



# CHURCHWORK



**THE 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE DIOCESE OF  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LOUISIANA**

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[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Rev. Joe Reynolds welcomes the 180th Annual Convention to St. James Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge.

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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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### Address to the 180th Annual Convention

*by the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr. Bishop of Louisiana*

Come Holy Spirit, kill us and make us alive. In your hands we rest, in the cup of whose hands sailed an ark rudderless, without mast. In your hands we rest, who was to make for the aimless wandering of the ark a new beginning for the world. In your hands we rest, ready and content this day. Amen.

Moses, Jesus, and an old man are playing golf. Moses gets up and wacks the ball and it heads down the par -3 and it's looking really, really well until it gets to the water. Moses quickly raises his club. The water parts; it skips off the bottom of the pond next to the green. Jesus says, "That's pretty good." So Jesus gets up and he wacks the ball. It is as straight as it could be, but it too is going to land in the water. So Jesus raises his arms out. He closes his eyes and says a prayer and the ball skips right off the water and lands two feet from the hole. "Not bad," Moses said. Next the old man gets up. He swings and the ball is struggling and struggling but as it makes it to the water. A fish jumps up, swallows the ball, but just as he grabs the ball, an eagle comes down and picks up the fish and drops it on the green. The ball pops out and in the hole the ball goes for a hole-in-one. Jesus

looks at Moses and says, "We're leaving dad at home next time."

That has absolutely nothing to do with what I want to talk with you about today. I just like the joke.

So welcome to the 180th convention of this diocese, 180 years. The theme is Teaching God's People: Christian Formation in a Changing World. I have been thinking a lot about this theme of formation when in the middle of this week, as I was working on this sermon, a text came across my phone. It was my half-brother. My father remarried after my mother died and my stepmother died a little over a year ago. My half-brother was texting me to say that the estate is final and so I should be receiving the final papers in the mail. That was it. I texted back, thank you. The weight of what he said hit me hard. I was so surprised about the grief that stirred within me to the point of not only tears but deep grief, because I knew it was the ending of our family. No more home to go back to. No one to call, not even my stepmother. It was finished. It was the end.

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## The 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

As I sat there frozen, I began to think about eight years ago when my dad died. It was two in the morning when we got the word. I had called all of the clergy to gather that day. Some of you may remember. We were to meet at the Solomon Center. Rebecca said, "Are you going to cancel it?" I said, "It's two in the morning. I don't think they'll appreciate my calling so early." I said, "No, I want to be in their midst. I want to be where the clergy are, for we share this work together and I need to be with them." As I was thinking about that experience, it was not a surprise to me that I recalled that today I would be in the midst of the diocese to share a personal word or two but also to connect this experience with the Old Testament reading.

In Deuteronomy, Moses gives the last instructions to the people of Israel. Deuteronomy is broken up into about three different sermons, so to speak. Moses knows that he is not going to be able to go into the Promise Land. God has already told him and he is there. He is there with the people of Israel and he is going to remind them. He says to them, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your might." The Shema, every faithful Jew knew what that was. It was Moses' way of helping them understand from where they came, the difficulties of their lives and the difficulties of the past 40 years. They had finally gotten to the place where God was leading them. Moses is giving them last minute instructions so to speak. Basically what he is saying is never forget. Never forget who you are and whose you are. You are God's and God is our Ruler, our King, our Lord, our God. Never forget that. It is important to remember.

It's always important to remember to tell our stories, the things that have been passed down to us throughout our lives. Because when we tell our stories, there is someone who connects with us and it jogs his/her memory. All of a sudden, our relationships are bonded in a way that they were not bonded before because we can tell our stories and remember. Stories are powerful when they are told. They give us strength and courage. They remind us that we are not alone. This is why Moses tells the Israelites to pass it on to their children and



their children. He says, "Write it on your hand, on your forehead." He is saying, "Write it everywhere. Do not forget who you are and who God is in your life."

When I used to do a lot of marriage or family work, I would do a thing called genogram. It is where you draw out a diagram of the family. I would say, "Tell me a story about your grandparents." Tell me a story about your aunts or uncles, or your brother or sister or mother or father. Tell me a story, because stories always tell us something and then we began to connect the dots. Moses is doing that. It is the way to pass on what we know, what we remember, and things that can connect us in a deeper way.

I've recently read about a native American tribe that has a tradition of giving gifts. In fact, it is such a powerful part of who they were that if they did not give gifts they thought it would destroy who they were and what they were all about. So gifts were always given at every event, but the gifts were never to be held onto. They were to be re-gifted to someone else and then to someone else and to pass on and on, and so the gift was always circulating. They had a deep need to give these gifts. What that means is that the gift is never held by one person. It must be shared and not held as a lifeless artifact. We have been given gifts in this diocese in a way that we probably have not even been aware.

Let me tell you a few things that we have been doing. I realize that our assessment has been difficult for some of our congregations. I get that.

Our desires to help every congregation build itself up so that one day they can fully live into being fully contributing community. Those who have given, who have stretched, who have given their full assessment, let me share with you what has been happening with the funds you have provided. We have participated in three retreats. We have produced workshops on how to form a healthy vestry, workshops on how to be a welcoming parish, workshops on leadership. Money has been given to aid our prison ministry, we are giving them an extra amount of funding; money given to support a chaplain at UNO where we had before fallen short; funds given for flood relief, and for other natural disasters.

Your generosity has been felt way beyond your community, way beyond what you can even imagine. It has been because of your generosity, your hope, your willingness to participate that we've been able to take the resources that we have and spread them broadly so that our churches can help pull up those who are struggling and to thank those who have been liberal in giving and helpful. This is a story that needs to be remembered. It is a story that needs to be told over and over and over that we work for one another, not just our small little community. We are a body that is bigger than we are, to spread further than we can ever imagine being spread. I am grateful for your spirit.

Another story is how we are helping one another from the diocesan office. Almost everyone on my staff goes out day and night, countless hours to meet with vestries, to meet with parishioners, to meet with committees. We know that a successful ministry is where we are all working together at the highest level that we can. So we are all burning the night oil so to speak, because it is what we love to do. I encourage you if you have not done so, let us know how we can help you.

There is a committee that we have formed already. We want to make that a more concrete working group so to speak, where we take people who have resources. I don't mean money resources; the people who have gifts of accounting and business, to go into congregations who may be struggling in those areas, to go as a team, to work, to build up, to help connect this church with that church, this

body with that body. Again, it is a way of telling our stories, our stories of the gifts that God has given us in ways that we can use them for the greater good.

Let me close with one more story. Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry tells a story in the book *Following the Way of Jesus*. In 1991 while excavating in New York to build a high rise, a construction company was drilling pilings. They drilled and they drilled and they drilled through what they later found to be a graveyard. It had been undiscovered for hundreds of years. So work was halted as you can imagine. Archeologists came in and they began to examine the remains. It turns out that the graves were that of Africans who came to America. One archeologist examining a coffin, saw a strange symbol on top of it and couldn't figure out what it was. He later identified it through his research as to be as Sankofa. It was from Ghana; a symbol of the tribes of West Africa. The image was that of a bird flying, but the bird's head was looking backwards. So the bird was flying with purpose going forward diligently, strong and true. The bird was looking backwards, gaining courage and understanding and hopefulness that would take him forward.

I want to suggest to us today that we have a powerful and life-giving story to tell that goes all the way back to the beginning, to the beginning when God created all that there is. God brought us through the desert into the Promise Land. God has brought us forward through difficult times in our personal life and our diocesan life and brought us into the Promise Land, into light. It is a story, my brothers and sisters, that we do not need to forget for it is our lifeblood, not only to one another but to the world. Let us not lose sight of our history, our stories, so that we can teach them to our children and their children's children. Let us remember who we are and whose we are.

Come Holy Spirit, kill us and make us alive.



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## The 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

### Building Community at Diocesan Convention

*by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg, Chair of Dispatch*

What I love most about our Diocesan Convention is that Episcopalians from across South Louisiana gather together under one roof for a weekend — to worship and work together but also to enjoy one another's company and build community. The great energy and positive atmosphere of our 180th Convention provided a unique and important opportunity for us to strengthen relationships across the diocese.

The focus of this Convention, hosted by St. James, Baton Rouge, was "Teaching God's People: Christian Formation in a Changing World." Wendy Barrie, author of *Faith At Home* and Program Manager for Children and Youth at Trinity Episcopal Church, Wall Street, served as our keynote speaker and shared three presentations focusing on best practices in the field of Christian Formation. She was joined by clergy and laity (representing fifteen congregations) who spoke about their own experiences with Christian Formation initiatives, ranging from Godly Play to Yoga with Spirit to college chaplaincy. Several others helped highlight significant ministries in our diocese, such as Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative and the projects that receive support from our Community Mission Appeal.

While there is always plenty of important diocesan business to discuss and vote upon, the focus of this Convention was meant to provide all of our congregations — from small to large, from rural to urban — with a wide-range of practical teaching and creative ideas. I hope everyone left with a broader understanding of what might be possible in their congregations. This Convention also did its best to highlight the diversity of clergy and lay leadership in our diocese. I can definitively say that we are rich with innovative and resourceful leaders!

The 181st Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana will be held October 26-27, 2019 at St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie. I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, I welcome your feedback and ideas: The Rev'd Canon John Kellogg (jkellogg@edola.org).



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Keynote speaker Wendy Barrie shares best practices in the field of Christian Formation.*



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Canon John Kellogg and Canon Shannon Manning give a presentation on diocesan education opportunities.*



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The Rev. Robert Beazley and the Rev. Bobby Hadzor give a presentation on the Godly Play program.*

### Actions Taken by the 180th Annual Convention



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] The 180th Annual Convention opened with the celebration of Holy Eucharist.*

nominations to the Executive Board by early spring.

### Elections

The following were elected to fill offices:

- Marsha Wade, St. James, Baton Rouge, for a one-year term as Secretary.
- Les Bradfield, Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, for a one-year term as Treasurer.
- The Rev. Fred Devall, St. Martin's, Metairie, for a three-year term as clerical member of the Standing Committee.
- Janice Zitzmann, St. Augustine's, Metairie, for a three-year term as lay member of the Standing Committee.
- The Rev. Ashley Freeman, St. Patrick's, Zachary, for a three-year term as clerical member of the Executive Board.
- Lauren Anderson, St. Anna's, New Orleans, and Owen Cope, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, for a three-year term as lay members of the Executive Board.
- The Rev. Watson Lamb, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans; the Rev. Jeff Milican, St. Martin's, Metairie; and the Rev. Dr. Minka Sprague, retired, for a three-year term as clerical members of the Disciplinary Board.
- The Rev. Ralph Howe, St. James, Baton Rouge, for a three-year term as a clerical representative to the Sewanee Board of Trustees.

### Resolutions

The Convention passed the following resolutions:

- Observance of Ecumenical Sunday, January 21, 2018 and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2018 .
- To create a working group to address the questions of congregational vitality and viability raised in the Assessment Study Committee Report of September 1, 2017.
- To amend Canon 30, Section 2 to provide that the Executive Board of the Diocese will elect the members of the Boards of Trustees of Diocesan Schools. This change requested because Diocesan Convention is now held in the late fall instead of late February or early March. A late fall meeting is too early for the two Diocesan Schools, St. Martin's Episcopal School and The Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, to review the gifts, talents and experience needed for new members and to recruit members to fulfill these needs. The Executive Board is authorized act for the Diocesan Convention between meetings of the Convention. Making the proposed change keeps the decision-making consistent with current polity and allows the Diocesan Schools sufficient time to submit their recommendations to the Bishop so that he can present

#### **Save the Date:**

**181st Annual Convention of  
the Diocese of the Episcopal Church  
of Louisiana**

**October 26-27, 2018**

**St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie**



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## The 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention



Volunteers from St. James help delegates during registration for Convention.



Delegates from St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge .



Delegates from St. Mark's, Harvey.



Delegates from All Saints', River Ridge.



The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, Secretary of Elections, with Granville Tate, Parliamentarian.



The Very Rev. A.J. Heine, the Rev. Jeff Mellican, the Rev. Rob Courtney, and the Rev. Ashley Freeman having fun during a break in Convention.



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## The 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention



Keynote speaker Wendy Barrie.



Delegates from Grace Church, St. Francisville.



Friday night musical performance from Kids Orchestra and the St. James Treble Choir.



The Rev. Minka Sprague, Rebecca Thompson, and Sue-Allen Tate .



Delegates from Mount Olivet, New Orleans.



Delegates from Christ Church, Covington.

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Pictured with Bishop Thompson are new clergy who have entered the diocese since the 179th Annual Convention. Left to right: The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley, the Rev. Robert Beazley, the Rev. Chris Capaldo, the Rev. Bobby Hadzor, the Rev. Andy Thayer, and the Rev. John Tolbert. Not pictured: The Rev. Dan Puchalla

### The Clericus (September—December 2017)

#### Transitions in the Diocese

*Deacon Charmaine Kathmann* was appointed to serve as a deacon at All Saints', River Ridge, effective September 3, 2017. She has previously served as a deacon at St. Mark's, Harvey, and St. John's, Kenner.

*The Rev. Chris Capaldo* was installed as the rector of Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, on September 5, 2017.

*The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on September 9, 2017, at St. Paul's, New Orleans. She will continue serving as the associate for congregational development at St. Paul's.

*The Rev. Tommy Dillon* was installed as the rector of St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, on October 26, 2017.

*The Rev. Andrew Thayer* was installed as the rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans, on November 29, 2017.

*The Rev. Gina Brewster Jenkins* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on December 16,

2017 at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. She will complete her last semester of seminary at Sewanee.

*The Rev. Stephen Shortess* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on December 16, 2017, at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. He will complete his last semester of seminary at Virginia Theological Seminary.

*The Rev. Bobby Price-Hadzor* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on December 18, 2017, at Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans. He will continue to serve as the chaplain of Trinity Episcopal School and assist at St. Augustine's, Metairie.

*The Rev. John Tober* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on December 20, 2017, at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge. He will continue serving as the curate and day school chaplain at Trinity.

#### New Clergy of the Diocese

*The Rev. Dan Puchalla* has entered our diocese as a newly licensed priest from the Diocese of Chicago. He will serve as a supply priest.





### **Friendship and Partnership Between St. Alban's and Bethel AME Church (left)**

*[Photograph courtesy of St. Alban's Chapel]* St. Alban's Chapel visited Bethel AME Church, Baton Rouge, on Sunday, September 24 for worship. The Rev. Drew Rollins, chaplain of St. Alban's, preached, both choirs sang, and Bethel provided a brunch. Dr. Herman Kelly, pastor of Bethel AME Church, has spoken several times at the St. Alban's "Lunch with C.S. Lewis" program. The two congregations will gather for more events in the future.

### **Mr Lawrence Brooks Celebrates his 108th Birthday (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Bishop Morris Thompson, Jr. and the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning posed with Mr. Lawrence Brooks at a party being held at St. Luke's, New Orleans, on the occasion of his 108th birthday. Mr. Brooks is the oldest living World War II veteran in Louisiana and the oldest parishioner in the Diocese of Louisiana.



### **Installation of the Rev. Chris Capaldo (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Chris Capaldo was installed as rector of Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, on September 5, 2017. Celebrant was the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr. Preacher was the Rev. Stephen Mazingo, rector of St. Peter's, Ferdandina Beach, Florida. The service was followed by a reception.

### **Ordination of the Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on September 10, 2017. Celebrant was the Rt. Rev. George D. Young, Bishop of Tennessee. Preacher was the Rev. Caroline Vogel.

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### **Caffeinated Church Conference Come to the Diocese of Louisiana**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Fifty five people from churches across the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at St. George's on September 16 for the Caffeinated Church Conference. Mike Orr, Communication Director of the Episcopal Church of Colorado, led the day guiding participants in the hows and whys of church communication.



### **U2Charist at Christ Church, Covington (left and middle)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Over 400 people attended the U2charist service held at Christ Church, Covington, on September 10, 2017. The service was organized when the band U2 announced it would perform at the Louisiana Superdome on September 14. A U2charist is a service that features the music of U2. In keeping with copyright laws, a church can use the music as long as a collection is taken for a non-profit that supports the Millennial Development Goals. During the service, over \$1800 was raised for Episcopal Relief and Development. Music for the service was provided by Crispin Schroeder, who also directed the music, and members of the Christ Church Celebration Band, including vocalist Ashley Lemmler, jazz pianist Matt Lemmler, Ronnie Boudreaux on guitar, Keenan Knight on bass, and Dan Caro on drums.

### **Trio of Deacons**

*[Photograph by Archdeacon Cindy Obier]* Deacon Charmaine Kathmann, Deacon Deborah Scalia, and Archdeacon Cindy Obier at All Saints', River Ridge, on October 29.





### **St. Francis Blessing of the Pets**

*[Photographs from the churches Facebook pages] Top row (Left to right) The Rev. Tommy Dillon, St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; the Rev. Bryan Owen, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge; Grace Church, St. Francisville*

*Bottom Row (left to right) Trinity, Baton Rouge; St. Philip's, New Orleans; St. Alban's Chapel, Baton Rouge; the Rev. Morgan MacIntyre, Christ Church, Covington*



### **Regular Services Return to Christ Church, Napoleonville**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* On Wednesday, October 4, the Rev. Chris Capaldo, rector of Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, and seven members of Christ Church, Napoleonville, met for Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist and will continue this weekly service going into the future. It has been over a decade since regular services have been held at the church.



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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### **St. Luke's Fall Fest (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Luke's Facebook Page]* The first annual St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Fall Fest was held on October 29. The evening featured trunk or treating in the church parking lot, carnival games, and food.

### **Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis at St. Francis, Denham Springs (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Francis Denham Spring Facebook Page]* St. Francis, Denham Springs returned to their campus to celebrate their patron feast day. Since the flood in August 2016, the congregation has been holding services at the United Methodist Church in Denham Springs. The service was followed by a meal of pastalaya and white beans.



### **Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers in the Diocese (left and right)**

Several churches throughout the diocese held their annual pumpkin patch fundraisers in the month of October. They could be found at Grace Memorial, Hammond, St. Mark's, Harvey, St Augustine's, Metairie, St. Martin's, Metairie, St. Andrew's, New Orleans, and St. Paul's Episcopal School, New Orleans.

*[Photograph on left by Karen Mackey]* Pictured is the pumpkin patch at St. Andrew's. This was the first year the church held this fundraiser.

*[Photograph on right from St. Paul's Facebook Page]* The Rev. Bridget Tierney leaves St. Paul's after purchasing her Halloween pumpkins.





### **Georgetoberfest (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Richard Easterling has a little Oktoberfest fun with parishioner Norma Sallinger on October 29. The congregation celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with special music during Holy Eucharist. The service was followed by a party in the church parish hall featuring traditional German food and beverages.



### **Movie Night in the Pumpkin Patch (right)**

*[Photograph by from the St. Augustine's Facebook Page]* On October 13, St. Augustine's, Metairie, held a family fun movie night in their pumpkin patch.



### **The Reverend Jim Shortess Memorial First Responders Luncheon (left)**

*[Photograph from the Church of the Holy Communion Facebook Page]* On November 17, Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, held its annual Rev. Jim Shortess Memorial First Responders Luncheon to honor the men and women of the community to who give so much. The luncheon is held in the memory of the Rev. Jim Shortess who was rector of Holy Communion from 2003 to 2007.



### **Building a Community Garden at St. Mark's (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Mark's Facebook Page]* Members of St. Mark's, Harvey, begin work on a community garden in their front lawn .

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### **Celebrating the Saints at St. George's (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. George's Facebook Page]* The middle school Sunday School class made sidewalk art for All Saint's Sunday with the names of traditional saints and the everyday saints that live among us. Families and other parishioners added to the collection.

### **The Rev. Tommy Dillon is Installed Rector of St. Margaret's Baton Rouge (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Tommy Dillon was installed as rector of St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, on October 26, 2017. Celebrant was the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr. Preacher was the Rev. Hannah Atkins, rector of Trinity Church, Houston, Texas. The service was followed by a reception.



### **Unity House Build (left)**

*[Photograph from Trinity, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Eleven congregation from various faith traditions in New Orleans, including Trinity Church and St. Paul's, came together in October to build a house through Habitat for Humanity. The participating congregations raised funds and provided volunteers to build a house in thirteen days.

### **Little Free Pantry (middle)**

*[Photograph from the Church of the Annunciation Facebook Page]* Church of the Annunciation recently installed a Little Free Pantry. Based on the Little Free Library, the Little Free Pantry is helping to address the issue of hunger in the community. The pantry is open 24/7 and anybody can take items from the pantry. Volunteers stock the pantry with food and baby diapers.

### **Clergy Day (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Clergy gathered at All Saints', River Ridge, on October 25 to learn about upcoming changes in pension fund and building insurance.





### **Thanksgiving Outreach Project at St. Luke's (left)**

*[Photograph from St. Luke's Facebook Page]* Following the Thanksgiving Day service at St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, parishioners boxed over 500 meals to feed needy people and families in the community.



### **Community Thanksgiving Meal (middle)**

*[Photograph from the Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* On Thanksgiving, parishioners of Annunciation, New Orleans, gathered after a service to host a meal for the neighborhood. Over 125 people were in attendance.



### **Annual Hayride Hootenany Hoedown Tube Steak Extravaganza (right)**

*[Photograph from the Church of the Nativity, Rosedale, Facebook Page]* On December 2, Church of the Nativity held its annual Hayride Hootenany Hoedown Tube Steak Extravaganza. The evening included food, hayrides, Christmas caroling, bonfires and smores.



### **Uptown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* For over 30 years the churches and synagogues of the Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans have gathered together to give thanks to God before Thanksgiving. Several of the Episcopal churches in the New Orleans Uptown Deanery participate.



### **Community Thanksgiving Meal (middle)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Andrew Thayer was installed as rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans, on November 28, 2017. Celebrant was the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson., Jr. The Preacher was the Rev. Charles Treadwell rector of St. David's, Austin, Texas. The service was followed by a reception.

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### **Interfaith Service for the Homeless (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Ecumenical Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana participated in the Interfaith Prayer Service for the Homeless on December 4 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in New Orleans. The Rev. Bridget Tierney, director of Advent House, preached during the service.



### **St. James Christmas Meal for the Homeless (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. James Facebook Page]* On December 10, St. James parishioners gathered for an annual Christmas dinner for their homeless neighbors and those living in area shelters.



### **Clergy Day of Prayer on World HIV / AIDS Awareness Day (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* Clergy from all faiths gathered at St. George's Episcopal Church during HIV/AIDS Awareness Week to renew their commitment and encourage faith communities to become leaders in compassion and education for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Deacon Jay Albert helped organize the event and led a discussion during a pancake breakfast.

### **All Saints' Teddy Bear Tea(right)**

*[Photograph from the All Saints Facebook Page]* All Saints' Teddy Bear Tea, held on December 2, 2017, was packed full of fun and yummy food. Saint Nicolas visited and gave each child a golden coin. Games, coloring, and story time came next. Each child was given a teddybear to bring home.







### **Advent Retreat at St. Margaret's (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's Facebook Page]* On December 9, members of St. Margaret's gathered for sacred time to worship, sing hymns, meditate, create art, and enjoy some quiet during the hectic holiday season. The retreat called "Prepare the Way of the Lord: Listening to Mary's Voice" was led by the Rev. Tommy Dillon and Maria Curry.

### **Ordination to the Diaconate (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* On December 16 at Christ Church Cathedral, Gina Jenkins and Stephen Shortess were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons. Both will return to seminary to complete their last semester.



### **Ordination of Bobby Hadzor to the Sacred Order of Priests (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. Bobby Hadzor was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on December 18, 2017 at Trinity Church, New Orleans. The celebrant was the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr. Preacher was the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning.

### **Ordination of John Tober to the Sacred Order of Priests (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey]* The Rev. John Tober was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on December 20, 2017 at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge. The celebrant was the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.. Preacher was the Rev. Dr. Thomas Lowe.



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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE



### Walking in a Winter Wonderland

On December 8, the entire diocese saw a rare and beautiful snowfall. It is reported that several inches fell across the Northshore and Baton Rouge Deaneries, a dusting of snow in the Southwest, and a few flurries in the New Orleans and Jefferson Deaneries. The following photographs were posted to Facebook pages:

Top Row (left to right): St. Patrick's, Zachary; Trinity Church, Baton Rouge; Christ Church, Napoleonville (with credit to Robert Martin)

Middle Row (left to right): Episcopal School of Baton Rouge; Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

Bottom Row (left to right): St. Luke's, Baton Rouge (with credit to Julie Owen); St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; Grace Memorial, Hammond (with credit to Jeannie Voorhees ); St. John's, Thibodaux



### Bishop's Journal: August 1, 2017—December 4, 2017

**August 1** The day began with our staff meeting. It's the first time we've been together in a long time. Following the staff meeting I met with Fr. Jeff Millican for his annual visitation. In the afternoon I met with Fr. John Craft for his annual visitation and then drove to Plaquemine to see how Fr. Chris Capaldo is doing in his new surroundings. I spent the night in Baton Rouge.

**August 2** I began the day meeting a few people from Together Baton Rouge followed by Fr. Peter Kang's annual visitation. His meeting is followed by a meeting with Nanette Noland and Kid's Orchestra. I ended my time in Baton Rouge by having lunch with Kenn Elder.

**August 3** The day began with a meeting with Fr. Ed Thompson. This is followed by my annual visit with Mother Bridget Tierney then on to the meeting with the Assessment Study Committee. This was an interesting meeting. In the afternoon I met with Marsha Wade and Canon Manning.

**August 4** I spent the day working on my sermon.

**August 5** No meetings Saturday.

**August 6** I drove to Baton Rouge for my annual visitation with St. Michael and All Angels where I preached, celebrated, and baptized three new parishioners. This was followed by a very nice lunch.

**August 7** I took my day off to cook for Rebecca's birthday.



*[Photograph courtesy of St. Augustine's, Metairie]  
Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Augustine's*

**August 8** We had staff meeting then I spent the day signing documents and writing letters overdue.

**August 9** I went to the office early for a quiet start to some writing. I accomplished a good bit and then went home for lunch. In the afternoon I signed some documents to sell some property and ended the day with a phone conference with St. James' Place.

**August 10** I had a mid-morning meeting with Fr. Rob Courtney for his annual visitation and then lunch with Bishop Joe Doss. In the afternoon I had a meeting with an individual who is seeking entrance into the Episcopal Church.

**August 11** I made several phone calls and worked on two sermons for this weekend. Later Rebecca and I took pizza to the new rector of Trinity New Orleans. What a nice family!

**August 12** Early in the morning I drove to the Solomon Center for a meeting with a priest and his Senior Warden. The SECC Board meeting was held at the Solomon Center. We had a productive meeting. I drove back to New Orleans, picked up Rebecca, and then drove to Baton Rouge for the evening.

**August 13** Up early to put the finishing touches on my sermon. After following the events at Charlottesville, Virginia, I'm compelled to say something about the egregious hatred that seems to have enveloped our nation. I was hoping to hear a word from our president but what he did say fell short of authority. I've said many times before, racism is the number one issue in the United States and until we are willing to face it and do the hard work to claim it, then we will forever battle hatred groups who usurp the Christian truths. I preached, celebrated and confirmed 17 at St. Margaret's. Some of the confirmands were from St. Patrick's in Zachary. The day at St. Margaret's was glorious and ended with a fine luncheon including entertainment from a parish band. In the afternoon I took part in the re-dedication of Episcopal High's renovated chapel. I also blessed a stained glass window given in honor of Fr. Ralph Howe. I was truly honored to take part in this service. Rebecca and I drove home that evening.

**August 14** Took my day off.

**August 15** The day began with staff meeting followed by meeting with both Canons and Chris Speed getting ready for convention. Made some phone calls then

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

preached and celebrated the noon service at the Cathedral. Canons Manning and Kellogg and I went out for lunch to catch up. The afternoon was filled with studying and wrapping up the 2018 visitation schedule and other paperwork.

**August 16** My early appointment was a no-show, which gave me time to work on some other items. Later I left for St. Mary of the Pines to see Sr. Ruth, my spiritual director. I also pay a pastoral visit to a friend who has been in the hospital for several weeks.

**August 17** On retreat at St. Mary of the Pines.

**August 18** I drove to All Saints School in Vicksburg to welcome the new class of AmeriCorps students. The school is one of the sites where AmeriCorps trains its staff. I'm very impressed that young adults aged 18 to 24 are willing to give of their time and service to the country.

**August 19** I drove to Baton Rouge for an afternoon meeting and to spend the night.

**August 20** I'm at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, where I preach, officiate, confirm, and receive new parishioners. It was a good day that ended with a very nice reception. I drove back to New Orleans.

**August 21** The Eclipse Day! It's my day off and I'm happy not to be driving anywhere.

**August 22** The day began with our weekly staff meeting followed by a meeting with our realtor discussing the Canal Street property. I had a wonderful lunch with Fr. Hill Riddle and then headed to Baton Rouge for dinner with a parishioner.

**August 23** Up early and headed to St. James for meetings. The first one was a no-show but was I able to visit with Kids Orchestra personnel. Fr. Joe Reynolds, the interim at St. James, and I had lunch and then I headed back to New Orleans for a Budget meeting.

**August 24** I got to the office early to work on some letters and then had a mid-morning meeting with Canon Manning. Later on another meeting to discuss the slave ship project.

**August 25** Today I worked from home on my sermon for Sunday and participated in a phone conference call.

**August 26** I attended the funeral for Jim Wyrick.

**August 27** My visitation was with St. Augustine's, Metairie. I confirmed, received and re-affirmed. It was



*[Photograph courtesy of Trinity, Baton Rouge]  
Bishop Thompson's visitation to Trinity.*

a glorious morning. Following the service and the huge spread of a reception, Canon Kellogg and I drove to the Solomon Center for the closing service of Happening, where I was the celebrant. This Happening had the largest group of high school students we've had in several years. Back to New Orleans for the night. I spent time communicating with the Bishops of Texas and West Texas. The destruction from Hurricane Harvey is enormous.

**August 28** I took my day off.

**August 29** Today was an odd day. Because of predicted heavy rain the New Orleans schools were closed and the Mayor asked that citizens stay home and off the road. We closed the office and worked from home.

**August 30** I had an early conference call and then followed with catch up work.

**August 31** Rebecca and I went out of town for the long holiday break.

**September 1-4** Office closed

**September 5** Tanner Potts from the University of the South stayed with us to research the first bishop of Louisiana, Leonidas Polk. The day began with staff meetings and then I prepared for the new ministry service for Fr. Chris Capaldo. In the afternoon I drove to Holy Communion, Plaquemine, then spent the night in Baton Rouge.

**September 6** I spent the day in Baton Rouge and saw three clergy in the morning then drove to St. Luke's to see two more clergy before heading home to New Orleans.

**September 7** In the morning I met with Helen Rose



Patterson to work on environmental issues. Following her visit, I saw a couple of individuals who are headed for meetings with the Commission on Ministry committee. I had a meeting with Fr. David Lowery and then I went home to help Rebecca get ready for a gathering of new clergy at our home. The night was full of laughter with our new clergy and their spouses.

**September 8** I spent the day on the phone and worked on my sermon and prepared for travel to Sewanee on Sunday.

**September 9** Canon Kellogg and I drove to the Solomon Center for the Executive Board. It was a long one, preparing for our convention in November. In the evening I participated in wishing Mr. Lawrence N. Brooks a happy 108th birthday at St. Luke's. Mr. Brooks is an inspiration, watching him sing and greet all the people who were present.

**September 10** My visit for today was with Mt. Olivet where I baptized and received two new parishioners. Following the service was a very nice reception. Unfortunately, I had to leave quickly to drive to the airport to fly to a Regents meeting at Sewanee, Tennessee.

**September 11** The meetings for Regents begin early at 7:30 with Eucharist and then we delve right into the meat of our gathering. I enjoyed our time listening to all that is taking place at Sewanee.

**September 12** More meetings in the morning and then I drove to Nashville to catch a flight back to New Orleans. I arrived home around 10 p.m.



*[Photograph courtesy of St. Alban's, Baton Rouge]  
Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Alban's*

**September 13** I'm in the office for a couple of meetings and phone calls.

**September 14** I had an early meeting with a parishioner who is seeking God's call to the priesthood. Later in the morning I met with Fr's Riddle and Barnwell regarding Fr. Barnwell's book about Trinity Church, New Orleans, and most importantly Fr. Riddle's tenure as their rector. What history these two men bring to my office. In the afternoon I had a phone conference regarding Kairos. Prison ministry is important to this diocese and to the Christian calling to care for those in prisons. We need more clergy to assist in the weekend events of Kairos.

**September 15** In the morning I worked on my sermon for Sunday and in the afternoon I had a couple of phone conference calls to make. It was a full day.

**September 16** No meetings today so I watched some football. It was a great day for me, watching my alma mater MSU beat LSU.

**September 17** I had a wonderful visitation at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter where I confirmed one and received another. Following the service there was a very nice reception. I got home in time to watch the Saints play badly. UGH!

**September 18** Today was my day off. I ran errands most of the day.

**September 19** We began the day with our weekly staff meeting followed by another one with the two Canons to go over upcoming projects. I celebrated mass for the staff at the cathedral and then spent the afternoon returning phone calls.

**September 20** Rebecca and I flew to Alaska to attend the HOB meeting. I didn't realize it was so far away. We left New Orleans at 10 a.m. and arrived in Fairbanks at 1 a.m.

**September 21** The HOB meetings began at 9 a.m. with Morning Prayer followed by introductions and welcomes from the good people of Alaska. The day ended with a welcoming banquet.

**September 22** We had more meetings throughout the day learning about the indigenous Indians of Alaska. We also toured the Morris Thompson Museum. Morris Thompson, not my kin that I know of, was a great leader that helped the indigenous people. He died tragically in a plane crash. I received a lot of ribbing about "my museum." The day ended with

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

class dinners out on the town.

**September 23** I spent the day in bed reeling from something I ate the night before. Rebecca got out and spent time walking around downtown.

**September 24** Sunday, we took a bus to Nenana, a small village about an hour away from Fairbanks. We were warmly greeted by the local congregation and had a wonderful worship service followed by a nice reception. That afternoon we walked to the community center where we took part in a local tradition called potlatch. Potlatch is a gift-giving ceremony where the main portion of the meal is moose. Throughout the night there was Indian dancing, music, and singing. I had the pleasure of sitting next to Chief Steve Ginnis. It was an honor for me to listen to him tell stories of the struggles of the Indigenous people, tales of his hunting trip to bring home a moose and other meaningful insights. I had never eaten moose soup made with moose tongue and nose. It didn't taste like chicken. The day was long, but it was worth it to be with such loving and giving people.

**September 25** Monday, we had more meetings to reflect on our weekend excursions. That night Rebecca and I had a delightful dinner with two other couples. We laughed the whole night.

**September 26** Tuesday, we had morning meetings and then a couple of hours to ourselves so we could explore the city before we left. The meeting ended with a celebratory Eucharist and banquet. We went back to our room, packed, then boarded the plane at 12:15 a.m. to begin our long journey home. We arrived in New Orleans around 9 p.m. There's no place like home!

**September 27** Flying.

**September 28** I had a couple of meetings throughout the day and ended with a celebration of Canon John Kellogg's running of an Iron Man Triathlon. He swam 2 miles, biked 100 miles and ran a full marathon. He finished in 14 hours. Amazing.

**September 29** I had a couple of meetings and spent the rest of the day recovering.

**September 30** I had the day off.

**October 1** Got to hear my son preach and visit with our grandchildren.

**October 2** Celebrated my birthday.

**October 3** Flew to the University of the South for a Trustees meeting and to take our seminarians out to dinner.

**October 4** Was able to visit some seminarians and worship with them. Following Eucharist, I was invited to have lunch with the seminary community. In the evening my host Dixon Myers and I enjoyed soup and watched baseball. It was a nice way to relax and catch up with an old friend.

**October 5** Thursday was a full day of meetings for the Trustees. The University of the South is continuing to grow in recognition throughout the US. In the evening I attended the dinner honoring the four receiving honorary degrees tomorrow.

**October 6** The Trustees had more meetings Friday followed by the Founders Service. After the service I drove back to Nashville to catch my flight back to New Orleans. I arrived home at midnight, bushed.

**October 7** It's Saturday and all eyes are on the weather channel to watch Nate's landfall. Rebecca and I traveled to Baton Rouge for my visitation Sunday.

**October 8** My visitation was with St. Alban's, Baton Rouge, where I preached, confirmed eight and celebrated. It was a very good Sunday. After the service they held a wonderful lunch that drew the whole congregation. Standing room only! We drove back to New Orleans to get ready for the week.

**October 9** It's Monday and I take my day off.

**October 10** Tuesday began with the staff celebrating my birthday with a lovely plate of fruit and cheese. Afterwards, we held our regular staff meeting then I had several appointments for the morning. In the afternoon I had an outside meeting with a priest and then a quick doctors appointment. Later in the afternoon Canon Manning and I drove to Thibodaux for a meeting with the vestries of St. John's, Thibodaux, and Trinity Church, Morgan City. It was a good meeting and we returned to New Orleans late that evening.

**October 11** Up early to drive to Baton Rouge for a 9 a.m. meeting. I spent the rest of the morning in meetings with clergy. After lunch I drove back to New Orleans.

**October 12** I had a morning phone conference and then lunch with Bishop Brown. It is always a treat to have lunch with him. That afternoon I had an eye



doctor's appointment. Can't see a darn thing with dilated eyes.

**October 13** A difficult pastoral meeting in the morning and then sermon work.

**October 14** I was up early to drive to the Solomon Center for the Solomon Board meeting.

**October 15** Got word early that Elizabeth Muth, wife of Fr. Don Muth died this morning. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. I called Don before I left for my visitation at St. Luke's, New Orleans. I had a great visitation with St. Luke's. When the drums begin, there is something that awakens the soul into a joyful experience. After the service a nice reception of foods that represent countries representative of each parishioner. Also, the Saints won!

**October 16** I took a field trip to Venice with the Restore the Mississippi River Delta representatives. I traveled with Fr's Dan Krutz and Harry Jenkins. The trip was very informative and powerful. Who knew the Mississippi River could be clear rather than muddy? The trip helped me visualize the restoration work that is taking place at the mouth of the river. Tremendous work has taken place but there is so much to accomplish. We really are talking about stewardship.

**October 17** The day began with our staff meeting followed by a difficult conversation with a priest. At noon I celebrated Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral then rushed home to let the plumber in to fix a faucet then back to work for a few hours. In the evening I met with the vestry of Annunciation, New Orleans, to talk about the work in which they are involved. The



*[Photograph courtesy of St. Anna's, New Orleans]  
Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Anna's*

meeting was productive.

**October 18** I met with Mother Karen Gay for her annual visitation then held a phone conference for the Executive Board in preparations for Diocesan Convention. I was able to pick up my hearing aid that had gone bad and then back to the office to meet with Kellan Lyman. Kellan is the missionary we supported through the Young Adult Service Corps of the Episcopal Church. She has just finished her year in the Philippines and is planning to return for another year. Kellan is impressive and has a passion for her work. I have assured her that we will support her for another year. In the evening I attended the pre-convention planning meeting at St. Augustine's, Metairie. We had a good turnout. Got home later in the evening.

**October 19** In the morning I met with a parishioner who had lost her job. The loss of a job is difficult and conjures all kinds of emotions. Following the meeting I participated in the renewal of wedding vows for Linda and Les Bradfield on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with Dean duPlantier and Canon Manning.

**October 20** I spent the day working on my sermon and the convention address.

**October 21** Today we had our first Environmental committee meeting and I was impressed with the knowledge of the committee. I have much to learn and the diocese has much to engage.

**October 22** My visitation was with St. Anna's, New Orleans. It was a great morning of confirming and receiving.

**October 23** I met with Canon's Manning and Kellogg to go over convention material. Took the afternoon off to work on a sermon.

**October 24** We had our staff meeting and then I had some phone calls to make before I had lunch with the diocesan deans. In the afternoon I made some phone calls and then worked on convention material.

**October 25** The clergy of the diocese met at All Saints, River Ridge. We had a presentation from Church Pension Group to discuss the new changes coming in 2018.

**October 26** The day began with my yearly meeting with Fr. John Pitzer. This was followed by a meeting to discuss formalizing a relationship with Cuba and New Orleans. I had lunch with Fr. Andy Thayer the new rector of Trinity, New Orleans. Later in the

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DIOCESE

afternoon I drove to Baton Rouge with a few staff members to attend the new ministry service for Fr. Dillon. Got home late.

**October 27** I worked on my sermon for Sunday.

**October 28** I attended the funeral for Fortunata Jefferson, former president of UBE.

**October 29** My visitation was with All Saints, River Ridge. It was a good day with a very nice reception that followed.

**October 30** I went into the office for a few hours and then took the rest of my day off.

**October 31** We had our usual staff meeting and then Kellan Lyman and I drove to Baton Rouge to have lunch with Ms. Nanette Noland. Kellan is a missionary in the Philippines.

**November 1** All Saints Day. I spend a good part of the day working on Convention matters.

**November 2** I wrapped up my sermon for convention and then Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge for our 180th Annual Diocesan Convention. In the evening we had dinner with the staff. It is always good to be around the staff.

**November 3** Rebecca and I went for a nice walk early in the morning and then we drove to St. James. We changed the format for the convention this year with Eucharist being observed first to set the stage for what is to follow. The church was full and had a great spirit. The convention began well and I was pleased.

**November 4** The second day of convention. Nothing contentious. Our speaker, Wendy Berry, was fantastic and so were the other talks given throughout the morning. In the evening Rebecca and I attended a wedding and came home and crashed.

**November 5** I had no visitation due to convention. Rebecca and I went for a nice long walk.

**November 6** I took my day off and washed windows.

**November 7** It is a busy morning with staff meetings followed by a meeting with a former seminarian. In the afternoon I spent time working on sermons.

**November 8** I was up early to drive to Baton Rouge for two meetings in the morning followed by a Board meeting at St. James Place. Leaving Baton Rouge in the early evening is very slow and dreadful. The traffic between Baton Rouge and New Orleans is



*[Photograph courtesy of Christ Church, Covington]  
Bishop Thompson's visitation to Christ Church.*

getting worse.

**November 9** I'm in the office all day working on sermons and other items.

**November 10** Today is the Marine Corps birthday! Semper Fi!

**November 11** Veterans Day. I spend a good bit of time reflecting on my service time and that of other military members who gave of their time to serve. I am very grateful for my time in the Marine Corps and for the service of others, some who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

**November 12** I preached and confirmed at Christ Church, Covington, for both of their morning services. It was a full day that ended with a nice lunch at the local hotel. Christ Church is growing in so many ways.

**November 13** I took my day off.

**November 14** Rebecca and I flew to New York to meet with CPG folks to talk about their new products. The night began with a reception at the Presiding Bishop's apartment and then off to dinner.

**November 15** We met all day at the Church Pension offices. It was a long day but fruitful. In the evening CPG took us bowling. Yes, we went bowling in NY and competed in teams made up of Bishops, spouses and CPG employees. I actually had the highest score and won a trophy! How about that!

**November 16** We had more meetings in the morning. Our plane didn't leave until 7 p.m. so we



walked around NYC. We arrived in New Orleans around 9:30 pm.

**November 17** I drove to the Solomon Center for the Executive Board Retreat. It was a good beginning for the new members to learn their roles.

**November 18** The Executive Board held its meeting and by 1:30 p.m. we were ready to go home. Good work took place. I drove on to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

**November 19** My visitation was at St. Stephen's, Innis. I had a blast catching up with friends and seeing the joy on the faces of so many children. Following the service there was a wonderful brunch.

**November 20** I took the week off to spend time with children and grandchildren for Thanksgiving. It was a special time to be with them.

**November 28** The day began with our staff meeting followed by catching up.

**November 29** I had an early meeting with a parishioner followed by a Sewanee conference call. The day ended with the new ministry service at Trinity Church, New Orleans, for the Rev. Andy Thayer. The service ends with a second line out of the church. Very New Orleans-ish!

**November 30** The day began with an early phone conference followed by a meeting with Mother Liz Embler-Beazley and Fr. Watson Lamb regarding Young Adult Ministries. I had lunch with Mr. Pat Bryant and then prepared for my trip to Knoxville, Tennessee.

**December 1** I had an early flight to Knoxville. I was able to do some work on the plane. The day ended with a very nice reception for Bishop-Elect Brian Cole.

**December 2** The day began early with the sealing of bishops rings for the ordination certificate. The ordination service was wonderful and the people of the Diocese of East Tennessee very hospitable. Afterwards I went to the airport with a two-hour wait until I began my journey back to New Orleans. I got home late that evening.

**December 3** My visitation was at St. Andrew's, New Orleans, where I preached, celebrated and baptized one child. It was a good day and the growth of the church is evident.

**December 4** I took my day off to prepare for another business trip later this week.

## UPCOMING BISHOP'S VISITATIONS

**January 7 at 9:30 a.m.**

Trinity Church, Morgan City

**January 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Church of the Transfiguration, Angola

**January 14 at 10:30 a.m.**

St. George's, New Orleans

**January 21 at 10 a.m.**

Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

**January 28 at 10 a.m.**

Church of the Incarnation, Amite

**February 14 at 12 p.m.** (Ash Wednesday)

Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

**February 18 at 9 a.m.**

St. Timothy's, LaPlace

**February 25 at 10 a.m.**

Holy Communion, Plaquemine

**March 4 at 10:30 a.m.**

St. Matthew's, Houma

**March 11 at 10 a.m.**

St. Matthew's, Bogalusa

**March 18 at 10:30 a.m.**

St. Francis, Denham Springs

**March 25 at 10:30 a.m.** (Palm Sunday)

Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans

**March 26 at 11 a.m.** (Chrism Mass)

Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

**March 28 at TBD** (Easter Vigil)

Place TBD-- in Southwest Deanery

**March 29 at 6 p.m.** (Maundy Thursday)

Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

**April 1 at 10 a.m.** (Easter Sunday)

Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

**April 8 at 10:15 a.m.**

St. Paul's, New Orleans

**April 15 at 10 a.m.**

St. Andrew's, Paradis

**April 22 at 9 a.m.**

St. Paul's/Holy Trinity, New Roads

**April 26 at 6 p.m.**

Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans

**April 29 at 10:30 a.m.** (Blessing of the Fleet)

St. Andrew's, Bayou Dularge

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS**

### **January 8-10**

College of Presbyters at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, Loranger. More information: [www.solomoncenter.org](http://www.solomoncenter.org)

### **January 13 at 4 p.m.**

Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet at St. Luke's, 1222 N. Dorgenois St., New Orleans.

### **January 19-21**

Emotional Sobriety: A weekend retreat for women who are or want to be in recovery at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, Loranger. More information: [www.solomoncenter.org](http://www.solomoncenter.org)

### **January 20 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Stewardship Summit at St. Paul's, 6249 Canal Blvd, New Orleans. More information: [www.edola.org/event/stewardship-summit-2018](http://www.edola.org/event/stewardship-summit-2018)

### **February 2-4**

Happening #80 at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, Loranger. More information: [www.solomoncenter.org](http://www.solomoncenter.org)

### **February 14**

Bishop's Lenten Book Study on the Gospel According to Luke begins. More information: [www.edola.org/bishop-lenten-reflections-luke](http://www.edola.org/bishop-lenten-reflections-luke). Also visit: [www.goodbookclub.org](http://www.goodbookclub.org)

### **February 17 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Young Adult Retreat: Self Reflection - A Stepping Stone Retreat at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 1100 Broadway St, New Orleans. More information: [www.edola.org/event/self-reflection-a-stepping-stone-retreat](http://www.edola.org/event/self-reflection-a-stepping-stone-retreat)

### **March 26 at 11 a.m.**

Chrism Mass at Christ Church Cathedral, 2919 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans.

### **April 20-22**

Junior High Rally at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, Loranger. More information soon.



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GOOD BOOK  
CLUB

You are invited on a great journey to explore the entire story of Jesus' life as told by Saint Luke and to read about the earliest Christians, their encounters with the Holy Spirit, and their passion for sharing the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Episcopalians around the world will read the Gospel according to Luke during Lent and the Book of Acts during Eastertide in 2018. Forward Movement invites you to join this adventure, and we welcome organizational partnerships to offer resources to sustain and enrich people in this journey.

More information: [GoodBookClub.org](http://GoodBookClub.org)

Bishop Thompson will mail out a weekly Lenten reflection on the Gospel of Luke. Learn more here: [www.edola.org/bishop-lenten-reflections-luke](http://www.edola.org/bishop-lenten-reflections-luke)