

# CHURCHWORK



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*Responding to Human  
Need by Loving Service*



# CHURCHWORK

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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### Responding to human need by loving service

#### On the Cover

[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Feeding the hungry at the St. George's Dragon Café Feeding Ministry. The Diocese of Louisiana is proud to help fund the Dragon Café through the Community Mission Appeal (CMA).

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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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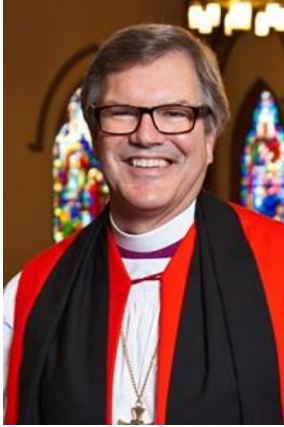
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#### Submissions

*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.



### Will You Respect the Dignity of Every Human Being?

I get looped in from time to time on topics that seem over the top. For example, I was copied on a long string of emails regarding the placement of the flag in the nave of a church. The writers of these emails had various stances on the flag, whether it should be in the church or not. Over time, these emails progressed from personal

opinions to attacks on persons with different views. If you didn't believe the flag should be in the church, then you were disloyal and ungrateful for the men and women who died in war. If you believed the flag should stand then you were patriotic, the good guy.

I read with interest these comments, but I noticed something missing. None of these comments had anything to do with Jesus, the mission of the church or faith practices. No one mentioned what the buildings we worship in stood for. Some bragged that they had flags at home or in their offices. It was when the position of boasting entered the thread I knew it was time to sign off. The conversation centered on whom was the most patriotic.

Recently, I listened to one of our headmasters speak about students who were coming to terms with their identity. One of the student was transitioning. What went through my mind was how brave the student was who was becoming aware of a deeper understanding of self. How loving were the parents in seeing their child come to this knowing and supporting their child. And how impressed I was with a school that was making plans to support this family in the best, loving, caring way possible. It hasn't been easy. Some parents were intimidated by such reality and threatened to withdraw from the school and go elsewhere.

The other day I listened to one of my staff members talk about their child being bullied in school. The pain on my staff member's face told the story of the reality of not being able to protect the child 24/7. Our world is not always kind, gentle or understanding. For some, fear is the driving force behind their actions. They fear not belonging and thus strike at individuals who seem vulnerable, an easy target.

In the baptism service the question "will you respect the dignity of every human being" has always had an impact on me. I think of it often in my work with

wounded and broken people. Respecting the dignity of every human being is the work of God's people. We are told in Genesis that God created every living creature and it was good. If we believe this then why is it we need to be above the other, think of ourselves as more valuable than our neighbor? Why is it we need to belittle someone because they believe or look different than we do? What difference is it to us how a person expresses who they have come to know themselves to be? The question we should be asking ourselves is, will we respect the dignity of our neighbor? If we can't answer yes, then we have self-work to do. It's not a matter of our neighbor being out of step, it is us!

Often, I speak of practicing in my sermons. It is because we have to practice being faithful. We can't just listen to a sermon and think we are being faithful to the gospel. Reading scripture once a week doesn't help us look deeper into the intensely demanding calling of loving our neighbor. We have to practice.

Let us resolve to respect the dignity of every human beginning today, and when the sun comes up tomorrow let us once again resolve to respect the dignity of every human being and again the next day until God tells us we are free from our sins. For this is the work God has called us to practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Morris K. Thompson, Jr." with a cross symbol to the left.

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



### Why Reinvent the Wheel?

*by the Rev. Rob Courtney, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, New Orleans*

"We need to have our own ministry." I heard these words a lot in the wake of closing our St. Paul's Homecoming Center in 2015. The Homecoming Center was the ministry our church formed in response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The center began as a resource for people in the Lakeview neighborhood or New Orleans to wash clothes and take showers in the first months after the storm and evolved into a ministry to help people return to their homes. The Homecoming Center hosted roughly 60,000 volunteers and served over 80,000 residents through our many programs and services over the course of its 10-year life. As volunteers and recovery funds dried up it became a center for local senior citizens in the Gentilly neighborhood, serving 5,000 – 7,000 residents. After two years of that work, it became apparent that the season for the center was at an end. We gave thanks for all the love shared over that 10-year period and closed the doors. St. Paul's is proud of the work we did. As a result, the question quickly turned to what was next. "We need to have our own ministry," people said.

There was urgency about the statement that felt off to me. It felt a little like a grab at status. Were we going to rush into having something just so we could say we have something? I understand the pride wrapped up in the work our center did. Yet, I do not believe we can force ministry. Real ministry comes out of both a felt need and community's call to meet that need. It's organic, and it's not really "our own ministry," it's God's. The Homecoming Center was an organic endeavor that emerged out of felt need and the community's desire to serve. Doing "our own ministry" right needed to be organic and would require discernment, and at this point in our community life, there was not one particular felt need in Lakeview that was screaming for our response in the same way.

That's how we started working with several existing ministries who we've come to think of in the old Episcopal Church language as "Partners in Mission." We've partnered with several organizations in the city, but one of our most successful partnerships has been with Covenant House.

A few years ago, I was asked to participate in the Covenant House Sleep Out, an event that allows people to raise money for Covenant House's work with homeless and at-risk youth, while also spending a night



*St. Paul's parishioners prepare meals for the residents of Covenant House.*

in solidarity with those who live on the street. At the event, participants get to know some of the residents, and each other, and sleep out on the street. I was moved by the residents and volunteers I met at the event, and by the ministry Covenant House does. I was moved by their commitment to seeking and serving Christ in all persons and respecting the dignity of every human being.

I began to tell others in the congregation about it. While I've been less successful in tempting others to sleep out on the street with me, I have been able to get people interested in donating and volunteering in other ways. One of our parishioners made a substantial donation to help fund doing a quarterly meal for the residents. Volunteers from St. Paul's prepare, deliver, and serve a meal to the residents, while also spending some time getting to know them over dinner. Then we provide an activity. We've done art projects, had musical performances, and played games with residents. We've collected Christmas presents and school supplies for residents and their children. Our run-walk group has run the Crescent City Classic as a charity team for the last two years to raise funds for Covenant House. More and more parishioners are

## Reflections

beginning to get involved in this partnership, and some have sought other ways to volunteer and to donate to the cause. We've also had opportunities to learn about the challenges of homelessness in our city, as well as become involved in advocacy work around human trafficking as a result of this relationship.

Jim Kelly, director of Covenant House, says St. Paul's is a model congregation for the work they do. If more churches followed suit in forming such partnerships think of all the lives that we and our partners could touch together.

Sometimes I think churches believe that in order to do "real ministry" we need to reinvent the wheel. We are a people who are called to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves," and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." Maybe that doesn't require reinventing the wheel or forcing ourselves into something just so we can say we have "our own ministry." God's already out in the world working through many good people and many good organizations. Maybe we just need to be the people



*For the past few years, the Rev. Rob Courtney has participated in the Covenant House Sleep Out, an event that raises money for Covenant House's work with homeless and at-risk-youth and to show solidarity with those who live on the street.*



*St. Paul's parishioners run and walk the Crescent City Classic as a charity team to raise funds for Covenant House.*

God calls us to be individually and as a community by serving, striving, and respecting in partnership with ministries already sharing in God's work. As a church of approximately 450 members St. Paul's constitute a large volunteer base. As we discern what is next for us, in the meantime why not get out there and serve our community? Why not take the time to learn what the needs are in our community, and figure out how we may be uniquely equipped as a community to respond to those needs? Why not participate in the work God is already doing out in the world? Maybe we'll find that this is exactly what "our own ministry" is after all.

To meet the poor up close, and to witness ministry in the everyday, I'd like to recommend *Shelter*, an award-winning documentary about the brave and resilient young people served by Covenant House ([shelterdocumentary.com](http://shelterdocumentary.com)). We will host a screening of *Shelter* at St. Paul's on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served following the screening and discussion. Everyone is invited. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by emailing me at [rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org](mailto:rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org).





### **St. Alban's Legacy Campaign: Open Doors. Every Day. For Everybody**

*by the Rev. Andrew Rollins, Chaplain, St. Alban's Chapel, Baton Rouge*

St. Alban's Chapel is a mission-driven ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana that provides a place of refuge, hospitality, and worship for the students, faculty, staff, and wider community of Louisiana State University. We were the first Episcopal Chapel in the United States to be built on the campus of a state university. A plaque next to the sanctuary entrance notes our mission: "to serve the faculty and students of Louisiana State University." Our congregation is multi-generational, made up of people of all ages from the LSU community and beyond. Our members come from a wide variety of denominations and religious backgrounds to find a home here in the Episcopal Church. As LSU attracts many international students, countries from all over the world are represented here. We are theologically and economically diverse, but we all share a common love for our Lord Jesus Christ and a passion for the LSU community, especially students. We emphasize our rich tradition of Anglican music, hospitality to students, and God's unrelenting grace to all us. As our motto states, our doors remain open all day, every day, for everybody.

Because of the vision and sacrifice of our first donors, we have a location and building that position us

perfectly for this ministry. We are blessed to have a sanctuary designed with incredible acoustics, an organ that wonderfully suits the space, and strategic placement just down the street from the nationally recognized LSU School of Music. There are few churches in the country that can boast of such an amazing combination of elements that provide such a great potential for ministry.

Our sanctuary, organ, and student center have always shaped how we pursue our mission. For some thirty years, the sanctuary doors of St. Alban's Chapel have stood open 24/7 for anyone to pray, reflect, or simply enjoy a moment of peace. The organ, and the acoustics and architecture of the sanctuary, make St. Alban's Chapel a prime location for LSU School of Music recitals, concerts, and classes. The unique chapel space with its incomparable acoustics, our proximity to the school, their interest in the Anglican Choral tradition, and our pipe organ enable this mutually beneficial relationship between St. Alban's Chapel and the LSU School of Music. St. Alban's Chapel also hosts a wide variety of community music events: The Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble (BREVE), The Shaped Notes Singers, The Ukulele Orchestra, The Contra Dancers.

We host four weekly AA groups. For the past eleven years, students from across the LSU campus have attended our weekly Lunch with C. S. Lewis. Attendance there has grown to between 150 to 200 students each week, many of them international students. Most college ministries search long and hard to find a real connection to the school they serve. We are already well known in this community as a hub for all kinds of music, and for our hospitality to the students, staff, and faculty of LSU.

The need to undertake some type of major fundraising campaign was identified in 2014 when we received a report that our organ was reaching the limits of its useful life. In mid-2016, we hired a consultant from the Episcopal Church Foundation to lead us through a three-phase campaign.

In Phase I, "Discernment", we surveyed our current members and reached out to our alumni online. That discernment phase helped us to identify other long-term needs here and to take the pulse of the congregation. In 2017, we hired Holden Architects to conduct a thorough inspection of our facilities from top to bottom. Their report identified other major maintenance work that needed to be addressed. This past April, we concluded Phase II, "a Feasibility Study." The purpose of that study was to determine the willingness of the congregation, alumni, the diocese, and other outside contributors to support a proposed Legacy Campaign to refurbish the organ and repair and address the maintenance of our buildings. The results revealed a very high level of financial support, wide agreement on the scope of the campaign, and an eagerness to volunteer. We have now embarked on Phase III, "Solicitation", the last and most important phase of this campaign. After a careful review of that Feasibility Study with our Episcopal Church Foundation consultants, the leadership of St. Alban's has set a primary goal of \$536,000 and a challenge goal of \$636,000. Any funds raised over our primary goal towards the challenge goal would be set aside in trust for the ongoing maintenance of the organ and buildings. The solicitation phase will run to November 11, 2018, when we hope and expect to announce that our goal has been met.

There is a beautiful and simple logic at the heart of this campaign. We need a fully functional organ to continue to worship in our beautiful sanctuary in the style that we have worshipped for many decades. It does not make sense to reinstall a repaired and refurbished organ in a building that is in decline. We also need the student center to be well maintained to continue our ministry of hospitality to students. A refurbished organ

installed in a well-kept building is the necessary foundation for ministry in the decades ahead.

Though the outcome of this Legacy Campaign will not be known until the end of November, we have already benefited greatly from the process. In early stages, we were forced to ask ourselves "Why are we here?" and "Where is God leading us?" and "What does it mean for us to move forward as a mission?" Those discussions led us to reaffirm our mission, clarifying what we can and cannot do. The process has reinvigorated our relationship with the LSU School of Music and raised our sites for what sorts of ministry our wonderful sanctuary and student center make possible. The months of preparation for a campaign launch have also reconnected us with our alumni across the nation. We have found that there is a large group of former students who want to join us in ensuring that future LSU students have access to the same wonderful experience that they received.

Personally, the added demands of leading a campaign have required me to pass responsibilities into other capable and waiting hands. The process of calling forth new leadership has helped me to identify places where my own desire for control was holding back our growth. We are now watching new leaders exercise gifts and talents that previously lay buried. For instance, our campaign video was professionally produced at no charge to us with the assistance of a new and younger member of the congregation. (Check out the video at [www.stalban.org!](http://www.stalban.org!))

In early October, the clergy of the diocese will each receive a packet of information about this Legacy Campaign, and a pledge card. We hope that, in addition to a strong show of support from our current congregation and alumni, churches from across the diocese will also contribute. We invite your prayers for this campaign, for the future of this mission, and thank you in advance for your prayers and support!



### St. Luke's Seeking and Serving Christ

*by Lisa Lee, Co-chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee, and the Rev. Bryan Owens, Rector, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge*

This year the parish church of St. Luke in Baton Rouge is responding to God's call to more regularly and intentionally reach out into the community with God's love. To stay on track, we formed a mission and outreach committee to provide leadership and direction. Following our Baptismal Covenant promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves," the St. Luke's Mission and Outreach Committee discerns God's call to serve in the community and to invite people of all ages to contribute their time, talent, and treasure outside the parish.

Church is more than just a physical place or an hour of worship on Sunday. Church also happens when we follow Christ out into the world to actively and intentionally love our neighbors. The deacon ends mass saying: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." That's a powerful reminder that when worship ends, the service begins - outside the comfort and security of the sanctuary, the chapel, or the sacristy.



*[Photograph provided by St. Luke's] Installing smoke detectors in the homes of low income families.*



*[Photograph provided by St. Luke's] On a recent Sunday morning, St. Luke's parishioners assemble bags of laundry detergent for Volunteers of America.*

Fulfilling the promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons challenges us to minister to people's needs in concrete ways. When we feed the hungry or give a care package to a homeless person on the street, we are recognizing and serving Christ in them, and showing them the respect and dignity they deserve as persons created in the image of God. Those are holy moments when the presence of God's Kingdom becomes more tangible and real.

St. Luke's now offers at least one and sometimes two outreach opportunities each month. Some of the many activities we have done include: preparing and serving meals at homeless shelters, installing life-saving fire alarms in homes of low income families, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, working in food pantries helping low income senior citizens, assembling bags of laundry detergent for homeless veterans to wash their clothes, and revitalizing a school for at-risk youth.

Some of the activities remaining on our 2018 calendar include: distributing "blessing bags" to homeless people living on the street, preparing and delivering Thanksgiving meals to homebound individuals, "adopting" low-income seniors and children for Christmas, and assembling holiday care packages for



## Ministry Spotlight

maritime workers away from their families at Christmas. In September, we'll start planning for 2019!

At St. Luke's, we're seeing our outreach efforts make a difference in the lives of both those we serve as well as our members. Here's what St. Luke's member Tyler deFrancis wrote in response to the question, "How has your involvement in outreach touched your life?"

"With everything our area has been going on in our local area and around the country for the past two years, I was tired of just sitting on the sidelines and complaining about everything, I felt like I had to personally do something to make my city a better place. I knew I wanted to do something but I wasn't sure where to start. This is why I jumped at the chance to join the committee when Fr Bryan asked me. I have always felt like I was a sympathetic person towards others, but on reflecting realized it was personally towards people I already knew or giving the occasional donation when called to do so. Being involved in outreach ministries has pushed me to actively help ALL people regardless of whether or not I know them. "

Tyler also notes how increased outreach opportunities have the potential to attract new persons who might not otherwise get involved in church life: "At this time



*[Photograph provided by St. Luke's] On Thanksgiving Day, parishioners gather for worship and stay after the service to package and deliver meals to homebound individuals.*

many non-Christians like to point to the way some Christians act towards others as a way to justify not joining the church. I think the more positive things they see us doing the more likely we will be able to bring them into the church, especially the younger generations. "

If you're thinking about doing more with outreach in your church, it doesn't take much to get started. Find a charitable organization in your area and ask how your church can help. Maybe start with a donation drive by collecting items for a local food pantry. Ask around to see if any parishioners have experience serving the community. And be intentional about personally inviting members of your church to participate.

As we seek to faithfully follow the One who came not to be served but to serve, reaching out beyond ourselves to the least of these in our community, our hope is that God's love and grace will work through St. Luke's and all of the churches in our diocese to make a difference in the lives of others.



*[Photograph provided by St. Luke's] Building a house with Habitat for Humanity.*



### Pastoral Care to Refugees in the Arab World

by Dr. Caroline Carson, Seminarian, University of the South

I received a UTO grant in January 2018 for my proposal "Pastoral Care to Refugees in the Arab World" and for work in the Diocese of Egypt, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa. This was a terrific surprise as it was not expected that I would be funded for work in a part of the Anglican Communion with views that are not 100% aligned with Episcopal views regarding women's ordination, sexuality, etc. A happy surprise then to receive it!

Knowing that the grant covered no travel expenses, I took a risk and planned travel on both ends of the project so that I could be relatively near Cairo, where I might be working. I arranged to volunteer with the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe at St. Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome. This in itself was a fantastic experience: getting to work with the Rev. Austin K. Rios and the Rev. Francisco Alberga at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center.

Why Egypt? I have always been fascinated with our world's ancient history and had previously visited Egypt. I was curious what the Anglican church was like there compared to other locations in the Middle East. Via Twitter and then in person, I made a connection

with Rev. Kerry Buttram, a priest at All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Cairo. He and his wife Cynthia are extremely active missionaries and dedicated loving people. I proposed to him my pastoral care project, other ideas, and my desire to learn about the diocese. After consultation with Bishop Mouneer Anis, he let me know that I was very welcomed.

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa is a diocese within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East the worldwide Anglican Communion. It extends over eight countries including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Djibouti. All Saints' Cathedral, located in Cairo, is the spiritual hub and diocesan headquarters of about 100 congregations across Egypt. The diocese supports over 30 institutions which include hospitals, clinics, nurseries, schools, a theological seminary, micro-enterprise ventures, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for refugees, the deaf and the disabled.

My goals were to continue learning and internalizing what it feels like to be a Christian in a place where one is the minority, discover untold stories of individuals



seeking refugee status, learn about the UNHCR (United Nations High Council for Refugees) in this part of the world, and to be helpful in any way to Refuge Egypt, the diocese, and its cathedral. I certainly am blessed and honored that I truly did accomplish my goals and that I was greatly moved in the process. I grew spiritually, in my prayer life, and in my sense and philosophy of mission. I had a personal breakthrough in what it means to me to be an Anglican in the world.

I got to know the Refuge Egypt organization, its staff, and many refugees who came through during the month. I sat with them and heard their stories about walking to the border of Sudan, crossing the country, and arriving in Cairo with children in tow. I heard tragedies of what it is like to live in the middle of a corrupt area with rebel factions stealing your land, house, food, and killing your friends or your wife. It was visceral, dramatic, and what millions experience along portions of their personal timelines as they migrate across vast lands to find shelter, begin a new life, renew hope, and attempt to preserve their heritage. Many arrive at the center while still in shock at being uprooted or in poor health at such lengthy travel with limited rations, if any. I had seen this shock in some of the refugees in Rome. It moves you. It demands your heart. It changes you.

I worked with refugees in career training and helped teach English communications for interviews, meetings,



*[Photograph by Caroline Carson] A few of the families Caroline Carson met while working with Refugee Egypt.*



*[Photograph provided by Caroline Carson] Saying "I love you" in sign language at the Church of the Deaf in Coptic Cairo.*

etc. We had fun! I am still in touch with a few of them. I volunteered as a photographer at events and churches, reintroduced Taizé worship (planned and implemented several services), attended clergy meetings, explored outreach programs, and gave a workshop on wellbeing. The workshop was hosted by the diocese's Bridges Cultural program which aims to gather community members of Muslim and Christian faiths for sharing, learning, and social interactions. My workshop included music and movement, confidence-building exercises, healthy habits for personal wellbeing, and an introduction to types of meditation, purposes, and methods of each kind.

I visited the Church of the Deaf in Coptic Cairo. The Diocese of Egypt holds the only ordained deaf Anglican clergyman in the entire Middle East, Deacon Clement. He is joined by priests for each Eucharist. Clement is gregarious, kind, and loves his flock. As is the Coptic tradition of the neighborhood, the dress is formal and women and men sit in pews on separate sides of the aisle. Cairo has the majority, but a whopping 16% of Egypt's population is hearing impaired. The church hosts several programs during the week. What I noticed most about my visit was everyone's over-the-top hospitality and their great senses of humor! Their laughter and smiles may or may not have been related to my attempts to mirror Egyptian sign language during corporate prayer.



## Reflections

I was allowed to visit a major prison on the outskirts of Cairo while there. The Al Kanater prison houses both men and women, foreigners and Egyptians. That's it. Just the housing and water. Prisoners must band together and/or hope for visits from friends, relatives, churches, and other organizations for food, cooking implements, and oil. I can attest to extremely poor conditions, bags of food skimmed by those in charge, and money bribes taken for the guard gate to be opened to those who did not (or could not) wait outside in the heat for hours (as we did) to see the prisoners. Some guards taunt visitors and make empty threats. I have met the prisoners, heard their stories, prayed with and for them, and provided a non-judgmental presence. The Diocese provides regular visitation and food support to some of the prisoners. They are doing God's work.

Some other things of interest I got to do included: visit a refugee training center in 6 October City, visit Harpur Memorial Hospital in Sadat City, and visit the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral complex including the Institute for Coptic Studies. This is where I also bought my first alb, in the beautiful Coptic traditional style. I visited the Zabbaleen community, known widely as "Trash City", spent two days in spiritual retreat at Anafora Coptic retreat (link below) in the Wadi al Nitrun, and visited St. Mark's Anglican Church and the great Library in Alexandria.

As a parish priest, I hope to incorporate my experiences into ministry with all people and into being

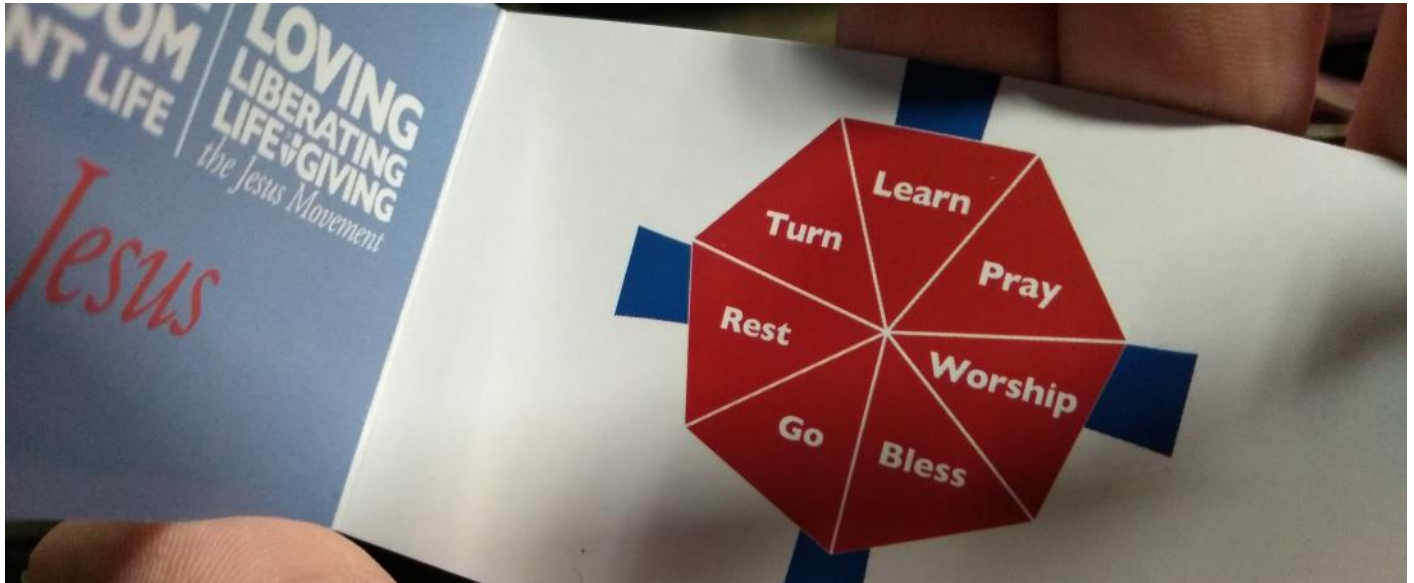


[Photograph provided by Caroline Carson] Caroline led a yoga class at the refugee center.



[Photograph provided by Caroline Carson] Caroline Carson preaching at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, Cairo.

a resource for those seeking a spiritual home or considering various areas of mission, domestic or foreign. I hope to be a resource and teach about mission and pilgrimage. Our mission as a Church includes compassion, justice, and reconciliation, and in order to fulfill that mission and truly know what it means, we need active relationships with others who are different from ourselves. I would personally love to further explore and synthesize ideas in pneumatological missiology as it presents itself across the Anglican Communion, seeking the manifestation and the presence of the Holy Spirit on a global level through the lenses of both liturgy and hospitality. I see my future ministry as multi-faceted. I have high energy, humor, and creativity - and I hope to be an asset to my future church in pastoral care and enthusiastic ministry, to this diocese in mission, liturgy, & music, and to the advancement of global partnerships and interfaith relations in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.



### An Invitation From Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry to Practice the Way of Love

*I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:17-19*

In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way."

Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?

The deep roots of our Christian tradition may offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a "Rule of Life." The framework you now hold – The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life – outlines a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

It is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups, congregations, and networks can flesh it out in unique ways and build a church-wide treasure trove of stories and resources.

There is no specific order you need to follow. If you already keep a Rule or spiritual disciplines, you might reflect and discover how that path intersects with this one. By entering into reflection, discernment and commitment around the practices of Turn - Learn - Pray - Worship - Bless - Go - Rest, I pray we will grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus. His way has the power to change each of our lives and to change this world.

Your brother in the Way of Jesus,

+Michael

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Primate and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church



### The Clericus (June-August 2018)

#### Transitions in the Diocese

*The Rev. Dan Puchala* was called as permanent supply priest of St. Luke's, New Orleans.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry appointed *the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson* as Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within the Episcopal Church.

#### New Clergy in the Diocese

*The Rev. Stephen Shortess* was ordained a priest on Saturday, June 23 at St. John's Episcopal Church, Thibodaux. He was called to serve as priest-in-charge of Trinity Church, Morgan City, and St. John's, Thibodaux, effective June 24, 2018.

*The Rev. Gina Jenkins* was ordained a priest on Monday, June 25 at St. Paul's, New Orleans. She was called to serve as chaplain of St. Paul's School, New Orleans.

*John Boyd* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 30. He was assigned by Bishop Thompson to serve at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge.

*Joseph "Joey" Clavijo* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 30. He was assigned by Bishop Thompson to serve at St. George's, New Orleans.

*The Rev. Christopher Golding* was called as associated priest of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, effective August 26, 2018. A native of Australia, he has served in parishes in Australia and most recently as vicar of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Kailua, Hawaii.

The Rev. Martha Klein-Larsen was licensed in our diocese on August 16, 2018. She comes to this diocese from the Diocese of Connecticut.

#### Clergy Deaths

*The Rev. James Douglass* died at the age of 91 at his home in Puerto Cortes, Honduras on July 15. He retired in 1991 and returned to live in Honduras where he was a missionary for many years.

*The Rev. Hill Riddle* died at the age of 82 at his home in New Orleans on July 28. He retired in 2003 after serving 19 years as rector of Trinity Church, New Orleans.



*Ordination of John Boyd and Joey Clavijo to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 30 at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.*



*Ordination of Stephen Shortess to the Sacred Order of Priests on June 23 at St. John's, Thibodaux.*



*Ordination of Gina Jenkins to the Sacred Order of Priests on June 25 at St. Paul's, New Orleans.*





### St. Francis Builds a New Sanctuary

*[Photographs from the St. Francis, Denham Springs, Facebook Page]* In April, St. Francis broke ground on their new sanctuary. We have watched their progress over the last few months and look forward to celebrating with them in November as they worship in the new sanctuary for the first time.



### Invite Welcome Connect (left)

*[Photograph from the Trinity, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* The Diocese of Louisiana was well represented at the Invite Welcome Connect training at the University of the South in June. In this photograph (left to right) the Rev. Liz Embler Beazley from St. Paul's, New Orleans; the Rev. Robert Beazley from St. Andrew's, New Orleans; Tom Oliver from St. Paul's, New Orleans; and the Rev. John Pitzer from Trinity, New Orleans.



### Laundry Love (right)

*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* Lester Mutt of St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, helped man the St. Margaret's booth at Baton Rouge Pride on June 16, 2018. They gave away mini boxes of Tide to raise awareness of the St. Margaret's Laundry Love ministry.



## Out and About in the Diocese



### Holy Land Pilgrimage

*[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Pilgrims from the Diocese of Louisiana returned to the Holy Land for the diocese's biennial pilgrimage in June 2018. The pilgrimage was organized by the Rev. Rob Courtney and led by local guide Canon Iyad Qumri. Pilgrims walked in the footsteps of Jesus, traveling to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, and other historical sites and holy places. The next pilgrimage is scheduled November 2-12, 2020.





### **ECW Board Orientation (left)**

*[Photograph provided by Ann Ball, ECW President]* ECW Board members elected during the ECW Annual Gathering met at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center from June 20-21 for an orientation.



### **Patriotic Music Festival (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* Trinity Church, New Orleans, held their annual Patriotic Music Festival on July 1. The festival included performances by the Marine Corps Band and Ellis Marsalis.



### **Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative Essence Day of Service (left)**

*[Photograph from the Jericho Road Facebook Page]* Volunteers who participated in the Essence Day of Service on July 5, 2018. Volunteers helped clean up empty lots in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans.

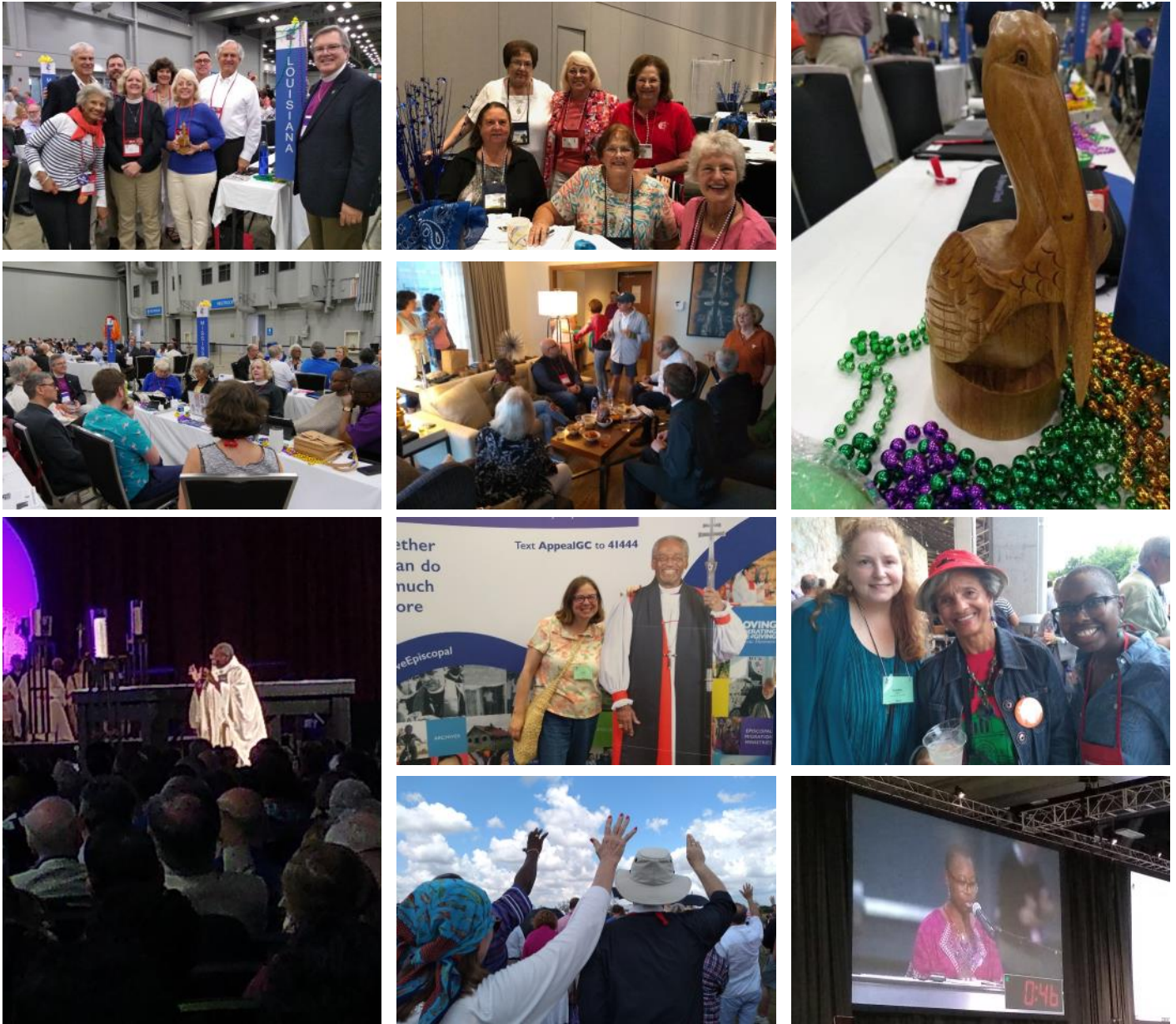


### **CEEP (right)**

*[Photograph provided by Christ Church, Covington]* Every summer since 1992 Christ Church, Covington, has held its Christ Church Enrichment Program (CEEP). This outreach program for kids in grades 3-6 integrates academic classes taught by certified teachers, enrichment lessons and activities presented by volunteers from the church and community, lessons in character development, goal-setting, and conflict resolution as well as weekly field trips and swimming.



## Out and About in the Diocese



### The 79th General Convention

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* The 79th General Convention was held July 5-13 in Austin, Texas. Deputies from Louisiana were: the Rev. Sharon Alexander (Trinity, Baton Rouge), Lindsey Ardrey (St. George's, New Orleans), Ann Ball (All Saints, River Ridge), the Very Rev. Richard Easterling (St. George's, New Orleans), Carolyn Harris (St. Luke's, New Orleans), the Very Rev. A. J. Heine (St. Augustine's, Metairie), the Rev. Anne Maxwell (Christ Church, Covington), and John Musser (Trinity, New Orleans). The Rev. Tommy Dillon (St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge) and David Warrington (St. James, Baton Rouge) were the alternates.

Photographs: *1st Row left-* Deputies and Bishop Thompson on the floor of the House of Deputies, *1st Row Middle—* Delegates to the ECW Triennial Meeting; *1st Row Right—* Something to represent Louisiana at GC; *2nd Row left—* The deputies working on the floor of the House of Deputies; *2nd Row Middle—* The Louisiana Caucus; *3rd Row Left—* Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaching at the opening Eucharist; *3rd Row Middle—* Karen Mackey exploring the Exhibit Hall; *3rd Row Right—* Having fun at Texas Night after the Revival; *4th Row Middle—* Praying at the Hutto Detention Center; *4th Row Right—* Lindsey Ardrey speaking on the floor of the House of Deputies.





### **St. Margaret's at the Wild Goose Festival (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* In mid-July, parishioners from St. Margaret's attended the Wild Goose Festival in Hot Springs, North Carolina. The Rev. Tommy Dillon, rector of St. Margaret's, serves on the board of the Wild Goose Festival.



### **Clergy Day at All Saints' (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On July 18, the clergy of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at All Saints', River Ridge, to discuss General Convention resolutions.



### **Care Baskets for Newborns (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Instagram Page]* St. Luke's Family Ministry team created care baskets to deliver to new moms.



### **St. Patrick's Celebration (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Patrick's Day School Facebook Page]* On July 15, St. Patrick's held a mid-summer St. Patrick's celebration. The day included games and a performance by the St. Patrick's Day Camp Choir.



### **First Sunday for the Rev. Chris Duncan (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On Sunday, July 22, the Rev. Chris Duncan celebrated his first Sunday as rector of St. James, Baton Rouge.



### **TEEP (right)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* The Trinity Education and Enrichment Program of Trinity Church, New Orleans, completed its 42nd year in July. TEEP's mission is to provide summer learning experiences for children in academics, life skills, performance and visual arts, while encouraging students to develop positive self-esteem. The Diocese of Louisiana is proud to help fund TEEP through the Gaudet Community Grant.



### **Summer Sounds at St. James, Baton Rouge (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. James, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* On July 25, the Chris LeBlanc Band played at the annual St. James Summer Sounds concert series.



### **Anna's Place Summer Camp (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* The Anna's Place NOLA campers performed portions of Scott Joplin's opera "Treemonisha" on July 21 as the grand finale of their summer program. The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is proud to have provided grants through the Frances Joseph-Gaudet Fund and the Community Mission Appeal (CMA) to this awesome ministry to the children of the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans.





### **Camp Able (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Andrew's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Campers and volunteers had a blast at Camp Able held July 25-29 at St. Andrew's, New Orleans. Camp Able is a week long summer camp and year round youth group for children and adults with special needs. The Diocese of Louisiana was proud to help fund the camp this year with a grant through the Community Mission Appeal (CMA).



### **St. Martin's Mosaic (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Martin's, Metairie, Facebook Page]* St. Martin's recently installed a mosaic of their patron saint in the narthex of the church. It was given to the Glory of God by the Joseph M. Rault, Jr. Family. Created by artist Steve Wilson of Baton Rouge, this piece is designed to draw us into sacred space. It tells the seminal story of God's activity in Martin's life and invites us to contemplate God's activity in our own lives.



### **Honey from St. Philip's (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Philip's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* St. Philip's, New Orleans, harvested honey from their beehives this summer and sold jars to raise money for church outreach projects.



### **Opening of the New (right)**

*[Photograph provided by Episcopal School of Baton Rouge]* Episcopal School of Baton Rouge hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, August 10 to celebrate the opening of the new Academic Commons. The 27,000 square foot facility, which now serves as the center for Upper School math and science, features 17 classrooms, lab and project space, an engineering and robotics suite and an entrepreneurial studies center.



### **Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage (left)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Trinity Church and the Racial Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana organized a trip to the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage in Hayneville, Alabama, on August 11, 2018. For 22 years, pilgrims from across the Episcopal Church have journeyed on the second Saturday in August to the spot where Jonathan Daniels was shot to death protecting an African-American teenage girl. In 1991, the Episcopal Church added Jonathan Daniels as a martyr to the Calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts.



### **The PaulCast (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Father Rob Courtney, Mother Liz Embler-Beazley, and Melissa Carnall in the studio recording a recent episode of Paulcast, their podcast about life and faith at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



### **More Than a Game: Baseball, Life, and Faith (left)**

*[Photograph by the Rev. Bill Miller, Christ Church, Covington]* Thirty pilgrims participated in "More Than a Game: Baseball, Life, and Faith" with Father Bill Miller and Herb Carver. The pilgrims attended baseball games at Wrigley Field (Cubs), Guaranteed Rate Field (White Sox) and Miller Park (Milwaukee). The group heard presentations by Dr. Bill Savage from Northwestern University, and the Rev. Dr. Scott Stoner of Living Compass, and visited a number of interesting sites including the Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame, Buddy Guy's Legends, the Chicago Sports Museum, Harry Caray's 7th Inning Stretch, and participated in a VIP tour of Wrigley. The pilgrimage concluded with worship at St. James Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Chicago.



### **First Sunday for the Rev. Chris Goulding (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* The Rev. Chris Goulding on his first Sunday as associate priest of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, on August 26, 2018.





### **Parish Administrator Luncheon (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On August 29, 2018, parish administrators from churches across the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at Christ Church Cathedral to network and learn. Presentations from the diocesan staff included changes in healthcare plans, financial best practices, and the Episcopal Asset Map.



### **Blessing of the Backpacks and Students (right)**

*[Photograph by Mary Blackburn, St. John's, Thibodaux]* The Rev. Stephen Shortess blesses students, teachers, and school bags at St. John's, Thibodaux on an August Sunday morning.



### **Songwriter Concert (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* On September 1, 2018, St. Margaret's held a songwriter concert featuring Lynn Adler, Lindy Hearne, Maria Curry, and others.



### **First Annual Solomon Center Disc Fest (right)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On Labor Day, the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center held its first annual Disc Golf Fest. The Solomon Center is currently raising funds to build a permanent world-class disc golf course to enhance the experience of those who visit for both rest and play.



### **Celebrating the Saints (left)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* The clergy of Trinity, New Orleans, have fun at a New Orleans Saints football tailgate party thrown at the church at the start of the "Saints Season." Who Dat!!



### **Happening #81 (right)**

*[Photograph provided by the Rev. Jane Allison Wiggling-Nettles]* Youth gathered for Happening #81 at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center from September 14-16, 2018. Happening is a youth-led retreat for high schoolers to take a weekend away from the stress and pressures of high school for reflection of faith and personal growth.



### **Feasting at St. Augustine's (left)**

*[Photograph from the St.. Augustine's, Metairie, Facebook Page]* St. Augustine's parishioners gather for breakfast one Sunday morning as part of their Join the Feast Campaign. This was a reminder during the month of September that every Sunday is feast day.



### **Student Lunch at Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans (right)**

*[Photograph provided by the Rev. John Craft, Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans]* Father John Craft with a group of students from Southern University of New Orleans during a recent lunch held at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter. Students gather weekly for lunch and conversation.





### **Trinity Parishioners Build a Habitat House (left)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* In September, parishioners from Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, participated in a home build for Habitat for Humanity.



### **Deacon Pat Lyle Photograph Blessed at St. Margaret's (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* Deacon Pat Lyle next to her newly installed photograph hung at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge. In 1986 Deacon Pat became the second woman to be ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Louisiana. She served at St. Margaret's as well as St. James Place.



### **Vestry Training Day (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* Vestry members and clergy from across the Diocese of Louisiana attended Vestry Training Day at St. Andrew's, New Orleans, on September 22, 2018. The training was organized by Diocesan Canon Missioner, the Rev. Canon John Kellogg, to help our clergy and lay leaders to build skills to help them proclaim the Good News in their communities.



### **Beatles Mass at Christ Church, Covington (right)**

*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Covington, Facebook Page]* Christ Church held a Beatles Mass: All You Need is Love on Sunday, September 23, 2018. The service featured songs of love and hope from the Beatles. The clergy wore vestments created for the service by a Christ Church parishioner.

## **Bishop's Journal: June 2018 - August 2018**

June 1: I spent the morning working on sermon material and in the evening, I attended the graduation ceremony of St. Martin's School.

June 2: No meetings today. Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge for the night.

June 3: I'm up early to drive to Clinton where I preach and celebrate at St. Andrews. Afterwards we had a very nice brunch.

June 4: I got up early for a flight to Kaunga to begin the Province IV bishop's meeting. The Ashville airport has changed the way you receive your rental car. It was a mess!

June 5: The bishops spent much of the day catching up on what has been going on. I appreciate this time because we get a glimpse into each other's lives. Today is my wedding anniversary and the eighth time I've been out of town for a bishop's meeting. One day....

June 6: The bishops continue to meet and discuss topics that matter to us. Much of our discussion centers around General Convention that is a month away. My son and his wife arrive at Kanuga and we have lunch together. In the evening the Province IV Synod begins.

June 7: Synod continues with the Presiding Bishop addressing us, and in Bishop Curry fashion, he electrifies the crowd. The day is long and ends with the deputation from our diocese and me gathering for a discussion about General Convention.

June 8: I leave early from Synod to fly back to New Orleans

June 9: I drive to the Solomon Conference Center for a board meeting. The facility is full with several groups. The management team is doing a fine job and it shows.

June 10: I get up early to drive to Sewanee, Tennessee, for a regents meeting. It is a long drive but I have picked a good book to listen. Our time together begins with a dinner at the vice-chancellor's home. Sleep comes easily.

June 11: We are up early for a 7:30 Eucharist and then our meetings begin. There is a lot to discuss and act upon.

June 12: We begin early in the morning and finish around 4:00. I spend the night and have dinner with Doris and Corky Carlisle.

June 13: I'm up early and begin my drive back to New Orleans. On the way I stop in Meridian, Mississippi, to have lunch with my son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Seeing them makes a very nice break in the trip.

June 14: I spend time with Cassandra catching up and with Chris talking about financial matters. Later I visit my hearing doctor and then the eye doctor where she dilates my eyes. I drive home blurry eyed!

June 15: I spend time working on sermons for the coming Sunday and afterwards.

June 16: Thank goodness no meetings. I'm tired of sitting down. Rebecca and I go for a long walk. We drive to Baton Rouge for the evening and have a nice meal together.

June 17: My visitation is with the Church of the Nativity in Rosedale. Fr. Jerry Philips is doing a fine job. I preach/celebrate and receive and confirm 4 new members. Following the service, we have a very nice meal and then I meet with the vestry. It is a fantastic day.

June 18: Monday I spend time cooking for a friend visiting from Lexington, Kentucky. It is good to see an old friend.

June 19: I wake up to the news that John and Tait Kellogg have a new addition to their family. Alexander Riley Kellogg weighing 10 pounds 5 ounces was born. We are so excited for them. We have a staff meeting and that is followed by a phone conference with Fr. Drew Rollins regarding St. Alban's capitol campaign. I'm excited about this work and will be seeking help from people all around the diocese. After all, our college ministries are our ministries. Later I officiate at



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Ordination of the Rev. Stephen Shortess to the Sacred Order of Priests.*



the noon day Eucharist at the Cathedral. In the afternoon I meet Kahlida Lloyd of Mission Reconcile to discuss reconciliation work she is leading in New Orleans. I finish the day meeting with Karen Mackey and Lindsey Ardrey in regards to communication and General Convention

June 20: I am able to spend much of the morning catching up on calendaring. I also have a "red flag" check from another diocese in the morning. Later Canon Manning and I drive to Amite to meet with their leaders regarding the future of their church. On the way home receive a much-anticipated phone call from Canon Kellogg telling us all about their new baby.

June 21: In the morning I meet with Fr. Robert Beazley for his first consultation. Fr. Beazley is the chaplain at St. Andrew's school and also the associate at St. Andrew's church. My next appointment is with Fr. Paul Bailey for his annual consultation. Fr. Bailey is the rector of Grace Memorial Church in Hammond. In the afternoon Lindsey Audrey and I sit for a video to be used at General Convention. Later I have a phone conference with Bishops United Against Gun Violence.

June 22: I spend the day working on my sermon for Sunday.

June 23: I drive to Thibodaux for the ordination of Stephen Shortess at St. John's. The church is full of joy and welcome. It is a good day for the diocese. I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

June 24: My visitation is at Trinity, Baton Rouge where I preach, celebrate and receive, and confirm several new Episcopalians. Afterwards they have a very nice jazz brunch.

June 25: I take some of the morning off and then begin to prepare for the ordination of Gina Jenkins to the priesthood. It is held at St. Paul's where Gina will serve as school chaplain.

June 26: The day begins with our usual staff meeting followed by a meeting with Mother Morgan MacIntire for her annual consultation. I enjoy hearing about her work at Christ Church, Covington. In the afternoon I meet with a parishioner who is interested in the discernment process. I am always impressed with individuals who desire to follow Christ into some kind of formal ministry. The discernment process is to help them "discern" that nudge they sense from God. Later on I have a phone conversation regarding another red-flag inquiry. I jump into my car and head for Baton Rouge to spend the night.

June 27: I have an early appointment with Fr. Tommy Dillon for his first consultation since he has been back



*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Trinity, Baton Rouge, on June 24.*

in the diocese. St. Margaret's is thriving under his leadership. I have a phone conference and then meet Fr. Chris Capaldo for lunch. I drive to the Solomon Center to pick up something for General Convention and then head home for a meeting with our chancellor.

June 28: At noon today I have lunch with Fr. Bill Terry for his annual consultation at Juan's Flying Burrito. I should eat there more often! Later I meet with our auditors. I appreciate very much their work in helping us to have good business practices.

June 29: I have one meeting today and then work on my sermon for Saturday.

June 30: Today we ordain two deacons; Joey Clavijo and John Boyd. It is a grand day and it ends a long drought of not bringing in new deacons. Joey will serve at St. George's and John will serve at St. Margaret's.

July 1: I have no visitation this day and use it to get ready for General Convention.

July 2: Spend the day running errands and then late in the evening Rebecca and I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night. We want to get a jump on driving to Austin, Texas.

July 3: Up early we leave Baton Rouge at 6:30 and arrive in Austin around 2. It gives me time to check into the hotel, get my credentials for General Convention and go to my first committee meeting. This convention I am serving on committee number 14, Christian Formation and Discipleship.

July 4: The fourth is a long day. We begin in committee meetings until noon. We have a quick cracker and peanut butter then a joint meeting with the deputies

and bishops together. Following that gathering both houses meet respectfully for orientation. After this meeting the House of Bishops hold a "listening session". This is a liturgy surrounding voices of individuals who have been abused by the church. I cannot do justice to the words that are spoken. Individual bishops read letters written by men and women who have been victims of sexual acts perpetrated upon them by individuals who were leaders in the church. The readings allow us to hear the horrors that faithful parishioners have experienced. Much of GC focuses on how we can do better in protecting the least of these. At the end of the day Rebecca and I host our deputation in our suite to go over the events of the day. It is called a caucus. It is a nice way of helping everyone understand what this gathering is all about and to share what we know.

July 5: The first real day of General Convention. I am up early to get to my committee meeting. This is a short meeting and then we go into the opening Eucharist. The Presiding Bishop preaches a rousing sermon that sets the tone for the convention. I don't remember a convention beginning in this manner. Following the service we are back in our committee meetings and hearings. There is a brief break for more crackers and peanut butter and then off to committee meetings until four that afternoon. Following that meeting I go back to the HOB to begin our work as bishop. There is a quick break but I am tired of peanut butter crackers so go to the final stretch of committee meetings.

July 6: I begin the day with committee meetings. From there we have a joint meeting with HOB/HoD regarding racial reconciliation. At the end of this meeting a brief

break (peanut butter crackers) and then back into our legislative committees. At the end of this meeting I walk back to the HOB to conclude the day.

July 7: I begin the day with more committee meetings and then I go to the HOB meeting. I actually have lunch today with some friends and then back for another joint meeting with deputies and bishops surrounding evangelism. In the evening we have a Revival! I don't know how to truly explain this event other than it is spectacular. The music is powerful and the sermon by the Presiding Bishop is strong and energizing. We will implement this in our diocese!

July 8: This morning I participate in the Bishops United Against Gun Violence where we hear from the family of Carmen Schentrup who's daughter was killed in the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas on Ash Wednesday. As I stand alongside the family I am overwhelmed by their courage and their pain. They are members of the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida. Our next speaker is Abigail Zimmerman from Texas, who will enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in August. She was so determined after the Parkland shooting that she organized a walkout to remember the victims. What passion she has for the victims and the mission of speaking out against gun violence. Following this gathering I walk to the Episcopal Church Women meeting to dine and escort Laurel McCartney to receive her award for distinguished woman of the year. It is a joy and honor to do so. Later in the afternoon we continue our legislative sessions until seven. Rebecca and I again host our deputies. Much more has been going on and now we are really in the thick of things regarding resolutions. I truly enjoy being with our deputation.

July 9: The committee on which I serve thought we had finished our work, but to our chagrin we have one more small piece of work to complete. We meet for about an hour and then wrap everything up. I have about an hour to spare so I go back to the room to prop my feet up and read some of the resolutions that are coming to the HOB. At ten o'clock I go to the meeting room for the HOB. I have a brief break and then we return to finish our work that afternoon. Rebecca and I host the deputies at Truluck's, a very nice Restaurant. It is a small token of gratitude for the long hours they are putting into their work. It is a very nice evening.

July 10: I do not have an early meeting so Rebecca, our son, Morris and I go for a nice walk along the river. To be able to stretch my legs more than sitting is a gift. After cleaning up I go to another joint session regarding God's care of Creation. This speaks to me



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Bishop Thompson participated in Bishops United Against Gun Violence*



since we have just begun our work in Louisiana in the area of environmental stewardship. We break for lunch and I tag along with our deputies for a bite of sushi. It is a nice break from peanut butter. I return in the afternoon for a HOB meeting until the early evening. Rebecca and I attend the Sewanee evening at Coopers Old Time Bar-B-Q. Luckily it is just around the corner. We enjoy seeing friends and Dr. McCardell the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South.

July 11: I begin the day with having breakfast with Iyad Qumri and his son. Iyad has been the guide for so many Episcopalians to the Holy Lands. We discuss my return with people from our diocese in 2020. Be thinking about it! We finish in time for me to get to the HOB meeting that takes us through lunch. The afternoon begins with our last joint meeting between the HOB and HOD. The topic is the budget. After this meeting both houses return to their work. Tonight Rebecca and I host the last night of deputy caucus. It's a good thing because we are running out of food.

July 12: Today we spend the whole time within our perspective houses and then we have the closing Eucharist.

July 13: Friday the 13, the last day. The morning is a little slow for the HOB so we get out early while the HOD worked through lunch. The HOD finish their work and head home while the HOB return for about 30 minutes to wrap up matters. When I get back to the hotel Rebecca says lets go walking, so she takes me on a tour of downtown Austin which I have not even noticed. In the evening Fr. AJ Heine has dinner with Rebecca and me and then we pack for the journey home.

July 14: We get up early and leave Austin by 6:30 to arrive back home at 2. How nice it is to feel the wet heat again! Just kidding but it is nice to be home again.

July 15: No visitation today.

July 16: Run errands; do laundry.

July 17: Back in the office and it is great seeing the staff after being gone for two weeks. After staff meeting I drive to Lambeth House where I celebrate the Eucharist and have lunch with some of the residents. It is a very nice day. In the afternoon I meet with Fr. Craig Dalferes for his annual consultation and to get an update on fishing.

July 18: Today the clergy of the diocese gather at All Saints', River Ridge, to talk about General Convention and what it means for us, as much as we know, at this time. It is great being with the crew.

July 19: My day begins with Fr. Stephen Crawford's



*[Photograph provided by Ann Ball] Bishop Thompson with General Convention deputies from Louisiana: John Musser, the Rev. Sharon Alexander, the Very Rev. A.J. Heini, the Rev. Anne Maxwell, Ann Ball, Carolyn Harris, Lyndsey Ardrey, and the Very Rev. Richard Easterling.*

annual visit. He is a fine priest and doing a good job at St. Mary's, Franklin. My next meeting is with Mother Anne Maxwell. She is an associate at Christ Church, Covington. Anne is a creative priest and much loved in her parish. I have a phone call to a new priest coming to our diocese and then off to the eye doctor.

July 20: We have A/C workers at the house and I am able to work on some writing while they are here.

July 21: I get up early and drive to the Solomon Center for the SECC board meeting. The place is beautiful and I never tire of driving the causeway to walk the grounds. I drive to Jackson for a couple of nights away.

July 22: Spend time in Jackson relaxing.

July 23: Drive home to get ready for the next day.

July 24: I don't have any appointments and this is always nice as I can catch up on some of the small matters that get pushed to the back burner.

July 25: I meet a parishioner who is seeking God's direction in her life. That meeting is followed a meeting with a deacon from another diocese

July 26: Rebecca and I fly to Kansas City, Missouri, to visit our daughter and son-and-law.

July 27: Visiting Virginia and Kevin

July 28: Visiting Virginia and Kevin

July 29: We go to church with Virginia and Kevin and then catch our flight back to New Orleans. What does it take to get a "glad you visited us" from the church we went to this morning? I hope our churches do a better job following up with visitors. Receive word this morning that the Rev. Hill Riddle died. He served the

church well.

July 30: Spend the day running errands and a making a few phone calls. I go by to pay my respect to Macon Riddle. A memorial will be held Saturday at 11:00 at Trinity, New Orleans.

July 31: We hold our weekly staff meeting and then I have lunch with Bishop Brown. It's always nice to catch up with the 9<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Louisiana. I drive to Baton Rouge late in the day to get ready for tomorrow.

August 1: I'm in Baton Rouge for the day. I have several meetings with clergy and laity. At noon I have lunch with several people from Episcopal High including headmaster Hugh McIntosh. I leave the city to return to New Orleans around 3:30.

August 2: I have an early morning meeting with Fr. Harry Jenkins from Christ Church Slidell. Later in the morning Rebecca and I drive to Jackson to begin celebrating her birthday with our children.

August 3: Vacation.

August 4: Rebecca and I get up early and are on the road by 6:00 to return for the Rev. Hill Riddle's memorial service. The church is full and several clergy who worked with Fr. Riddle have returned to assist. Fr. Drew Rollins preaches a fine sermon.

August 5: My visitation is at St. Philip's. Rebecca and I arrive early and found out we will be worshiping in the parish hall since the air conditioning is out in the church. It is a good day to confirm four and receive one. After the church is over we are given a tour of their garden. It is amazing. I even buy a pint of honey received from their hives.

August 6: I take my day off and do a little cooking.



*[Photograph from the St. Philip's, New Orleans, Facebook Page ] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Philip's on August 5.*

August 7: I begin the day with staff meeting and then Rebecca drives me to the eye surgery facility where I have cataract surgery on my right eye.

August 8: I look like cyclops with the patch over my eye! Doesn't really matter because the surgery and recovery have been pain free. I have a phone conference regarding a priest and potential church employment. In the afternoon I am on a phone conference with The University of the South and then off to my doctor's office for a post surgical check up.

August 9: Today is packed with consultations with clergy. Fr. Watson Lamb, the chaplain at Holy Spirit, begins the day followed by Mother Liz Emblar-Beazley, the associate at St. Paul's, New Orleans. In the afternoon I have a phone conference call from a parishioner who is interested in the process but has decided to take a year off and re-think his call. Later I meet with Fr. Stephen Roberts from the Cathedral for his annual consultation and then with Navy Chaplain Captain Joseph Sheldon. Speaking with Chaplain Sheldon takes me back some 44 years ago when I was in the Marines. Following his visit I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

August 10: I am up early and drive to Episcopal School of Baton Rouge for the dedication of their new learning building. It is a lovely building that would make any college campus envious. My science and shop class never looked like these! After the dedication and tour of the building I drive back to New Orleans.

August 11: Up early and drive to the Solomon Center for a good board meeting then head back to New Orleans.

August 12: Rebecca and I drive to St. Michael's Mandeville for my visitation. I preach, celebrate, confirm four and have two reaffirmations and then sit down for some very fine gumbo. We return home and go for a walk to burn off some of the cake I ate. The day ends with Drs. Mary Abell and Don Erwin taking Rebecca and me to dinner. We are celebrating Rebecca's birthday...the big one! We have a lovely evening.

August 13: I have a conference call for the University of the South that lasts most of the day.

August 14: We begin the day with our usual staff meeting and then Canons John and Shannon and I have lunch together. In the afternoon we have an hour phone call with the Executive Board.

August 15: Canon Manning and I drive to Baton Rouge for a couple of meetings and then on to St. Patrick's,



## Out and About in the Diocese

Zachary, to meet with a couple of parishioners and their rector to talk about stewardship. We return to New Orleans late in the day.

August 16: It is a light morning. Over lunch Canon Kellogg and I discuss my visit to St. Mark's for Sunday. I have another eye doctor appointment. The day ends with St. Martin's Board meeting.

August 17: Spend the day working on sermons.

August 18: No meetings today.

August 19: Have a great visitation with St. Mark's Harvey where I baptize Alec Kellogg and others. I also confirm and receive 8. Afterwards they host a very nice reception.

August 20: I take the day off.

August 21: The day begins with the staff meeting and then I head to the surgery center for my second cataract surgery. All goes well.

August 22: No meetings today because I didn't know if I would be able to see anything. Turns out I am right! I go back for a follow up and she says I was a star pupil! Not really, but all is well.

August 23: This is a full morning with a parishioner who senses a calling to the priesthood. That meeting is followed by Fr. Stephen Craft's annual consultation. The morning ends with a phone conference call. I go home to help Rebecca get ready for the new clergy gathering at our home in the evening. We have a good time getting to know one another.

August 24: I work on sermons for the morning and then have a phone conference call. In the afternoon I drive to Baton Rouge to visit with Fr. David and Carol Tilley. I spend the night in Baton Rouge.

August 25: I attend the Episcopal School Board retreat. There are so many good things going on at Episcopal.

August 26: My visitation is at St. Augustine's in Metairie where I baptize three, confirm and receive several new members. Afterwards there is a very nice reception.

August 27: I take the day off.

August 28: We start the day off with staff meeting and then I spend time with Canons Kellogg and Manning. Later in the morning I meet with a parishioner who desires to be in the process for ordination. After lunch I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with Edgar Cage. I spend the night at St. James Place

August 29: Today is a full day. My meetings began at 8:30 and run until 12:15. In the afternoon they pick



*[Photograph by Bruce Keyes, St. Mark's, Harvey] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Mark's, Harvey, on August 19.*

back up at 1:00. I have to cut that meeting off so I can get back to New Orleans to sign papers selling the Canal St property. Finally after eight years of struggling with this property we are able to sell it.

August 30: I have an early doctor's appointment to see how my eyes are healing. I'm amazed at how well I'm seeing. After lunch I drive to Jackson for the holiday weekend.

August 31: No appointments. Play golf with my son.

# Calendar of Upcoming Diocesan Events

## **Tuesday, October 9 at 6 p.m.**

Pre-Convention Meeting

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 3412 Harring Rd, Metairie

## **Saturday, October 13 at 10 a.m.**

Musicians Workshop

Christ Church Cathedral, 2919 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans

## **October 26-27**

181st Annual Convention

St. Martin's Episcopal School, 225 Green Acres Rd, Metairie

## **Friday, October 26 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

Convention Workshops (Free and open to all)

St. Martin's Episcopal School, 225 Green Acres Rd, Metairie

*Transformative Ministries* led by the Rev. Paul Fromberg

*Evangelism* led by the Rev. Jay Angerer and the Rev. Chris Capaldo

## **November 17-18**

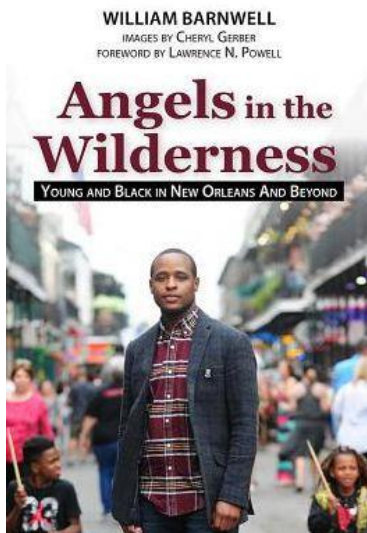
Jr. High Youth Rally

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, Loranger

## **Saturday, November 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Stepping Stones Young Adult Retreat: Spirituality of Ministry

St. Paul's, 6249 Canal Blvd, New Orleans



## Recommended Reading from Bishop Thompson

### ***Angels in the Wilderness* wins National Award**

A book by retired New Orleans minister William Barnwell has been selected to receive the 2018 Next Generation Indie Book of the Year Award in the Inspirational Non-Fiction Category. *Angels in the Wilderness : Young and Black in New Orleans and Beyond* is a collection of stories about young African Americans in New Orleans, Louisiana, as well as several individuals and organizations that mentor young adults in the Crescent City. Barnwell states that "the purpose of the book is simply to pass on the stories of young people; stories that need to be told to inform and inspire us all—black and white—in New Orleans and beyond." The book includes photographs by New Orleans photographer Cheryl Gerber and a foreword by retired Tulane Professor Lawrence Powell.

*Angels in the Wilderness* was published by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press. Six other books published by UL Press were finalists for Next Generation Indie Book Awards:

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards are the largest not-for-profit book awards program for independent publishers and self-published authors.

For more information on *Angels in the Wilderness* or the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press visit [www.ULPRESS.org](http://www.ULPRESS.org).

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