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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA

MARCH 2016



# CHURCHWORK

## A Place to Hear God's Word

**Exploring the First Mark of Mission:  
To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### A Place to Hear God's Word

In the year 2016, we will take a look at the first of the Five Marks of Mission: To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. Come learn how we in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana live out this Mission of the Church.

About this issue: In the service of the Dedication and Consecration of a Church, Book of Common Prayer page 567, the Bishop opens by telling us that people throughout history have set apart places for the ministry of God's holy Word and Sacraments. Come see in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana the sacred places set apart to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

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[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Chapel of the Holy Cross at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center.

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## CHURCHWORK

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### Our Vision

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is one church, faithful to our Lord Jesus, united in mission, reaching out through service and proclamation to all for whom Christ died. We live in joyous expectation of God's transforming power, compassion, and mercy in our lives.

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### Submissions

*Churchwork* provides news and information about the diocese and wider church; and is a medium of theological reflection. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word; photographs should have a resolution of 300. Letters to the editor will not be printed. Submissions should be sent by email to Karen Mackey at [kmackey@edola.org](mailto:kmackey@edola.org). We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.

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Not long ago I heard one of the presidential candidates proclaim, we are going to protect Christianity. Really? Immediately I chuckled to myself. Who are the protectors? Whose army? And from whom are we protecting

Christianity? Who is crying out for protection?

Oddly enough, something about the season of Lent and the height of a presidential election year seems similar. I hadn't really thought about the resemblance until Ash Wednesday when we began to pray:

*We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven,*

*We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit,*

*We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,*

*Our self-indulgent appetites, and ways, and our exploitation of other people,*

*Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

*Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

*Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

*Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,*

*For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,*

*For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

*Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.*

If these words seem familiar, they are from the Book of Common Prayer and the Litany of Penitence we said on Ash Wednesday. The

words are hard to speak because they strike at the heart of our floundering in the promise made at our baptismal vows, our commitment to God and to our neighbor. So when I heard that someone was going to save Christianity I thought how foolish and short-sighted. Save us from ourselves. It is we. Christians are doing more damage to Christians than any other tradition. We are quick to denounce anyone who doesn't believe like we as though we are the truth keepers of the universe. If we truly want to be Christians then we must first ask for forgiveness of our sinful ways. We must make amends or try to undo the harm we have done. We must stop the rhetoric of damning our neighbor, judging the person begging on the corner, or failing to cry out in public when injustice is committed.

Sure, Lent is about seeking forgiveness, and it is more. It is about remembering that we are children of God called to a life of compassion, grace and courage. We are called to be truthful and truthfulness begins with looking deep within our souls to the darkness of fear. The good news is that Lent is a good time to begin the change we long to make. Grace is abundant for all, even for those who want so blindly to save us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Morris K. Thompson, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.  
Bishop of Louisiana

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## REFLECTIONS

### TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY *by the Very Rev. Craig Dalferes*



#### ***Proclaiming the Good News through the loss and rebuilding of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School in Houma.***

On November 11, 2010, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houma burned to the ground. Nearly five years later, on October 29, 2015, Bishop Thompson consecrated our beautiful new church, gloriously risen from its ashes. The church, like a crowning jewel, was the last thing built in an integrated complex of three brand new structures consisting of school classrooms, our parish hall, and the church itself.

St. Matthew's was honored to host the ECW's Annual convention in May of 2015, at which point the church was nearing completion. We were so delighted that so

many of our friends from across the Diocese were able to come see what was then the nearly completed project. Others of you were able to come during our grand opening festivities later, in December. On both occasions, Karen Mackey captured in her beautiful photographs so much of the beauty and splendor of our new church. I'm grateful for her beautiful photographs, and for her help sharing our joy with our Diocesan family. You have all been so very generous and supportive; first, during our loss and now--years later--in our great joy and celebration.

I've been asked to share a few thoughts about our experience. This issue of *Churchwork* is particularly focused on our church buildings, and upon a consideration

of how our churches relate to our mission to "Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom." We at St. Matthew's are in the unique position of having been about the business of proclaiming the Good News within a beautiful old church building, then for a few years with no building at all, and now with a brand new church that still has its new church smell. So I welcome the opportunity to share with you a few things we've learned along the way.

For some reason I remember so vividly a question a priest asked me years ago as I was being interviewed by the Commission on Ministry. I was asked to describe how I



"pictured" myself as a parish priest, should I be ordained as such. So I said something about seeing myself serving in a small town, maybe, with a big white church, and maybe some rolling hills thrown in. The priest scoffed. And then he said, "What if the reality is your church is a trailer somewhere in the inner city?" I assured him I'd serve there just as faithfully! In retrospect, I think he was trying to impress upon me the distinction between "church" as we might see it in our mind's eye—as some idealized, maybe overly sentimental image---and "church" as Christ's gathered people, proclaiming the Good News to all sorts and



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## REFLECTIONS

conditions of people, in all sorts and conditions of places.

Our experience at St. Matthew's these past few years has led me to a deeper sense of the ambiguity that lies at the root of this whole question of church buildings. A beautiful church is a very good thing, and can help us point to Christ and proclaim the Good News. But a beautiful church can also be a dangerous thing. This shouldn't surprise us too much because it's true of all very good and beautiful things, which if not kept in right perspective, can so easily lead us into error. Years ago when I was newly ordained a friend gave me a copy of a book called, *The Spire*, written by William Golding.

It tells the story of a cathedral dean who set out to build a bigger, better, taller cathedral spire. He believed, at first, that he was doing so in order to glorify God. He keeps telling himself and others that very thing, but in the end, when it all literally comes crashing down, it becomes apparent that the spire had become a monument to his own ego. The moral is that all monuments to ego crumble in the end! So, when I talk to people about our new church, I usually emphasize that we're all trying real hard not to be too proud of it! And that's the truth....to God alone be the glory.

So what are some of the things we have learned along the way by having, then



losing, then gaining once again a magnificent church? The first lesson came as the ashes of the fire were still smoldering. The first thing we all learned is that we are not alone. The fire was so sudden and so violent; the destruction was total. We found ourselves held up (almost literally at times) by our wider church family, our wider community, and by countless prayers and words of consolation. The experience of being picked up and carried awhile by others when you've been knocked flat on your back is unlike any other. It was such an experience of the grace of God coming to us through our brothers and sisters in Christ. I will always be grateful for that experience and for the way it deepened my sense of God's grace-and provision in times of loss and sadness.

After a few months of working through the crisis, we began to experience more deeply the true nature of church. We were all very attached to the church that burned, but we began to realize that St. Matthew's isn't the church building, but rather the people with whom we worship and pray each Sunday. This sounds like a stale cliché or a pious platitude, but for us it became a new way of being church. A few months ago at a Diocesan workshop, our Senior Warden put it so well. He was describing what the past four years or so has been like: "We've become the best church ever since we lost our church. And I worry that when we get our new church, we'll go back to being like the old church."

Another important reason for this shift in focus was that we began worshipping all together at a single Sunday service. This built relationships that might otherwise have

never been formed as the two churches within the church became one. We have been deeply enriched by this. In fact, we've chosen to continue to worship together at a single service, unless or until we outgrow the capacity of the new building. I'm absolutely convinced that what we give up in terms of personal preference and convenience, we gain tenfold by being together in a more diverse, interdependent congregation.

The experience of building our beautiful new church has been an awesome one, and in many ways so very formative. There is much I used to take for granted but never will again! My hope and aim now is that we will do everything we can to wear it out: To open the doors wide, to reach out to people in need of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to daily touch and enrich the lives of our Day School students. The building and everything in it is for that sole purpose.

*[Photographs by Karen Mackey] Top of page 4: Bishop Thompson blesses the altar during the Service of Consecration of a Church on October 29; Page 5: scenes from the December 13 grand opening celebration; Bottom of page 6: Bishop Thompson with Fr. Dalferes and acolytes bless the baptismal font during the service on October 29.*



Since 2004, the Very Rev. Craig Dalferes has served as rector of St. Matthew's, Houma.

St. Matthew's was chartered on May 15, 1855 and has faithfully proclaimed the Good News to the people in the city of Houma and across Terrebonne Parish ever since.

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## PROFILES

### A Place Set Apart for the Ministry of His Holy Word

It is in these chapels and church buildings that we in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana come to hear God's holy Word, to ask for God's forgiveness, praise His name, and to be nourished by Jesus' Body and Blood. We come to be part of a community, a family, that gives us courage to go out into the world and share the Good News of the Kingdom.

All Saints  
*Ponchatoula*



All Saints'  
*River Ridge*



All Souls  
*New Orleans*



Chapel of the Good Shepherd at  
Episcopal High of Baton Rouge



Chapel of the Holy Comforter  
*New Orleans*



Chapel of the Holy Cross at the  
Solomon Center



Chapel of the Holy Spirit  
*New Orleans*



Chapel at St. Martin's School  
*Metairie*



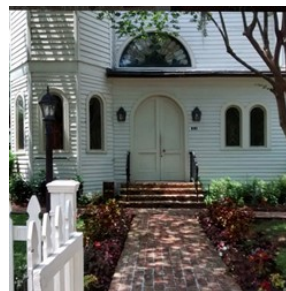
Christ Church Cathedral  
*New Orleans*



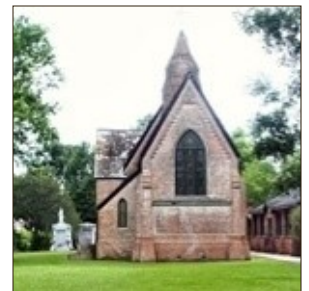
Christ Church  
*Covington*



Old Christ Church Chapel  
*Covington*



Christ Church  
*Napoleonville*





Christ Church  
*Slidell*



Church of the Annunciation  
*New Orleans*



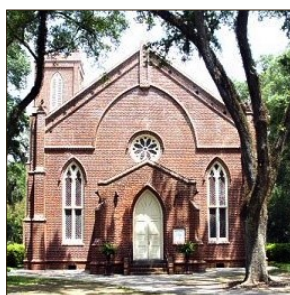
Church of the Holy Communion  
*Plaquemines*



Church of the Incarnation  
*Amite*



Church of the Nativity  
*Rosedale*



Grace Church  
*St. Francisville*



Grace Memorial  
*Hammond*



Mount Olivet  
*New Orleans*



St. Alban's Chapel  
*Baton Rouge*



St. Andrew's  
*Clinton*



St. Andrew's  
*New Orleans*



St. Andrew's  
*Paradis*



St. Andrew's  
*Theriot*



St. Anna's  
*New Orleans*



St. Augustine's  
*Baton Rouge*

## PROFILES

St. Augustine's  
*Metairie*



St. Francis  
*Denham Springs*



St. George's  
*New Orleans*

St. James  
*Baton Rouge*



St. John's  
*Kenner*



St. John's  
*Laurel Hill*

St. John's  
*Thibodaux*



St. Luke's  
*Baton Rouge*



St. Luke's  
*New Orleans*

St. Margaret's  
*Baton Rouge*



St. Mark's  
*Harvey*



St. Martin's  
*Metairie*

St. Mary's  
*Franklin*



St. Mary's  
*Morganza*



St. Matthew's  
*Bogalusa*





St. Matthew's  
*Houma*



St. Michael & All Angels  
*Baton Rouge*



St. Michael's  
*Mandeville*



St. Patrick's  
*Zachary*



St. Paul's  
*New Orleans*



St. Paul's / Holy Trinity  
*New Roads*



St. Philip's  
*New Orleans*



St. Stephen's  
*Innis*



St. Timothy's  
*LaPlace*



Trinity  
*Baton Rouge*



Trinity  
*Morgan City*



Trinity  
*New Orleans*

### Deacon Philip Wild: A Profile of Our Diocesan Safety Manager



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Deacon Philip Wild, III was ordained in 2005. He has served as the Diocesan Safety Manager since 2012.*

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#### **More information on the Episcopal Safety Program:**

**[www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/property-and-casualty/risk-management/](http://www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/property-and-casualty/risk-management/)**

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*by Karen P. Mackey*

Deacon Philip Wild's ministry is like no other in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. As diocesan Safety Manager, for the Church Insurance Agency Corporation Episcopal Safety Program, his job is to help our churches provide a safe physical space for their parishioners and visitors. As a deacon he can't help but take his love for God, his love for the Church, and his love for people into this role. "A deacon's role is to bring the needs of the world to the Church," Wild said. "As a safety manager I feel I am helping our churches meet the needs of the world by creating a safe place."

Over the last three years Wild has visited all of the churches insured by Church Insurance Agency Corporation. He is now starting round two. This is a free program offered to each church by Church Insurance. On his visits he will do a walkthrough with a checklist surveying things like general safety risks, physical inspection of the property, and crisis and disaster management plans.

"Our buildings offer an opportunity for us to meet, get together and do things," Wild said. "If we could stop someone from breaking a leg because of something that has gone totally unnoticed, isn't that stewardship? It is not about your insurance rates. It is about us, the community."

The completed survey will go to Church Insurance where they will prepare a report of suggested improvements, if any. The visits provide Wild the opportunity to talk to the priests and wardens throughout the diocese. "It is such a pleasure to meet with these

energetic priests and others,” he said. “I have been very welcomed. Some use it as an opportunity to challenge me to find something that needs improvement so they can create the best environment they can for the church.”

Wild’s love for the older church buildings and congregations was apparent. He took a moment to reflect on them saying, “To think of all the prayers offered through these places. They were the foundation. They played an important role in our diocese throughout time. We should all work to keep our older churches safe and attractive to visitors.”

Wild offered these top tips for reducing risk in church buildings and property:

- Create a video of the church property and contents. This should be updated yearly. Keep a copy offsite.
- Create a disaster plan and crisis / relocation plan. Update yearly.
- Cut tree limbs and shrubbery away from roofs and buildings.
- Repair uneven pavement and walkways.
- Have adequate lighting and signage.
- Install floor mats at the building entry points and look for other obvious slip and fall areas in the building.
- Have a first aid kit readily available. It does not need to be an expensive one but does need to contain basic supplies.
- Install fire extinguishers and smoke detectors throughout the building.
- Repair loose handrails.
- Keep on top of general maintenance issues.
- Keep employees and volunteers up-to-date on Safeguarding training.

## Resources for More Information

### Risk Management Material

Includes links to a free e-book, brochures, and guidelines.

[www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/property-and-casualty/risk-management/risk-management-materials/](http://www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/property-and-casualty/risk-management/risk-management-materials/)

### Safeguarding God’s Children

Resources for training to protect children and adults from sexual misconduct.

[www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/property-and-casualty/risk-management/safeguarding/](http://www.cpg.org/administrators/insurance/property-and-casualty/risk-management/safeguarding/)

Or, contact the Rev. Canon John Kellogg for more information about Safeguarding God’s Children in the Diocese of Louisiana at (504) 895-6634 or [jkkellogg@edola.org](mailto:jkkellogg@edola.org).

### Vestry Papers: Building & Grounds from Episcopal Vital Practices

[www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/topics/buildings-and-grounds](http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/topics/buildings-and-grounds)

### Disaster Preparedness and Response

Resources from Episcopal Relief and Development to help you, your family, your church and your community to prepare for and respond to disasters that may occur.

[www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/us-disaster-program-preparedness-resources](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/us-disaster-program-preparedness-resources)

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

### The Clericus (March 15, 2015—February 15, 2016)

#### New clergy of the diocese

*The Rev. William Miller* was installed rector of Christ Church, Covington, on August 23, 2015. His first Sunday at the church was on June 7, 2015.

*The Rev. Ashley Freeman* began serving as curate at Trinity, Baton Rouge. He was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on July 16, 2015 at Trinity.

*The Rev. Kimberly Knight* began serving as chaplain at Christ Episcopal School, Covington, in August.

*The Rev. Morgan MacIntire* began serving as associate rector at Christ Church, Covington, on August 30, 2015.

#### Transitions in the diocese

*The Rev. Kit Sharp McLean* began serving as associate rector at Trinity, New Orleans, on March 16, 2015.

*Pastor Robin McCullough-Bade* resigned from St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge, on April 26, 2015.

*The Rev. H. Peter Kang* began serving as the associate

rector at Grace Church, St. Francisville, on May 3, 2015.

*Deacon Charmaine Kathmann* was appointed deacon at St. Mark's, Harvey, on May 17, 2015. As of January 9 she is no longer serving as deacon at St. Mark's.

*Deacon Daniel "Mark" Hudson* was appointed deacon at St. John's, Kenner, on May 17, 2015.

*Deacon Alyce Jefferson* resigned as Director of Children's Ministry at Trinity, New Orleans, on May 24, 2015, but continues as deacon of the church.

*The Very Rev. Richard Easterling* was appointed dean of the Uptown Deanery.

*The Rev. Michael Kuhn* was appointed the assistant head of school at St. Martin's Episcopal School. He is also priest associate at St. Augustine's, Metairie.

*The Rev. Ken Ritter* began serving as priest-in-charge at St. Stephen's, Innis, on June 1, 2015. On February 8, he accepted a call as interim rector at Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

*The Rev. Dennis Ryan* began serving as priest-in-charge at St. Michael's, Mandeville, on June 1, 2015.

*The Rev. Don Owens* retired from St. Timothy's, LaPlace, on June 21, 2015.

*The Rev. Margaret Austin* began serving as priest-in-charge at St. Timothy's, LaPlace, on June 28, 2015.

*The Rev. Canon Jervis Burns* resigned from serving as supply priest at St. Matthew's, Bogalusa.

*The Rev. LeBaron Taylor* began serving as supply priest at St. Matthew's, Bogalusa, while continuing to service as supply priest at Church of the Incarnation, Amite.

*The Rev. Nelson Tennison* began serving as priest-in-charge at All Saints, Ponchatoula, on August 2, 2015.

*The Rev. Walter Baer* retired and moved to Vienna, Austria. He was serving as supply priest at St. Michael's, Mandeville.

*Deacon Jay Albert* was assigned to Trinity Church, New Orleans, on August 16,

2015. He continues his ministry as the Province IV HIV/AIDS Ministry representative for the diocese.

*The Rev. Stephen Crawford* was installed rector of St. Mary's, Franklin, on September 14, 2015. His first Sunday at the church was July 1, 2015.

*The Rev. Canon Chad Jones* began serving as priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge, on September 27, 2015. He continues as rector of St. Patrick's, Zachary. This partnership is a pilot program between St. Patrick's and St. Augustine's. On January 24 he served his last service at the two churches to accept a call to serve as priest-in-charge at Church of the Resurrection and associate rector at St. George's in Nashville, Tennessee, effective February 8, 2016.

*Linda Armstrong* on October 4, 2015, renounced her Ordination to Ministry. She was deacon at St. Alban's Chapel, Baton Rouge.

*Deacon Kathy Comer* retired on November 1, 2015. She was deacon at Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans.

*The Very Rev. Dr. Jean Meade*, rector of Mount Olivet Episcopal Church, New Orleans, retired on November 22, 2015.

*The Very Rev. William "Bill" Terry* was appointed dean of the Downtown Deanery.

*The Rev. John Sloan Miller* resigned as priest-in-charge of St. Francis Episcopal Church, Denham Springs, on November 29, 2015.

*Deacon Suzie Johnston* moved out of the diocese to Nashville, Tennessee. She was deacon at Grace Church, St. Francisville

*The Rev. James Morrison* was installed rector of St. Andrew's, New Orleans, on December 6, 2015.

*The Rev. Edward Thompson* began serving full time as vicar at All Souls, New Orleans. He was part time priest-in-charge at St. Luke's, New Orleans, and part time at All Souls.

*Archdeacon Priscilla Maumus* retired as deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, effective January 24, 2015. She continues as archdeacon of the diocese with her office now located in the Noland Center.

*The Rev. Don Brown* began serving as interim rector at St. Patrick's, Zachary, and priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge. He is no longer serving as supply priest at St. Andrew's, Clinton.

### Retired clergy moving into the diocese

*The Rev. Seamus Doyle* has moved into the Diocese of Louisiana from Arkansas. He is serving as a supply priest

*The Rev. David McDowell-Fleming* moved into the diocese from Central Gulf Coast and is now licensed to serve at St. Anna's Episcopal Church, New Orleans.

### Deaths

*The Very Reverend Richard W. "Dick" Rowland*, tenth Dean and Dean Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral died July 18, 2015 in Covington.

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### Jazz in January at Christ Church, Covington

*[Photographs by Bill McHugh]* Christ Church, Covington, reported in their February 4 edition of *Illuminare* that the rafters were shaking during the first annual Jazz in January weekend. Featured artists were Greta Matassa, Ellis Marsalis, Matt Lemmler and the New Orleans Jazz Revival Band (with Jason Marsalis, Clipper Anderson, and Rex Gregory), and the Gospel Divas (with Barbara Johnson Tucker, Joan Hubert and April Hubert). The weekend of jazz concerts ended with two jazz worship services on Sunday morning. The Jazz in January concert provides a way to connect church members with the wider community through music.



### Senior High Rally (left)

*[Photograph by Delta Moran-Colley]* Senior High Rally was held January 22-23 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center with over 40 youth and adults in attendance. The year's theme was "Go!" based off Matthew 28:19-20. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

### Solomon Center Youth Work Day (right)

*[Photograph by Marvin McLennon]* The youth of the diocese joined together at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center on Saturday, February 13 for a day of sprucing up the gardens and other work around the conference center.



### **Saying Goodbye to the Rev. Canon Chad Jones**

*[Photographs by Karen Mackey]* On January 24 the diocese, especially the people of St. Patrick's, Zachary, and St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge, said goodbye to Canon Chad Jones as he celebrated his last Sunday at St. Patrick's. Canon Jones accepted a call as priest-in-charge at Church of the Resurrection and associate rector at St. George's in Nashville, Tennessee.



### **Ashes to Go (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Canon Steven Roberts administers ashes to the Rev. Travers Koerner outside Christ Church Cathedral on Ash Wednesday. The cathedral was one of five congregations to offer "Ashes to Go." The other congregations were All Souls, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, St. Mark's, and Christ Church in Slidell.

### **Keeping a Lenten Vigil (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Tom, Terry, Mary Lee, Diane, and Chloe the dog greet those passing by St. Andrew's, New Orleans. Parishioners of St. Andrew's take turns keeping vigil outside the church each evening during the season of Lent offering prayers, a friendly conversation, and S'mores.

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### **Mardi Gras Spirits in New Orleans (left)**

*[Photographs by Karen Mackey and Leslie Martin]* St. George's, New Orleans, continued the decades long fundraiser during the week before Mardi Gras. Parishioners sold delicious food and drinks and offered free bathrooms to parade goers. Every year people come from all over the city (sometimes world) to take part in this annual tradition.

### **Parochial Report Time (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Over the past few months, parish administrators, clergy, and vestries all across the diocese have been crunching numbers and filling out the required Parochial Report and Annual Report forms. The Parochial Report provides vital information on the life of the Church to the bishop and to General Convention. Reports were due March 1.



### **Bishop Nicholas Knisley Lectures on Science and Religion at St. Paul's (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisley, Bishop of Rhode Island, visited the diocese to teach a class at St. Paul's, New Orleans, on Science and Religion. The lecture was presented as part of both the Diocese of Louisiana Liturgy & Music Commission's lecture series and the St. Paul's Wednesday night "Service, Supper, & Substance" program. Bishop Knisley was sponsored by Dr. Caroline Carson as part of the NASA Solar System Ambassador program. Dr. Carson is the music director at St. Paul's.

### **Discussing HIV/AIDS (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Pictured: The Rev. William Barnwell, Deacon Jay Albert, Rev. Gregory Manning, Dr. Kevin Stephens, and the Rev. Dr. Dwight Webster. Deacon Jay Albert of Trinity Church, New Orleans, along with the Rev'd Gregory Manning of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, New Orleans, attended the Justice and Beyond Coalition Meeting on February 15 to lead a forum on why and how faith communities and other organizations should be on the forefront of the discussion on HIV-AIDS.



### Stewardship Forum

[*Photograph by Karen Mackey*] The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, Bishop of Olympia, was the keynote speaker of the Stewardship Forum on February 20 at St. Andrew's, New Orleans. The Rev. Bill Miller and Maria Elliot made presentations during the morning session as well. The breakout sessions included presentations such as, "Ten Steps to a Successful Campaign" by Maria Elliot, "How to Shepherd Institutional Stewardship" by Bishop Rickel, "Working Towards the Tithe" by the Rev. Ralph Howe, and "Stewardship Resources" by Debbie Hudson. The forum concluded with the entire slate of presenters taking part in a panel discussion. There were 116 people from 26 congregations in attendance.



## The Community Mission Appeal

Give today to support outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

**The Community Mission Appeal - or CMA - is the collection plate that is dedicated to taking our diocese's mission beyond the physical walls of our churches. Through CMA, we provide donations to our parishes so that they can grow their ministries. One hundred percent of the gifts received through CMA will go directly to churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana to support the development and continuing strength of mission work. More information: [www.edola.org/cma](http://www.edola.org/cma).**

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

### Bishop's Journal: January 1, 2016—February 23, 2016

**January 1-4:** Offices are closed for Holidays.

**January 5:** We had our first staff meeting of the New Year. In the morning I met with Jerry Henry, our consultant, helping us raise funds for the Canal Street property. Drove to Baton Rouge to have lunch with a senior warden and then on to Angola where I confirmed eleven inmates. I continue to be energized by the spirit these men have and also give thanks for our parishioners who travel to the prison weekly to minister. I spent the night in Baton Rouge.



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Bishop Thompson delivering the sermon during the noon Ash Wednesday Service at Christ Church Cathedral.*

**January 6:** Early morning meeting with a group of parishioners then spent time on the phone. Lunch with Maggie Dennis; her son was a delight. I spent another night in Baton Rouge.

**January 7:** I got up early and drove to SECC and met with Frank Hall. Following our meeting I jumped back in the car and had lunch with the clergy of Christ Church, Covington. Back in the car and arrived at the office at 2:00. I had meetings with Chris Speed regarding finances and with Karen Mackey, our communications director. I returned several phone calls then went home to pick up Rebecca for a retired clergy meeting. Unfortunately she did not get home from work until late and we were unable to attend the dinner.

**January 8-9:** Up early to study and then drove to SECC for a Commission on Ministry Retreat for those who are in discernment for ministry and those who are already in the process or in seminary. It was a great retreat and I left tired but excited about the quality of individuals who want to serve God and God's church.

**January 10:** Rebecca and I made our visitation at St. George's where I confirmed and received. It was a great morning and for the first time I preached from the newly restored pulpit. Afterwards we had a very nice reception for the newly confirmed.

**January 11:** Day off. Watched the National College Championship and was glad an SEC team won.

**January 12:** Weekly staff meeting and then returned phone calls and did some calendaring with Agatha. Drove to All Saints and met with Deacon Debbie Scalia and Jay Angerer. They introduced me to another restaurant, the Oak Oven. From there I

drove to Baton Rouge where I met with Fr. Jerry Phillips for his annual consultation. I spent the night in Baton Rouge.

**January 13:** Up early and then a morning visit with Hugh McIntosh. I have been meeting with Dr. McIntosh on a monthly basis to learn more about Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge. I continue to be impressed with the quality of faculty, leadership and students. Today I met with the students in the Honors program. I was spellbound by the poise and intellect of these students. I haven't stopped talking about my experience. I had lunch with the clergy of St. Luke's and then returned home and ran by the office.

**January 14:** I drove to Jackson, MS to get ready for a party we hosted for our son Morris III in honor of his ordination to the priesthood.

**January 15:** Dusting, cleaning and smoking two briskets for tonight's party.

**January 16:** I had the great honor, at the invitation from Mississippi's Bishop Brian Seage, to ordain our son to the Sacred Order of Priests. It was a powerful service. After the service I returned to New Orleans while Rebecca stayed to wrap up things.

**January 17:** I traveled to Bayou Dularge for my visitation and it was a great day. I confirmed 10. Afterwards Dita Dehart and others took me out to lunch in Houma.

**January 18:** Lunch with a priest and the rest of the day off.

**January 19:** Staff meeting followed by a session where Canon Manning and I caught up and prepared for the upcoming executive board meeting. I had a little time to prepare for the noon Eucharist that I lead on a monthly basis in the chapel of the cathedral. I was in the office in the

afternoon for catch up work and then had dinner with our speaker for the clergy gathering tomorrow in Baton Rouge.

**January 20:** Drove to Baton Rouge for a great turnout of our clergy to hear Fr. Buddy Stallings talk about clergy health. After the meeting I asked the Deans of our convocations to stay for a short meeting in which I asked for their opinions on a couple of items. Around two I left for home.

**January 21:** Morning catch up with Agatha and then UBE update. UBE's national convention will be held in New Orleans this summer and there is much to do to prepare for this gathering. Later on Canon Manning and I met to talk about the churches in transition. We have a good number of churches that are in transition. In the afternoon the Diocesan Trustees met with our investment teams.

**January 22:** Worked on sermon in the morning and then later got my haircut. It was a bit too long or so Agatha said.

**January 23:** The Executive Board met. We heard good reports and hired a consultant to help raise funds for the Canal Street property.

**January 24:** I visited Church of the Annunciation where I received one person. The service was followed by a very nice reception. Someone made the best potato salad I've ever experienced. Following the visit Rebecca and I drove to Touro Hospital to visit Harriet Murrell and Mother Minka Sprague.

**January 25:** Day off until the evening when I met with St. John's vestry and other parishioners.

**January 26:** Staff meeting and then I drove to Hammond to have lunch with some of our retired clergy and spouses. Church Pension Group came to explain some of their new products. Afterwards I drove to SECC for the beginning of the clergy silent

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

retreat where John Pitzer was our leader.

**January 27:** I had to leave the retreat and meet with the vestry of St. Margaret's in Baton Rouge. I drove back to New Orleans rather than return to the silent retreat. I returned late and fell into bed.

**January 28:** Had a free morning so Agatha and I did some catch up work. In the afternoon Canon Manning and I drove to Baton Rouge and met with the vestry of St. James. We returned to New Orleans late that evening.

**January 29:** I worked from home on my sermon and then went into the office for a meeting.

**January 30:** No meetings but there were parades in my front yard!

**January 31:** Up early and drove to Grace Memorial, Hammond. Had a wonderful breakfast and spoke about the life in the diocese. We confirmed two in the service and then drove back to New Orleans and wiggled through the parades to our house.

**February 1:** Up early to fly to Austin for a seminary visit and to see how John Pitzer is doing in his Anglican Studies. We got there in time for the community Eucharist and then lunch with some students. Later Canon Manning and I met with the Dean, followed by students that may have an interest in coming to Louisiana. The day was long and hard but we ended up at a very nice restaurant and had a wonderful conversation with John.

**February 2:** Up at 4:00 a.m. because our return flight to New Orleans left at 6:30 a.m.

**February 3:** Early meeting with Chris Speed followed by a meeting with Jerry Henry and Canon Manning to look over the Canal Street property. After the meeting I drove to Baton Rouge for a

board meeting at St. James Place. That evening I confirmed 11 people at St. James Church then drove home in time to get caught in parade traffic.

**February 4:** Because the parades are later in the afternoon we flooded my schedule with morning meetings hoping to beat the afternoon crowd. It worked. By 3:00 p.m. the offices were closed so everyone could get home.

**February 5:** I was a witness in a wedding and spent the rest of the day reading.

**February 6:** Rebecca and I drove to Sewanee, TN for the University of the South Board of Regents meeting. It was a beautiful day and I believe this is the longest we have been together in quite some time. It was nice talking about us.

**February 7-8:** My meetings were full of new information and the days were long but the work was stimulating. On the last day it snowed three inches. It was a nice change for us. We hadn't seen snow since we left Lexington. We crept down the mountain and drove back to New Orleans arriving well after all the carnival crowds had gone home.

**February 10:** Ash Wednesday. I preached and celebrated the noon service at the Cathedral. Later that afternoon I left for St. Francis, Denham Springs, to preach and celebrate their service. Instead of staying over in Baton Rouge I drove back to New Orleans. It was a good Ash Wednesday.

**February 11:** I spent time catching up and cleaning the house.

**February 12:** Much of the morning was spent on sermon prep and other work.

**February 13:** I left early for a 9:00 a.m. meeting with Frank Hall and then stayed for the SECC board meeting. I returned quickly and met

with St. John's vestry members.

**February 14:** Rebecca and I traveled to St. Timothy's church in LaPlace for my visitation. Mother Margaret Austin is the priest in charge and we had a delightful brunch following the service. Since their service began at 9:00 am we arrived home early enough for a Valentine's Day walk.

**February 15:** I took the day off to do some catching up on chores.

**February 16:** The day began with some calendaring with Agatha followed by our weekly staff meeting. Later in the morning I had a meeting with a deacon recently moved to New Orleans from another diocese. I celebrated the noon service at the Cathedral and then had a lengthy meeting with one of our vice-chancellors. The rest of the day was spent returning phone calls and making arrangements for some activities coming our way.

**February 17:** Spent time returning emails, phone calls and planning. Late morning I drove to the Conference Center for a meeting.

**February 18:** Met with Mr. Lloyd Lazard and three others who are on a mission to create a continual history called the Antelope Slave Ship Project. I've met several other times with Mr. Lazard and each time I'm more energized by his presence. This is a project I want to be involved in. I had lunch with Canon John Kellogg and discussed the upcoming weekend followed by a meeting with Fr. David McDowell-Fleming. The day ended with a wonderful dinner with Bishop Knisely from Rhode Island. Bishop Knisely was invited by Dr. Caroline Carson to speak at UNO regarding space exploration and theology.

**February 19:** I worked from home on my sermon and caught up on other writings. The day

ended by having dinner with Bishop Greg Rickel and his wife Marti along with Rebecca, Canon Kellogg and his wife Tait.

**February 20:** The Diocese held another conference on the topic of stewardship led by Bishop Rickel. We had a large turnout, which tells me our churches want to live more fully into being good stewards. Everyone agreed that Canon Kellogg did an outstanding job putting on this conference.

**February 21:** I drove to the Church of the Incarnation in Amite for my Sunday visitation. Incarnation is a beautiful church and the congregation is so appreciative. They treated me to a very nice luncheon at the church. That evening Rebecca and I had dinner in our home with Fr. A.J. Heine and his fiancée Shannon Payne. This was a very nice way to end the day.

**February 22:** I took the morning off to run errands. I had one meeting in the afternoon and then home to exercise.

**February 23:** The day began with an early morning staff meeting followed by a meeting with both Canons Kellogg and Manning. Later in the morning I met with one of my priests regarding resigning/retiring matters. We closed the office due to inclement weather. I worked at home.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Ordination of Rodney Kennedy to the Sacred Order of Deacons at St. James, Baton Rouge

### MARCH 4-6

Happening #76 at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

### MARCH 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Matthew's, Bogalusa

### MARCH 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Racial Reconciliation Commission meeting & tour of Whitney Plantation (More information: [www.edola.org/racial-reconciliation-events](http://www.edola.org/racial-reconciliation-events))

### MARCH 20 Palm Sunday

### MARCH 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Francis, Denham Springs

### MARCH 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Chrism Mass at Christ Church Cathedral

### MARCH 25 - 28

Diocesan office closed in observance of Easter

### MARCH 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Matthew's, Houma, for Easter Vigil Service

### MARCH 27 Easter Sunday

### MARCH 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to Christ Church Cathedral

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### APRIL 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Mary's, Franklin

### APRIL 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Andrew's, Paradis

### APRIL 15-17

Jr. High Rally at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (Registration available soon at [www.solomoncenter.org/Events-and-Registrations](http://www.solomoncenter.org/Events-and-Registrations))

### APRIL 17 at 10:15 a.m.

Bishop's Visitation to St. Paul's, New Orleans

### APRIL 22-23

ECW Annual Gathering at St. James, Baton Rouge (More information: <http://www.edola.org/ecw/annual-gathering>)

### APRIL 23 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Mary's, Morganza, 100th Anniversary Celebration

### APRIL 24 at 11:00 AM

Bishop's visitation to St. Luke's, Baton Rouge

### APRIL 24 at 5:00 PM

Bishop's visitation to St. James, Baton Rouge

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### MAY 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Philip's, New Orleans

### MAY 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to Trinity, New Orleans

### MAY 13-14

Community of Deacons at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (Registration available soon at [www.solomoncenter.org/Events-and-Registrations](http://www.solomoncenter.org/Events-and-Registrations))

### MAY 15 Pentecost Sunday

### MAY 15 at 10:00 a.m.

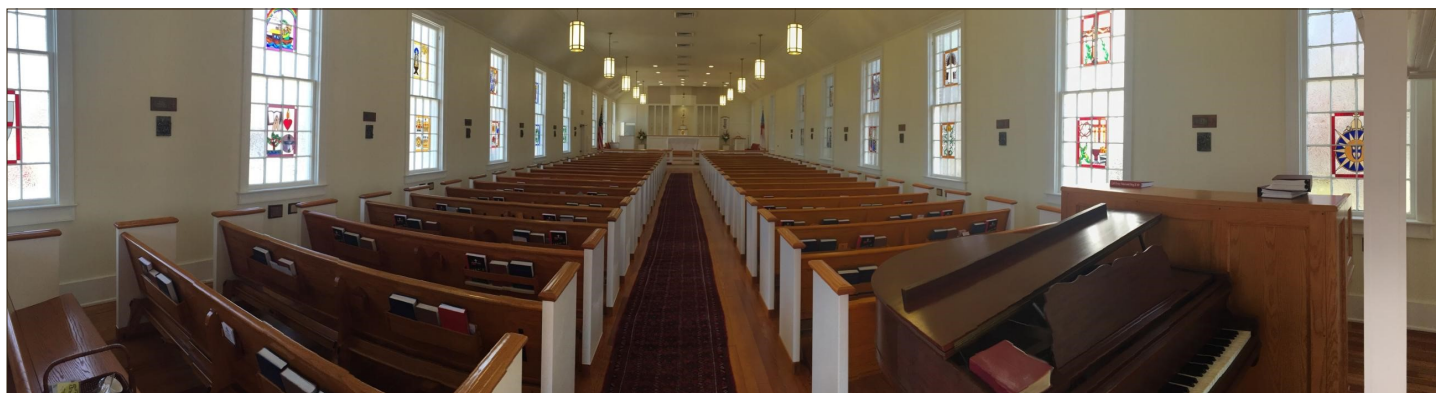
Bishop's visitation to St. Matthew's, Houma

### MAY 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop's visitation to St. Martin's, Metairie

### MAY 30

Diocesan office closed for the Memorial Day Holiday



[Photograph by Kim Jones] The sanctuary of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Zachary

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