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# CHURCHWORK



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# CHURCHWORK

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] St. Francis Episcopal Church, Denham Springs, on the evening the dedication of the new sanctuary.

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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.





## **Address to the 181st Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Episcopal Church of Louisiana**

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

October 26, 2018

An Amish mother and her daughter were visiting a mall for the first time. They were absolutely amazed by everything they saw and were especially enamored with the silver-sliding wall that moved back and forth. The daughter asked her mother, "What is this?" The mother said, "Daughter, I have never seen anything like this in my entire life, I don't know what it is."

While the mother and daughter were watching the wall open and close an old man in a wheelchair pushed a button and the silver wall opened up and he rolled his wheelchair right into the tiny room and then the wall closed. At that time round buttons lit up with numbers on them. They went up and then they stopped. After a brief moment the numbers lit up again and they started to go in reverse order until the door opened up and a very handsome young man walked out of the silver wall.

The mother looked at her daughter and said, "Go get your Father!"

The theme of this year's convention is "The Art of Transformation."

Welcome to the one hundred and eighty-first Diocesan Convention of Louisiana's Jesus Movement. A place where for 181 years faithful people have gathered to hear the love of God and subsequently give that love away in service, tears, and joy. We are the Jesus Movement of the Episcopal Church in Louisiana.

In the first reading the writer tells how God worked to help Moses lead. Leading people is not easy. It is very hard work for many reasons, primarily because we are human beings and we have thoughts, ideas and opinions about everything and everybody. We read about this throughout the life of Moses. The people complained, Moses spoke with God, God gave them what they wanted, and the people asked Moses to call off God's wrath and they repent. This cycle mimics our lives. Another way of saying this is, we sin. When we sin, we act out until we realize we've gone too far, then we repent, God redeems us and so the cycle continues.

Moses needed help sharing the leadership and God gave him a plan. God told Moses to call 70 leaders and take them to the tent of meeting so God could give to the 70 part of what he had given Moses, the Spirit of God, and together you shall lead, God said. My friends, this is why you are here today. You are leaders in this Diocese and God has called you to this meeting place to make council, to receive the spirit you need to lead and then return to your tribe, your people to share the life of a greater body connected to theirs.

The work of transformation can at times seem overwhelming and even frightening if matters do not line up the way we had dreamed. We have so much work to do. Where do we begin? Listen to a story from the Desert Mothers and Fathers.

A brother succumbed to temptation and on account of what was afflicting him quit keeping the monastic rule. Finally, he went to see an old spiritual man who told him this story.

A person had some land and through his carelessness it became overgrown and filled with thorn-apples and thistles. It finally occurred to him to cultivate the land and he said to his son, "Go and clear the land". When his son went to clear the land and saw that it was filled with thorn-apples and thistles, he got discouraged and said to himself, "How long will it take me to pull up all this stuff and clear everything here?" Giving up, he lay down and went to sleep. He did this for many days. Later, his father came to see what he had done; when he found that his son hadn't done any work, he said to him, "Why haven't you done any work yet?" The young man said to his father, "I really was going to start work, Father, but when I saw that the field was full of thorn-apples and thistles, I got overwhelmed by the task and so I laid myself down to the ground and went to sleep". Then his father said to him, "Son, if you had cleared each day an area equal to the bed you made for yourself, you would have made progress in your work and wouldn't have gotten discouraged". When the young man heard this, he did as his father had advised and in a short time the land was cleared.

'So, brother, it's the same with you,' the old teacher said. Do your work little by little and you won't get discouraged and God, through his grace, will restore your former condition.'

It is easy to get discouraged. We see our numbers slowly shrinking, the congregations are aging, and

the world seems so angry and lost. I want to suggest to you that we are in the right place at the right time. We have a good word for the world. We have a place of safety and renewal. We have what the world is so desperate to hear and that is, there is a love beyond all loves that longs for the world to become transformed. It is the love of God as seen in the face of Jesus and ours. It is the love that you have known from your baptism and the nurturing from those around you growing up. This is what we have to offer to the world around us.

I want to speak of four areas in which we can learn how to tell our stories of being changed and breathe new life into our congregations and communities. These four areas are important in that they cover unique opportunities to a broad group of parishioners. These ministries are: congregational development, environmental matters, racial reconciliation and evangelism. These areas speak to the matters at hand and the future. They are ministries in which we can find our passion and joy to engage in a deeper relationship with God and neighbor.

Many of you know we sold the property on Canal Street in New Orleans. While it is never easy to sell a church, the proceeds can become used in a transformational way that leads to new beginnings and this is what we envision for our Diocese. We will form committees that are trained in church growth and sustainability. They will work with congregations that are on the verge of becoming a parish. We'd like to partner with these congregations with seed money to call a full time priest, that over a period of time will be weaned from our financial support because they have matured into full fledge parishes. This partnership will include setting goals unique to each church and ways in which they can reasonably reach these marks of growth. We believe that in partnership we are stronger and more courageous.

We have a model for this exercise. This past year we pulled together a small group of dedicated parishioners to assist a couple of parishes in making sound business decisions. Sometimes it is good to have a second set of eyes and ears to achieve a common goal. The common goal is for every church to be healthy and on sound business footing. Our Diocese is very rich with human resources who are willing, when asked, to assist in the good will of the body. A book that I've been reading and will be writing about later this year is, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to keep yours alive* by

Thom S. Rainer. It's an easy read and is thought provoking. (You can order it on Amazon for \$10.00.)

Before General Convention we established an environmental commission. It is no secret that we are experiencing a shift in the environment. Here in our part of the world we see the effects of the Gulf of Mexico encroaching ever so closely. Recently while fishing with Fr. AJ Heine, our guide told us that where he was taking us was dry land just a few years ago. People of the bayou know these stories. Jacques Cousteau once said, "For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it." The church is called to care for God's creation. How will we live this calling? How will we define our mission? I have appointed Deacon Joie Clavijo to chair this commission, to help us better understand the issues and how we can respond.

Over the past eight years of my episcopate we have worked hard on racial reconciliation. The tension we often feel is nothing new, yet we may feel weary that we aren't making headway. I've said many times that racial issues are the number one issue of America. At times I feel the light shines on us and we are beginning to understand what it means to live in a diverse community and then there are times I wonder if we have made any progress at all. Reconciliation is a life-long process of listening, listening and listening. It takes patience and a willingness to engage. We are at our best when we do the work of reconciliation together and we are at our worst when we think we know what the other is thinking and feeling without asking. To continue this important work Edgar Cage has volunteered to develop a process of how we can engage our congregations in dialogue. Once a plan is established and incorporated into a curriculum, the Racial Reconciliation Commission will take the process into churches to use as a training tool. You will hear more about this later during convention.

The fourth point of engagement is evangelism. If you read anything about General Convention this past summer you know Presiding Bishop Curry called us to live fully into the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement and that translates into evangelism. The Way of Love is a practice of being transformed by prayer, worship, study and telling our stories of God's redeeming love. Throughout this year we will be writing, teaching and pointing you to resources to be used in community and private

study. The Way of Love is a practice for a Jesus centered life. It is our hope to have Bishop Curry visit our Diocese for a revival in the near future.

Later in the reading from Numbers we are told there were two persons who did not go into the tent with the others but the spirit of the Lord landed on them and they began to prophesy. Someone heard them and told Moses that two men were prophesying who were not in the tent. "Tell them to stop," they said to Moses.

How interesting this part of the story is. "They are not supposed to be talking about God's love, Moses! Tell them to stop! They aren't doing it right, Moses! Tell them to do it right! They don't look like us, Moses! Tell them to stop! They don't know the right words, Moses! Tell them to stop!"

Sound familiar? I hear this from time to time. Episcopalians don't do this. If you change I will withhold my pledge. If you do...I'll leave and go somewhere else. We must not get caught up in the minutia and forget the purpose of gathering, to worship God and ask for forgiveness of OUR sins. If we desire we can learn from every experience.

Years ago Henri Nouwen, that great theologian and writer, worked at L'Arche Community in Toronto, a community for mentally and physically handicapped individuals. While there Nouwen befriended one of the residents, Trevor. Trevor struggled with mental and emotional challenges. One day Trevor was sent to a nearby psychiatric hospital for evaluation. Several days went by and Henri wanted to go visit the young man. He called the hospital to make the arrangements. They assured Nouwen that he could visit and have lunch with Trevor as Nouwen had requested. When the administration heard that Nouwen was coming they got so excited that they decided to honor him with a meal in the Golden Room, a special place reserved for physicians and special guests. They invited physicians, clergy and other dignitaries. The hospital was all abuzz with the idea that Henri Nouwen was coming to have lunch with them.

When Nouwen arrived he was quickly taken to the Golden Room where the tables were set with tablecloths and sparkling place settings, but Trevor was nowhere to be found. Nouwen quickly asked where Trevor was and was told that he was not allowed in the Golden Room. In fact, no patient had ever been allowed in the Golden Room, but he could see him afterwards.

Now, if you've read Nouwen you know he is not an aggressive person, but this attitude he was facing was more than he wanted to handle. He reminded his host that the point of his coming to the hospital was not to speak to dignitaries but to have lunch with Trevor and if Trevor was not going to be present then he would not eat lunch in the Golden Room.

The thought of not hearing Henri Nouwen shook the person in charge to the core. There was a brief huddle with others and then suddenly Trevor appeared in the room.

Picture this, Henri Nouwen was seated in the middle of the head table, Trevor at his left, and a VIP at Nouwen's right. As Nouwen was speaking to the man on his right Trevor suddenly stood. As he stood he raised his glass of Coca-Cola and said, "A toast. I will now offer a toast."

As you can imagine, everyone froze. They knew of Trevor's illness and no one had any idea of what was to follow. They were all nervous, even Nouwen. Dead silence. Then Trevor, the deeply challenged man in a room full of PhDs, started to sing, "If you're happy and you know it, raise your glass. If you're happy and you know it, raise your glass..."

At first there was silence and then in the back of the room someone began singing, "If your happy and you know it, raise your glass..." One by one people joined in and by the second round they were shouting, "If your happy and you know it, raise your glass..."

Nouwen went on to speak but he later said no one remembers that he was there that day. The person less likely to speak about God was not Henri but a severely challenged young man. A man filled with the joy of life! That's what people remembered that day. They remembered how they were transformed and saw in Trevor a bit of themselves and the joy he gave to the community.

My friends, let us joyfully and with purpose do what we are called to do. Let no one hold us back with nay-saying and hatred. Let us be light with laughter and quick to forgive. Let us remember the story with delightful knowing. Let us love one another.

## Actions Taken by the 181st Annual Convention

### Elected to Offices

#### *Secretary of the Diocese*

Marsha Wade (St. James, Baton Rouge)

#### *Treasurer of the Diocese*

Alan Brackett (Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans)

#### *Standing Committee, Clerical*

The Rev. John Sloan Miller (St. Stephen's, Innis)

#### *Standing Committee, Lay*

Fred McCullogh (St. Mark's, Harvey)

#### *Executive Board, Clerical*

The Very Rev. AJ Heine (St. Augustine's, Metairie)

#### *Executive Board, Lay*

John Musser (Trinity Church, New Orleans)

David Warrington (St. James, Baton Rouge)

Tom Oliver (St. Paul's, New Orleans) Bishop's appointment to the Executive Board

#### *Disciplinary Board, Clerical*

The Rev. Stephen Shortess (St. John's, Thibodaux; Trinity Church, Morgan City)

#### *Disciplinary Board, Lay*

Bennett Ford (Trinity Church, Baton Rouge)

Dorothea Suthon (St. Augustine's, Metairie)

#### *Trustee of the University of the South, Lay*

Drew Broach (All Saints', River Ridge)

### Resolutions

One resolution was submitted by the Constitution & Canons Committee but was subsequently withdrawn before Convention.



## 181st Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana



### 181st Annual Convention: the Delegates

*[Photographs by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* We had a great group of delegates at the 181st Annual Convention. *First row left:* St. Patrick's, Zachary. *First row middle:* St. Francis, Denham Springs. *First row right:* St. Augustine's, Metairie. *Second row left:* Trinity, Morgan City, and St. John's, Thibodaux. *Second row middle:* St. George's, New Orleans. *Second row right:* Trinity Church, New Orleans. *Third row left:* St. Luke's, New Orleans, and St. Luke's, Baton Rouge. *Third row middle:* All Saint's, Ponchatoula and St. Martin's, Metairie. *Third row right:* Christ Church, Covington. *Fourth row left:* St. Anna's, New Orleans. *Fourth row middle:* St. Mary's, Franklin. *Fourth row right:* Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans, and St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge.



## 181st Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana



### 181st Annual Convention: Presenters

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* First row left: The Rev. Paul Fromberg led one of the Convention workshops. First row middle: The Rev. Chris Capaldo and the Rev. Jay Angerer give a presentation on Evangelism Matters. First row right: The Rev. Paul Fromberg delivers the keynote address. Second row left: Deacon Joey Clavijo and Andrew Wilson gives a presentation on environment stewardship. Second row middle: Mary Sorrells welcomes the delegates to the 181st Annual Convention. Third row left: Anna's Arts students perform for the delegates. Third row right: A Camp Able camper performs for the delegates. Fourth row left: The Rev. Jim Morrison gives a presentation on the Camp Able Ministry of St. Andrew's, New Orleans. Fourth row middle: The Rev. Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles and Gifford Courtney gives a presentation on the youth ministry of the diocese. Fourth row right: The Rev. Ralph Howe gives a presentation on Sewanee.



## **The Clericus (September 2018—January 2019)**



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* Caroline Carson was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on December 15 at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. She will return to complete her last semester of seminary at Sewanee School of Theology.



*[Photograph by Jo Craddock, St. James, Baton Rouge]* The Rev. Christopher Duncan was installed as rector of St. James, Baton Rouge, on January 16, 2019.

## **Transitions in the Diocese**

*The Rev. Seamus Doyle* has resigned as priest-in-charge of St. John's, Kenner. He will continue to serve as supply priest in the diocese.

*The Rev. Jerry Phillips* has resigned as priest-in-charge of Church of the Nativity, Rosedale. In January 2019, he was called as priest-in-charge of St. John's, Kenner. He will continue to serve as chaplain of St. James Place, Baton Rouge.

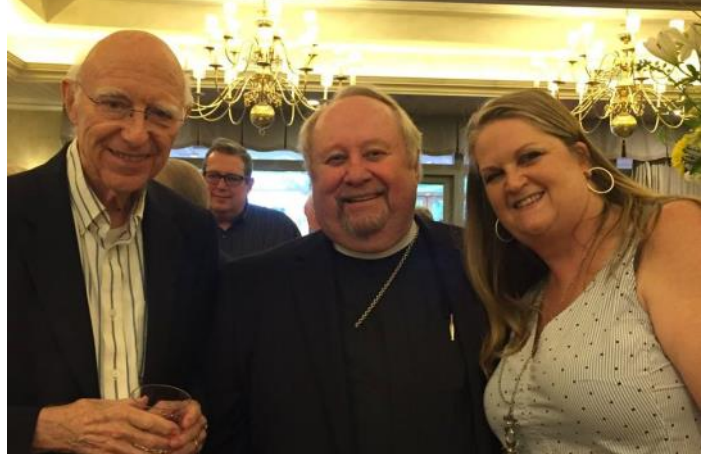
*The Rev. Dan Krutz* has been called as priest-in-charge of St. Francis, Denham Springs.

## **New Clergy in the Diocese**

*The Rev. Caroline Carson* was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on December 15, 2018, at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.

## **Clergy Deaths**

*The Rev. James "Don" Campbell* died on December 20, 2018, at the age of 93 at his home in Arkansas. He was the first Canon 9 priest to serve in the Diocese of Louisiana at Church of the Incarnation, Amite. He served there until his retirement in 2009. A memorial service was held on January 18, 2019.



### **Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Becoming a Canon (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey. Diocese of Louisiana]* On October 4, 2018, the Rev. Canon C. William "Bill" Ziegenfuss celebrated the 50th anniversary of being installed Canon of Christ Church Cathedral by Bishop Girault Jones. The Cathedral held an Evensong and reception in his honor. In this picture: The Rt. Rev. James Brown (left) with the Rev. Canon Bill Ziegenfuss (right).

### **Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Rev. Steve Holzalb (right)**

*[Photograph from the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center Facebook Page]* The Rev. Steve Holzalb celebrated his 50th year of ordination to the priesthood on October 6, 2018.

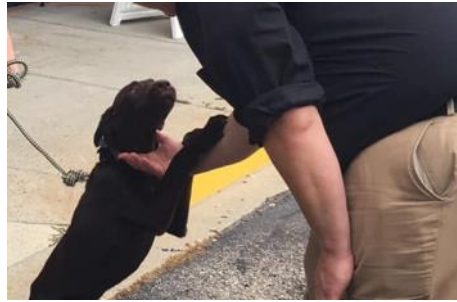
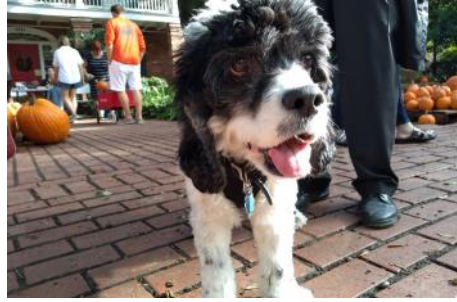


### **Pumpkin Patch**

*[Photographs from various Facebook pages]* It was another great year for pumpkin patches in the Diocese of Louisiana. Several churches throughout the diocese hold this annual fundraiser to raise money for outreach ministry. Pictured: Grace Memorial, Hammond (top left); St. Augustine's, Metairie (top middle); St. Paul's, New Orleans (right); St. Andrew's, New Orleans (bottom left); St. Martin's, Metairie (bottom middle). Not pictured: St. Mark's, Harvey.



## Out and About in the Diocese



### St. Francis Pet Blessings Throughout the Diocese of Louisiana

*[Photographs from various Facebook pages]* Top row: Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans (left); St. Andrew's, New Orleans (middle); St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge (right). Middle row: Grace Church, St. Francisville (left); Christ Church, Slidell (middle); Christ Church, Covington (right); Bottom row: All Saints', River Ridge (left); St. Patrick's, Zachary (middle); St. John's, Thibodaux (right).



### Halloween Fun Around the Diocese

*[Photographs from various Facebook Pages]* Left: St. Luke's held their annual Fall Fest on October 28, 2018. Middle: St. Mark's, Harvey, held a Trunk-or-Treat for children in the neighborhood. Right: St. Augustine's, Metairie, held a movie night in the Pumpkin Patch.





### **Women's Ecumenical Breakfast (left)**

*[Photograph from the Grace Church, St. Francisville, Facebook Page]* The Very Rev. Roman Roldan, rector of Grace Church, led a presentation on his journey from Colombia to the United States and his spiritual/religious journey from Roman Catholicism to the Episcopal Church as part of an ecumenical prayer breakfast held at Grace Church on October 13, 2018.



### **Diocesan Musician Day (right)**

*[Photograph by ]* Kyle Ritter, canon for music at the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville, North Carolina, led a workshop for musician serving in small parishes. The workshop was held at Christ Church Cathedral on October 13, 2018. Topics included anthems for small choirs, basics of hymn playing, and resources for more diverse hymn singing.



### **Heart Song Music Workshop with Ana Hernandez (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's Facebook Page ]* On October 13, 2018, Ana Hernandez led a workshop called Heart Song Music at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge. The workshop encouraged participants to deepen their community of practice, through the shared creation of sound and silence.



### **Blessing of the Newly Remodeled Parish Offices (left)**

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* St. Paul's, New Orleans, recently underwent a major renovation of their parish offices and meeting spaces. On October 17, 2018, Bishop Thompson blessed the new space.





### Youth Hike Through Clark Creek (left)

*[Photograph from the Grace Church, St. Francisville, Facebook Page]* On October 21, 2018, youth from Grace Church, St. Francisville; St. James, Baton Rouge; and St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, enjoyed a day hiking through Clark Creek Natural Area in Woodville, Mississippi.



### We Are the Tree Of Life (right)

*[Photograph by the Rev. John Craft, Chapel of the Holy Comforter]* Chapel of the Holy Comforter showed solidarity with the Jewish community after the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue on October 27, 2018.



### Bobby Jo in Concert at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge (left)

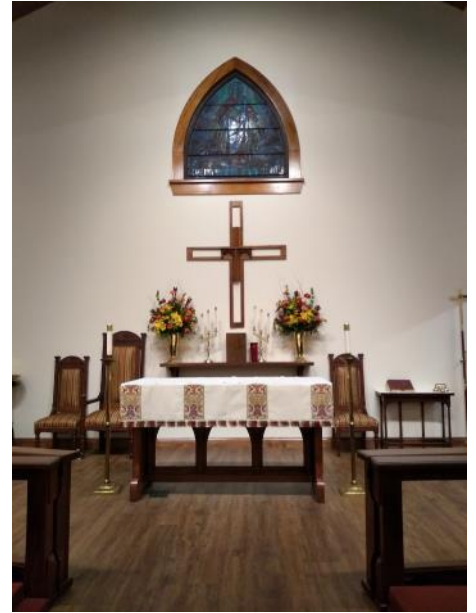
*[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Facebook Page]* Singer/songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine played a concert at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, on November 3, 2018.



### Celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday (right)

*[Photograph from the Grace Church, St. Francisville, Facebook Page]* Every year on November 10, Grace Church, St. Francisville, celebrates the founding of the Marine Corps and lays a wreath at the grave of General Robert H. Barrow, the 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps.





### St. Francis Dedicates New Sanctuary

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On Sunday, November 11, 2018, we were so happy to celebrate the dedication of the new sanctuary for St. Francis, Denham Springs. This journey began 40 years ago when St. Francis was founded and began worshipping in a temporary worship space. After the flood of 2016, St. Francis revived their dream of a permanent worship space. Their dream became a reality and it is beautiful!





### **Trendafilka NOLA (left)**

*[Photograph from the All Saints', River Ridge, NOLA Instagram page]* On December 2, 2018, All Saints', River Ridge, hosted Trandafilka NOLA in concert. Trandafilka describes themselves, "Trendafilka is a modern exploration of European polyphonic traditions. Founded in New Orleans in 2016, the group grew out of a common desire for group singing as well as a collective fascination of culture and ancient traditions."



### **The Rev. Jim Shortess Memorial First Responders Luncheon (right)**

*[Photograph from the Church of the Holy Communion, Plaquemine, Facebook Page]* On November 30, 2018, 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.



### **Feeding Mind and Body (left)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Morgan City, Facebook Page]* A parishioner of Trinity Church, Morgan City, left a donation of oranges for all those who visited the Trinity Little Free Library.



### **Advent in Bag (right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Martin's, Metairie, Facebook Page]* St. Martin's, Metairie, offered Advent in A Bag.

"Advent in a Bag" activities build on what they are learning about waiting for Jesus during Advent.

### **Art Camp at the Faith Music Festival (right)**

*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Slidell, Instagram feed]* Christ Church, Slidell, brought their Art Camp to the Faith Music Festival in Slidell on November 10, 2018.





## Out and About in the Diocese



### Thanksgiving Outreach

*[Photographs from various Facebook pages]* Several of our churches participated in outreach projects in the community by collecting food or serving meals to the hungry. Pictured: Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans (top left); St. Paul's, New Orleans (bottom left); St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge (middle); and St. Luke's, Baton Rouge (right).



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

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* 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 organized the event and led a discussion during a pancake breakfast. Pictured is the Rev.

### Hayride Hootenany Hoedown Showdown (right)

*[Photograph from the Church of the Nativity, Rosedale, Facebook Page]* On December 1, 2018, Church of the Nativity held its annual Hayride Hootenany Hoedown Showdown. The evening included food, hayrides, Christmas caroling, bonfires and s'mores.





### **Selling of the Greens (left)**

*[Photograph from St. Paul's Holy Trinity, New Roads, Facebook Page]* St. Paul's Holy Trinity sold Christmas greens during the month of December.



### **St. Nicholas Visited Trinity, New Orleans (right)**

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* St. Nicholas visited Trinity Church, New Orleans, on December 7, 2018. He helped the children decorate cookies.



### **Celebrating the Rev. Canon Ron Clingenpeels 40th Anniversary of his Priesting (left)**

*[Photograph provided by the Rev. Tommy Dillon]* On December 21, 2018, the Rev. Canon Ron Clingenpeel (photographed third from the left) celebrated the 40th Anniversary of his priesting. The service was held at St. Anna's, New Orleans, with a special offering that went to Anna's Place/Dodwell House providing academic, cultural and health support for the 7th Ward/Treme and the greater New Orleans community.



### **No-Cook Fridays at Christ Church, Slidell (right)**

*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Slidell, Facebook Page]* On the second Friday of the month, Christ Church, Slidell, holds a no-cook night. This night the church was cooking burgers to go.

## Out and About in the Diocese



### **Missa Rorate Caeli (left)**

[Photograph from the St. George's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] A beautiful scene at St. George's during their annual Rorate Mass held on December 12, 2018. The Rorate Mass is a special Eucharist illumined only by candlelight in contemplation of the faith and courage of St. Mary, who bears the Light of the world.



### **Advent Food Boxes (right)**

[Photograph from the St. Andrew's, New Orleans, Facebook Page ] Youth groupers from the Camp Able NOLA youth group and parishioners of St. Andrew's, New Orleans, filled 100 boxes for an Advent food drive.



### **Christmas Party at Chapel of the Holy Spirit (left)**

[Photograph from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans, Facebook Page] The Rev. Watson Lamb, chaplain, takes a selfie with the students at a Christmas Party at Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans,



### **Children's Art to Christmas Lights (right)**

[Photograph from the St. Andrew's, New Orleans, Facebook Page ] St. Andrew's, New Orleans, had a creative light display on the church this year. Students from St. Andrew's School drew Christmas art that was turned into a light show. On the weekend before Christmas, parishioners handed out hot chocolate and cookies in front of the church while the passerby enjoyed the show.





### **3rd Annual Sight, Sound, and Smells of Christmas (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. John's, Thibodaux, Facebook Page]* St. John's held their annual Sight, Sound, and Smells of Christmas on December 14, 2018. The event featured over seventy nativity sets from around the world.



### **Advent Wreath Making(right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Advent wreath making at St. Paul's, New Orleans.



### **Christmas Cards for the Elderly (left)**

*[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* Student's of St. Luke's Episcopal School created Christmas cards to send to elderly parishioners of St. Luke's, Baton Rouge.



### **STAIR Christmas Party(right)**

*[Photograph from the St. Augustine's, Metairie, Facebook Page]* Students from the St. Augustine's STAIR program have fun with the Rev. AJ Heine during their Christmas party.



### Christmas Altars

*[Photographs from various Facebook pages]* First row right: Trinity Church, Baton Rouge. First row middle: Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans. First row right: Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. Second row left: St. John's, Thibodaux. Second row middle: Grace Memorial, Hammond. Second row right: Christ Church, Slidell. Third row left: St. Matthew's, Houma. Third row middle: Trinity Church, Morgan City. Third row right: Holy Communion, Plaquemine. Fourth row left: Nativity Church, Rosedale. Fourth row middle: St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge. Fourth row right: St Paul's Holy Trinity, New Roads.





### College of Presbyters (left)

*[Photograph by the Rev. Canon John Kellogg, Diocese of Louisiana]* Priests of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center for the annual College of Presbyters from January 7-9, 2019. The keynote speaker was James Autry, author, poet, and business coach.



### Enneagram Workshop at Trinity (right)

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* From January 11-13, Sandra Smith led an Enneagram workshop at Trinity Church, New Orleans. The Enneagram system offers "nine mirrors for self-reflection" that enable us to deepen our understanding of ourselves and others, leading to more compassionate living.



### Assistance to Federal Workers During the Government Shutdown(left)

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page]* During the recent government shutdown, Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, assisted by opening up their food pantry to help feed federal workers. Parishioners and other volunteers helped keep the food pantry in stock.



### Renovated Chapel at St. Martin's (right)

*[Photograph from the St. Martin's, Metairie, Facebook Page]* The chapel at St. Martin's, Metairie, recently installed new pews thanks to generous donors from the Little School.



### Honoring Blessed Frances Joseph-Gaudet (left)

*[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]* On January 6, 2019, we celebrated the legacy of Blessed Frances Joseph-Gaudet, an African American educator, social worker and prison reformer, honored as a saint in the Episcopal Church. The service was a collaborative effort between the Racial Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana, Historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Historic St. James A.M.E Church, and the Gaudet Legacy Committee. The preacher was the Rev. Jonathan Augustine, pastor of Historic St. James A.M.E Church. Music guests were Baba Luther Gray, Dr. Courtney Bryan, and Christina Vial Comer. St. Luke's is the home of the shrine of Blessed Frances Joseph-Gaudet.



### Senior High Youth Rally (right)

*[Photograph from the St. James EYC Instagram Page]* Youth in grades 9-12 from around the diocese gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center from January 11-13. The theme of Senior High Youth Rally was Encountering God Through Sight, Sound, Scent, Taste, and Touch.



### Jazz in January (left)

*[Photograph provided by Christ Church, Covington]* Christ Church, Covington, held their fourth annual Jazz in January from January 25-27, 2019. The jazz festival featured musicians from Cuba, Louisiana, Austin, and Las Vegas. The weekend concluded with a jazz service paying tribute to the music of Elvis Presley.



### Visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Injustice (right)

*[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page]* Parishioners from Trinity Church, New Orleans, and members of the Racial Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Injustice on January 26, 2019. The memorial and museum, opened in 2018, are dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, and the over 4,000 persons terrorized by lynching from 1877 to 1950.



## Bishop's Journal: September–December 2018

September 1: No meetings.

September 2: No visitation. Our grandchildren came over to visit for the night. Mack and Liza are so much fun to be around.

September 3: Labor Day. Drove back to New Orleans.

September 4: We closed the office due to the concern of the storm headed this way. We will reevaluate the situation for Wednesday.

September 5: I met with a young woman who wants to take part in the discernment process. What a joy it was to hear someone in college desiring to serve in the church. Later I had lunch with a priest and some parishioners. In the afternoon I met with Edger Cage and Trevor-David to discuss the Racial Reconciliation Commission.

September 6: In the morning I met with Fr. Stephen Holzhalf for his annual consultation. He has been ordained for 50 years. Later I met with Mother Kit Sharp McLean who is an associate at Trinity, New Orleans. That evening I attended a gathering of donors to give to the capital funds campaign for Christ School in Covington. Our schools are doing so well.

September 7: I stayed at home to work on sermons and other material.

September 8: We had our executive board meeting at the Solomon Conference Center. We accomplished so much work. I am grateful for the leadership of this group.



*[Photograph by Karen Mackey] Bishop Thompson gives the keynote at the 2018 Vestry Training on September 22 at St. Andrew's, New Orleans.*

September 9: My visitation was at St. John's, Thibodaux, where I preached, baptized and celebrated. Afterward there was a very nice lunch. Rebecca and I drove back to New Orleans where we packed the truck and headed to Sandestin for a week with the family.

September 10-17: Vacation

September 18: I had an early morning conference call to Bishop José McLaughlin and then our weekly staff meeting. It was Canon Manning and my first day back in the office. Shannon had been in Scotland. We had some catching up to do with the rest of the staff. At noon I celebrated Mass for the Cathedral and then lunch with Canons Manning and Kellogg. In the afternoon I had meeting with Trevor-David Bryan regarding the Racial Reconciliation Commission. My day ended with a Board meeting with St. Martin's School.

September 19: I had a morning meeting with Sara Morris and Fr. Clingenpeel regarding a parish requesting a reduction in their diocesan pledge. In the afternoon I only have one meeting with a couple of priests.

September 20: Today's schedule made up for yesterday's easy one. I began with Fr. LeBaron Taylor's annual consultation. This followed with Deacon Jay Albert's annual consultation. Deacon Albert's ministry with Bridge House is remarkable. I met Deacon Mark Hudson for lunch for his annual consultation. The meal was free because the kitchen messed up our order! That was very generous of the manager. In the afternoon I had another follow up check for the progress of my eyes. All are well.

September 21: I spent time working on my talk for the Vestry training and then another eye appointment but this time it was for a prescription for glasses. Our son drove in for the vestry training.

September 22: Our son Morris, III and I kick off the vestry training. It was a very enjoyable morning sharing the podium with Morris. In the afternoon I drove to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

September 23: My visitation was with St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge, where I preached and celebrated. Afterwards I drove back to New Orleans.

September 24: I took the first half of the day off but went in for a consultation with a priest regarding his vestry.

September 25: The day began with staff meeting followed by another meeting with the two canons. I had a doctor's appointment to receive my rebuilt hearing aids. It's nice to hear what others are hearing.

In the afternoon I met with parishioners from Amite to talk about their parish. The day ended with a drive to Jackson.

September 26: Since the HOB don't meet the September following General Convention, I am hosting a fishing trip for purple shirts.

September 27: Fishing.

September 28: I drive back to New Orleans.

September 29: I have the Saturday off.

September 30: My visitation is with Christ Church, Slidell. It is a good day with several confirmations and receptions.

October 1: I take my day off to run some errands.

October 2: I wake up one more year older! The day began with our staff meeting and then an executive board phone conference. I traveled to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

October 3: All my meetings are in Baton Rouge today. I began with Fr. Don Brown who is very faithful in keeping a couple of missions alive. I am grateful for his dedication. My next meeting is with Fr. Dan Krutz who is helping out with St. Francis, Denham Springs. Fr. John Miller is next. Fr. Miller is with St. Stephen's, Innis. He has been their priest-in-charge for over a year now. My last meeting in Baton Rouge is lunch with Fr. John Tober, associate at Trinity, Baton Rouge.



*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Slidell, Facebook Page]  
Bishop Thompson's visitation to Christ Church, Covington, on September 30, 2018.*

John's wife is dealing with several health issues and we spend time talking about her care. I drove back to New Orleans making several phone calls to keep up with the pace.

October 4: Canon's John Kellogg and Shannon Manning meet with me at our home to talk about Annual Convention coming up and other matters. It is often helpful to leave the office for quiet conversation. We spend the morning together and then have lunch. In the evening I participate in the Evensong to honor Fr. Bill Ziegenfuss' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a canon. The music was beautiful.

October 5: Deacon Mark Hudson and I play golf and then have lunch together. Later I work on my sermon.

October 6: Rebecca and I drive to Covington to spend the night and to attend a grand celebration for Fr. Steve Holzhalb's 50<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary.

October 7: My visitation is at Christ Church, Covington, where I preach and celebrate, confirm and receive at both services. The day was full and joyful. Rebecca and I return late in the afternoon.

October 8: I take my day off but have my annual physical. All is well.

October 9: We start the day with staff meeting and then I have an appointment with a parishioner who desires to enter the discernment process. Later Dean DuPlantier and I have lunch to catch up. In the afternoon Fr. Stephen Crawford visits to talk about Camp Hardtner. That evening we hold a pre-convention meeting at St. Augustine's, Metairie.

October 10: Rebecca and I take a 6:00 am flight to Sewanee for the annual Trustees and Regents meeting. I always look forward to visiting the University of the South.

October 11: Trustees meeting.

October 12: Trustees meeting/Regents meeting

October 13: Regents meeting and then we fly back to New Orleans arriving around midnight.

October 14: My visitation is at St. John's, Kenner, where I receive two. After the service there is a wonderful luncheon.

October 15: I take my day off.

October 16: We have our weekly staff meeting and then I celebrate the noon service at the cathedral.

October 17: In the morning I meet with Mother Minka Sprague and then with Fr. Barnwell. In the afternoon I have time to catchup on phone calls and emails.

October 18: I have an early morning meeting with Fr. Gary Taylor, headmaster of Trinity School in New



Orleans. Later in the morning I have an annual consultation with Mother Sharon Alexander, rector of Trinity Church, Baton Rouge.

October 19: I work on my sermon in the morning and then play golf in the afternoon.

October 20: I spend time on my sermon and then watch LSU defeat my bulldogs. I've had better days.

October 21: My visitation is with St. Luke's, New Orleans, where I baptize 3 children. It was a great day, full of life and joy.

October 22: I get up early for a drive to Baton Rouge to participate in a 35-year anniversary of St. James Place. It was a lovely service put together by Fr. Jerry Phillips, chaplain at St. James Place.

October 23: We had our weekly staff meeting. We are in the convention week mode, going over every detail to make sure we all know what will take place. I go over my script for the first time. Later I participate in a phone call for a disciplinary matter.

October 24: I spend time with Canon Manning and Kellogg going over my script and working on my sermon/address. Later we have a budget conference call and then a Constitutions and Canons conference call.

October 25: I spend most of the day working on my sermon/address for the convention. Later in the evening I have dinner with the staff.

October 26: In the morning I go over my sermon/address several times, make a few changes and then go to St. Martin's School to kick off the 181<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention. By 6:00 we are finished with the first day of Convention.

October 27: Convention continues and by 12:00 noon we are finished. Several people told me they thought this convention was our best yet. I don't know that, but I do believe it was a good convention. From Dr. Merry Sorrells welcome to St. Martins School to the final gavel, it was good to be with each other.

October 28: My visitation was with All Saints, River Ridge, where I receive and confirm their largest class in several years. I spoke during the church school hour and then we had a very nice luncheon. Later in the evening Rebecca and I drove to Covington to attend a friend's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

October 29: Canon Kellogg and I took an airboat ride to view the fresh water diversion project. To see the work scientists are doing to help rebuild the coast is amazing. It was also nice getting out in the wild.

October 30: I took the first half of the day off and then drove to Baton Rouge to attend Episcopal School's



*[Photograph from the Christ Church, Covington, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Christ Church, Covington, on October 7, 2018.*

board meeting and then drove back to New Orleans.

October 31: HALLOWEEN! We spent the morning going over convention and planning for the next one. The staff thought it was time to call and see if the Presiding Bishop could be our speaker for next year's convention. I called and was told he was booked up for the next two years. How's that for planning. I asked for 2021. We'll see.

November 1: Today was an easy day, especially considering enjoying lunch at Commander's. Realtor Park McEnery treated Canon Manning and me in thanks for selling the properties on Canal Street and around Annunciation. After the lunch I drove to Jackson for a few days of rest.

November 2: Worked around the yard a bit without interruptions.

November 3: Relaxed watching football.

November 4: Drove to Georgia with our son to play in a golf tournament with a bunch of clergy.

November 5: Golf with old and new friends.

November 6: Tournament day and I'm paired with some good golfers. We didn't win but there was no embarrassment either!

November 7: Drove with our son back to Meridian and then on to New Orleans. It was great having spent the last three days with our son and to listen to his work as a priest.

November 8: The day began with Fr. Andy Thayer. Andy is the rector of Trinity, New Orleans. This meeting was followed by Fr. Jeff Millican's annual consultation.

Jeff is the chaplain at St. Martin's School. In the afternoon I drove with Fr. Barnwell and Ben Nobles to meet Ms. Maryam Henderson-Uloho, director of SisterHearts. My meeting was one of those moments where you know you are in the presence of something significant. She runs a thrift store to help fund her ministry to women who have been released from prison. She has a powerful story and I want to find a way to be involved in her work.

November 9: I worked on my sermon in the morning and then drove to the Solomon Center for an Executive Board overnight retreat.

November 10: The Executive Board retreat continued and ended with our regular meeting.

November 11: My visitation is with St. Anna's. I preached and celebrated and confirmed several individuals. It was a great day and the energy of the congregation was high. I wasn't able to stay afterwards due to having to drive to St. Francis in Denham Springs for the blessing of their new church. It was a glorious event. I am very proud of their accomplishment and it wouldn't have happened without the courage of the congregation.

November 12: I took my day off.

November 13: We began with staff meeting and then I met Fr. Robert Courtney for his annual consultation. Good things are going on at St. Paul's. I also met with Tanja Wadsworth for her annual consultation. She is doing a fine job running the Solomon Conference Center.

November 14: I had a painful meeting with a priest in the morning followed by lunch with Fr. Chris Capaldo for his annual visitation. I left the office a bit early emotionally tired.

November 15: I had an early morning conference call with Fr. Holzhalt and then met with Fr. Nelson Tennison for his annual consultation. In the afternoon I met with my eye doctor for my final exam following cataract surgery. I ended the day with a board meeting at St. Martin's school. I left a bit early to get home to see the grandchildren who will spend the next couple of nights with us.

November 16: My son and I played in the St. Martin's golf tournament. It was a beautiful day and we had a lot of laughs playing.

November 17: I worked on my sermon.

November 18: My visitation was with St. Francis, Denham Springs, where I preached, celebrated and confirmed several youth and adults. It felt good to worship in their new church.

November 19: I took the next week off for



*[Photograph from the St. Francis, Denham Springs, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to St. Francis, Denham Springs, on November 18, 2018.*

Thanksgiving. Rebecca and I spent the time with our daughter and her husband.

November 20: Off

November 21: Off

November 22: Thanksgiving Day. Rebecca and I cooked and enjoyed our company. Plus, Mississippi State beat Ole Miss! It was a good day.

November 23: Went fishing and caught a mess of bass.

November 24: Watched football and did some chores.

November 25: Drove back to New Orleans and was surprised at the lack of traffic.

November 26: The courtyard of our condo was being painted. Three stories is a lot of ladder work.

November 27: We began the day with staff meeting and then caught up since many of us were off the past week. The day ended with a meeting with St. John's, Kenner, bishop's mission committee.

November 28: I worked in the office on material for December. In the afternoon I met with the Disciplinary Board to help them with their work.

December 1: Rebecca and I drove to Baton Rouge for the night.

December 2: My visitation was at Grace, St. Francisville. I preached, celebrated, confirmed and received several parishioners. The day was beautiful, and they had a nice reception outside due to construction of their parish hall. When we returned to New Orleans we went for a nice walk.

December 3: I took the day off but received several phone calls from work and clergy.



## Out and About in the Diocese

December 4: The day began with our weekly staff meeting followed by a pastoral meeting with a priest. In the afternoon I attended a meeting with St. Andrew's head of school, Sr. Warden and a few others. After that Canon Manning and I drove to Nativity, Rosedale. to meet with their vestry. Got home later that evening.

December 5: Rebecca and I flew to Atlanta for the Province IV Bishops and Spouses meeting. It is always nice to see my colleagues that share this ministry.

December 6: The Bishop's met all day. In the afternoon we drove to the Absalom Jones Center for Reconciliation. They are doing fine work and reaching out to the larger church for teaching.

December 7: Our meeting continued with individuals from CPG. In the afternoon we flew back to New Orleans. Later that evening we had dinner with Rebecca's sisters and a friend from out of town.

December 8: I got up early and drove to the Solomon Center for a board meeting that was very productive. Later I drove to Baton Rouge for my next day's visit.

December 9: I drove to Zachary to take part in St. Patrick's Sunday school and then preached, celebrated and confirmed. It was a very nice visitation. I drove back to New Orleans where I participated in the Cathedral's Lessons and Carols. I always look forward to that service.

December 10: I took my day off trying to get well for the evening event for the University of the South. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend.

December 11: The Regents of the University of the South met in New Orleans today, but I was under the weather and could not attend.

December 12: Sick today.



*[Photograph from the Grace Memorial, Hammond, Facebook Page ] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Grace Memorial, Hammond, on December 16, 2018.*

December 13: I went to the office and met with Deacon Joey Clavijo and later a phone call from AJ Heine and later Steven Shortess. That night we had dinner with one of the Regents from Sewanee.

December 14: I spent the day working on writing material.

December 15: In the morning I ordained Caroline Carson to the Sacred Order of Deacons at the Cathedral.

December 16: Rebecca and I went to Grace Memorial, Hammond. We were treated to a fantastic breakfast and then I talked a little about the diocese. Later I preached, celebrated, confirmed and received a rather large class. It was a good day.

December 17: I took my day off to do a little Christmas shopping.

December 18: The day began with our weekly staff meeting and then I celebrate the noon service at the cathedral. Following the staff eating together I met with Canon Manning for her annual consultation. That was followed by a meeting with Fr. John Pitzer for his annual consultation.

December 19: The morning was full of meetings. First was Fr. John Craft for his annual meeting and this was followed by a meeting with Ryan Albright regarding the RRC. The last meeting in the office was with Fr. Michael Kuhn. In the afternoon I had a phone call meeting followed by a meeting out of the office.

December 20: The staff Christmas luncheon was at our home and it is always a delight to welcome them. Not only do I enjoy their work, but they are very good cooks too! The office is officially closed for the Christmas holidays.

December 21: I spent time working on my sermon. Virginia and her husband Kevin flew into New Orleans and then Virginia and Rebecca flew to Lexington, KY. Way too much movement.

December 22: No meetings.

December 23: No visitation.

December 24: I preached at the 5:00 and 9:00 services at the Cathedral.

December 25: Merry Christmas!

December 26-31: The office is closed.

## Calendar of Upcoming Diocesan Events

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### February 8-10

Happening #82

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

More information and registration: <https://seccla.org/events2/415/>

### Saturday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Self-reflection: Stepping Stones Young Adult Retreat

Trinity Church, 3552 Morning Glory Ave, Baton Rouge

More information and registration:

[www.edola.org/events/event/stepping-stones-retreat-self-reflection-2019/](http://www.edola.org/events/event/stepping-stones-retreat-self-reflection-2019/)

### March 8-10

God is Love Silent Retreat (Registration due: February 24)

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

More information and registration: <https://seccla.org/events2/god-is-love-silent-retreat/>

### Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Serving & Preserving Our Environment: Education Field Day for the Diocese of Louisiana

St. George's Episcopal Church, 4600 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans

Keynote speaker: The Rt. Rev. Mark Andrus, Bishop of California

More information here: [www.edola.org/events/event/serving-preserving-our-environment](http://www.edola.org/events/event/serving-preserving-our-environment)

### March 22-24

Men's Retreat with the Rev. Scott Stoner from Living Compass

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

Call the Christ Church, Covington, office to register: 985-892-3177

### April 15 at 11 a.m.

Chrism Mass

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