,” Jennifer Lousteau said.

That connection is even stronger with the addition of the playground, and not just because it’s dedicated to her mother.

Before her mother died of lung cancer, her aunt died of breast cancer.

“My aunt loved butterflies, so my mom and I had this story that every time we saw butterflies, we’d think of her,” Lousteau said.

She was shocked to the point of tears, she said, when she saw that the playground plans included a butterfly garden.

“I love spending time out there,” she said, which she does quite often. “I have always felt her in this school. It was such a part of our lives, but it’s even stronger now.”

The campaign surpassed the \$150,000 goal, Johnson said, which she thought would be a stretch. And with the extra funds, the school purchased computers for student use.



***Jennifer Lousteau***





In October, All Souls, New Orleans opened a new playground, thanks to a grant from the Home Depot.

The playground is a great addition to All Souls and its after-school tutoring program.

Canon Steven Roberts eagerly assists Bishop Thompson in taking the Ice Bucket Challenge, which benefits the ALS Association and raises awareness for the disease.



The Rev'd Patrick Edwards blesses a dachshund on the Feast of St. Francis.





# Cooking Matters in Central City

Jericho Road's Faubourg Delassize Community Garden and Saratoga Street Community Orchard are great examples of converting a vacant lot into a functioning green space. This leans into Jericho Road's goals of minimizing the ill effects of blighted and abandoned property in Central City in a way that brings value to the community. Part of this is seen in access to fresh foods, health-centered education and activities, and gardening opportunities to local area residents. Growing food is a process, particularly in an orchard. While we watch gardens and trees grow into maturity that will provide a harvest of foods accessible to residents, Jericho Road has introduced another way for community members to have access to the benefits of healthy eating tied to smart shopping.

In partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, Jericho Road began a series of six-week cooking classes called Cooking Matters. This program focuses on healthy eating as well as budgetary shopping, food safety, and food preparation for all ages.

Our First class saw 8-10 consistent participants; some Saturdays' attendance was up to 15. The first 6-week course was so well received that a second session began almost immediately seeing up to 20 participants in many classes. Each class in a six-week Cooking Matters course has a different topic, for example, breakfast foods, fats and salts, carbohydrates, and there is even a field trip to a local grocery store where the Cooking Matters instructors share tips on shopping smartly! Classes were taught by employees and volunteers of Second Harvest Food Bank and a dietitian is on hand to answer any medical questions.



The two hour class time is divided between an information sharing session and a food preparation session (preparing, cooking, and eating the food for that day). At the end of each class, participants are given materials to duplicate the day's recipes. Those who attend over half of the classes in a session graduate from Cooking Matters and are awarded a certificate of completion by Cooking Matters along with usable tools for their home kitchens including a cutting board, reusable shopping bag, and a food thermometer.

Other important partners in Jericho Road's offering of the Cooking Matters courses included Christ



Church Cathedral who provided the kitchen and classroom spaces, Rouses and Fresh Market grocery stores who donated \$25 gift cards, and non-profit Top Box who donated several “family boxes” (including food items to feed a family of four for one month). Gift cards and the family box were raffled prizes for participants in each class.

Jericho Road and the Tulane School for Culinary Medicine continue to collaborate in ways to bring healthy cooking/eating tips to Central City residents as well. On Saturday, November 8th, Jericho Road hosted a cooking demonstration in the newly renovated Southern Food and Beverage Museum led by current students of the Tulane School of Culinary Medicine. The menu included sweet potato muffins, pomegranate and Satsuma spritzers, and a chicken broccoli pesto. A comfortable dialogue and a food tasting was enjoyed by the group and copies of the recipes were available for attendees. Jericho Road and the Tulane School of Culinary Medicine are planning future cooking demonstrations to collaborate on.

## The *Drop Dat* Health Initiative



It all started in the sweltering August sun. The greatest of traditions in the Deep South, a football game. Two area teams squared off for their first jamboree (a scrimmage often used to raise money). Hundreds of friends and family members endured the heat and humidity to support their team.

In addition to the sounds of pads colliding and

whistles blowing, were the sites of hula hooping, and Zumba dancing. The food cooking on the grill wasn't greasy hamburgers or reconstituted hotdogs, but delights made of turkey burgers and spinach and chicken sausages. The untrained eye may have just seen a football game, but a closer look reveals something more. Sponsors of the event were asking something you normally don't request

# JERICHO ROAD EPISCOPAL HOUSING INITIATIVE

from the home team: Drop Dat!

Drop Dat started out as a 10 week health initiative targeting residents of Central City. Focusing on two areas, it sought not to create new programs, but to raise awareness of existing opportunities in the

Central City community. One priority was to bring attention to healthy eating and food access points nearby. Activities included cooking classes, food demonstrations, building back yard gardens, signing up residents for a discount grocery services and rebuilding a community garden. The other focus was on raising awareness

of exercises opportunities. A community newsletter was expanded to included content about the free Cross Fit, Zumba and youth programs at a local park. Drop Dat is continues its work today by supporting start-up walking clubs.



This initiative to bring a focus to a healthy lifestyle was made possible by two important groups. The big idea and the financial support came from The City of New Orleans and Neighborworks America working together to develop a new grant program with a desire to support community based efforts resulting in the Neighborhood Capacity

Building Initiative. The collaboration between the City and NeighborWorks started with a four day seminar in which residents were empowered to plan and implement their own ideas.

Collaboration and implementation came from the community. This effort would not have been possible to complete in such a short time without local institutions with an interest in engaging Central City residents. Local park booster clubs, Greenlight New Orleans, FitNola, Second Harvest Food Bank Cooking Matters, DivaDawg, the Tulane School of Culinary Medicine and the Faubourg Delassize Community Garden all had a hand in putting the big idea of the funders to work. Ultimately it was the participation of the residents themselves that made Drop Dat a success!

Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative is thrilled to have played a role of advisor and fiscal agent to the community groups who applied for and received support and funding from the Neighborhood Capacity Building Initiative.



# Laura Huerta Joins the Team

Laura joins Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative as the seventh fellow from Grinnell College's Grinnell Corps: New Orleans Program. The Grinnell Corps Program, which models itself after the Peace Corps, is a year-long fellowship in which Grinnell College alumni spend a year working with organizations around the world.

While at Grinnell as a Posse scholar, Laura studied Sociology and American Studies. Through her experiences, work, and travels around the world, Laura remains focused on empowering individuals to create communities. She hopes to continue the great collaborative and creative work between past fellows and residents in New Orleans.



**Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative is located in Christ Church Cathedral at 2919 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115.**

**For more information visit [jerichohousing.org](http://jerichohousing.org) or call Holly Heine at 504.293.2882.**

# LAST LOOK

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**The congregations of Trinity, Morgan City and St. John's, Thibodaux gather to welcome the Rev'd Doug Lasiter, rector of both churches.**