

CHURCHWORK



For the Love of the Earth



CHURCHWORK

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana]
Summer meets fall in the St. Mark's community garden.

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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. We reserve the right to edit all material, and cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.

Reconstruction of the Racial Reconciliation Commission

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



In 1845, James Lowell wrote, "New occasions teach new duties, time makes ancient good uncouth." I love this line and particularly his choice of words. I also love the insistence that the idea of "good" must yield to new definitions and circumstances, and words like "good" and "truth" evolve. And I know this testament to be true. I grew up in the South, went to

segregated schools, and saw African Americans subjected to insult and humiliation. In that time and place, this kind of treatment was the "truth" of racial relationships and was considered "good" for the social order. I am grateful for the courage of leaders, both black and white, who made new occasions for new duties and who defined that old "good" as uncouth and risked much to bring about change. [Taken from *Choosing Gratitude 365 Days a Year* by James A. Autry and Sally J. Pederson.]

When I read Autry's words there was something that bothered me. I had to read the first sentence several times to get the gist of what he was saying. I know James Lowell's quote to be what I believe. Distance has a way of reshaping our knowing of time and place. I get that. What shook me was, "and was considered 'good' for the social order." I realize I am looking backwards and what I understand and believe is quite different than fifty years ago but was it really considered good for the social order for everyone? The answer is, no. Not everyone thought it was "good" to be ignored, trampled and dismissed. Not everyone thought it "good" to be denied the basic dignity offered to all white people. However, time has not stopped. We have taken steps to understand, as Autry wrote, and to see time as a movement towards good.

Recently Rebecca and I were honored to have Dr. Catherine Meeks in our home for dinner. Dr. Meeks is the head of the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta, Georgia. She came to

our diocese to teach the art of conversation of reconciliation for our office and the staffs of the Cathedral and St. Paul's Church. During dinner, Dr. Meeks spoke of the importance of speaking within our churches about racial reconciliation. She said, "The real work is in the parishes. That is where the conversations need to be happening."

With Dr. Meeks words fresh in my mind I made the decision to reconstruct our Racial Reconciliation Commission. The members of this commission will be comprised of facilitators. Each will be trained to lead congregations, vestries, and clergy in conversations regarding racial awareness and healing. This work takes its mandate from our baptismal covenant. Will we seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves and will we respect the dignity of every human being?

I am excited about this work of reconciliation. The gift of conversation offers the opportunity to see the goodness in everyone and how we might be changed into the image of Christ.

Lowell was right. New occasions do teach new duties, and time does make ancient good uncouth. I look forward to walking the way of reconciliation with you.

Brave journey,

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

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



[Photograph from the Sanctuary Farms Garden Facebook Page] Sunflowers in the Sanctuary Farms Garden, a ministry of St. Philip's, New Orleans.

For the Love of the Earth

by Deacon Joey Clavijo, Chair, Environmental Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry is always preaching about love. One of his most popular quotes is: "If it's not about love, it's not about God."

If you asked me to define love I'd have a hard time putting it into words, except to say that God is love. But then, how do I define God? I've tried to think about God in very big ways, only to discover that my limited comprehension of God is simply too small. I can't seem to put God into a box to either define God or define love. But I can tell you what love looks like. I can tell you what love does: Love always seeks the good of the other.

What I've discovered is that God's work is love, and love does not exist in isolation. Love is like a fire which breaks through and ignites the very fabric of life through relationships. The power of love manifests itself in what the Episcopal Church calls The Way of Love, the way we create Loving, Liberating, Life-Giving relationships with God, with each other, and with creation itself, in Christ.

When we read sacred scripture (Genesis 1:1-25) we discover God's first relationship was the creation of the earth and note that all creation was good. Then we read (Genesis 1:26-31) God created humankind in God's own image and likeness and gave us dominion over the earth.

God has given us in creation everything we need to be fruitful and multiply.

We certainly have been fruitful and multiplied, to a world population of over 7.7 billion people. God has created over 7.7 billion of us in God's image and likeness and has given all of us dominion over the earth.

So why should we as a faith community be involved in the work of creation care? I suggest it's for the love of the earth. I suggest we consider our relationships with food, with transportation, with energy, with how we live our lives and ask; are we creating loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with our environment. Can we find better ways to care for our environment for the love of the earth?

What are the things our churches can do to become involved in creation care? I suggest the first step is to say yes to creation care for the love of the earth. Next, invite members of your congregation into the discussion. Environmental stewards are sitting in the pews of every church right now. Establish a working ministry for environmental stewardship, maybe a green team. Focus on concrete practices which you can implement at your church. There are many resources offered throughout our diocese to get you started.

For more information on how your church can implement or enhance your environmental ministry, contact the Environmental Commission at environment@edola.org.

We are thankful for the churches and individuals who participated in these environmental stewardship events:

Serving & Preserving Our Environment on Saturday, March 16 at St. George's, New Orleans

Clergy and lay leaders assembled at St George's Episcopal Church to hear a keynote address by The Rt. Rev. Mark Andrus, Bishop of California. Other speakers included Professor Mark Davis from the Tulane Bywater Institute and Helen Rose Patterson from Restore the Mississippi River Delta. Members from three of our churches shared their stories of various environmental stewardship projects at their local churches.

Coastal Day on Monday, April 22 at The Louisiana State Capital

Environmental Commission members Richard and Fernell Cryar along with other advocates working on coastal restoration initiatives gathered at the capital for meetings with the state legislature, the governor, and attended panel discussions geared to assure continual funding of the state's Master Plan to restore the coastlands of Louisiana. Commission member Fernell Cryar left the meetings with a feeling of hope, having heard the governor and state legislators praise and continue to support the Coastal Master Plan, which combines projects that restore, build or maintain coastal wetlands.

Presentation to the EWC on Saturday, May 18 at St. Matthew's, Houma

Environmental Commission member George Bond presented a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation on environmental stewardship and the Episcopal Church.

The NOLA Energy Challenge

St. George's Episcopal Church is participating in the NOLA Energy Challenge. They are partnering with Entergy to provide them with ample assistance to reduce their energy consumption and make an impact on the environment. This program is available to all Orleans Parish churches.



St. Mark's Green Team

by Tiffany Skalla, St. Mark's, Harvey

We built an organic community garden in the front yard of our church using mostly repurposed materials. It is surrounded by a brightly colored picket fence and open to all. The garden is evolving and growing each season. It also houses our compost bin.

There is a Little Free Library on the fence of our community garden and we have plans to have a Little Free Pantry by the end of the year.

We created a Green Team that consists of parishioners and meets monthly to implement green changes to our church and educate and inform our congregation on creation care and our responsibilities to this care. We also host guest speakers (Helen Rose Patterson and Liz Sheppard of Life City).

The Green Team hosted Sunday school for five weeks during Lent where we focused on devotionals from *For the Beauty of the Earth: Daily Devotions Exploring Creation*. We explored one green topic per week and had great involvement/attendees from our church family. This was awesome to raise awareness and feel more connected to the Earth. Topics included: recycling, reducing, plastics, compost, garden and water.

The Green Team hosted Helen Rose Patterson and a scientist for a Nature Walk & Chat Field Trip to Jean Lafitte Barataria Preserve. This was on an accessible path and was well attended. It was a fun way to get people excited about creation care, become more informed on environmental issues we face locally, and create a fellowship opportunity outside of church.

You Can Help Save Our Coast

by Helen Rose Patterson, Restore the Mississippi River Delta

Restore the Mississippi River Delta is a coalition of the National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Environmental Defense Fund, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Together we work to use the best available science to drive restoration priorities, engage a variety of stakeholders in education and advocacy efforts, develop communications tools that tell our stories effectively and advance forward-thinking policy solutions that will get Louisiana to a sustainable coast as efficiently as possible. For the last several years, the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana has played an important role in advocating for coastal restoration alongside us.

Louisiana's coast is vanishing at an alarming rate – every 100 minutes a football field of land



[Photograph by Eleanor Berault, All Saints', River Ridge] In February 2018, youth groups from the churches in the Jefferson Deanery planted 500 trees near Manchac, Louisiana.

disappears. Since the 1930s we've lost a land mass the size of Delaware, and that loss has impacts across our communities and ecosystems. Those coastal wetlands are extremely important for a variety of reasons – from providing communities with critical storm protection to generating billions of dollars of economic opportunities that benefit the entire nation. For more than 2 million people who live and work along Louisiana's coast, wetlands help buffer storm surge, allowing communities to grow and thrive despite the threats of hurricanes. Louisiana is also home to five of the nation's largest ports, the producer of 90 percent of the country's outer continental oil and gas, and the provider of nearly 30 percent of the commercial fishing landings of the continental U.S. Along with supporting a vibrant human community, Louisiana's coast is a remarkably productive ecosystem and home to threatened and endangered species such as the Louisiana black bear, the piping plover, and the green sea turtle.

Our land loss crisis is caused by many different natural and man-made factors, but the leading cause of wetlands loss is that they have been starved of sediment from the Mississippi River by the levees built for flood control and navigation. Over thousands of years, Louisiana's coast was built and maintained by the periodic deposition of river sediment during floods. Leveeing the river cut the tie between the sediment-laden river and its delta, which stopped the cycle of wetland growth. Additionally, shipping channels and canals have allowed salt water to penetrate our wetlands destroying the parts of the ecosystem reliant on fresh water. Oil and gas infrastructure, including canals, extraction, and spills have taken their toll on our coast. Dams upriver trap sediment where it is of no use to the Louisiana coast. There are also natural phenomena at play such as subsidence or the sinking of coastal land paired with sea-level rise swallowing our shores. Hurricanes also wreak havoc on our coastal wetlands as they absorb storms sure and wind.

Since there are many different causes of land loss, we need to implement many different solutions if we want to have a sustainable coast. In order to achieve the large scale restoration we so desperately need, the state has developed a

planning process that results in a regularly updated plan, based on the best available science. The Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast is a 50-year, \$50 billion plan that prioritizes the most urgent projects and aims to reduce flood risk through both restoration and risk reduction strategies. Some restoration projects aim to recreate our natural systems; these include sediment diversions and freshwater diversions that reconnect the river to the delta through a controlled structure. Sediment diversions are designed to capture more sediment and freshwater diversions are designed to capture more water.

Other restoration solutions aim to rebuild the natural features of our coast. Marsh creation projects use dredged sediment to build land quickly. Ridge restoration projects are meant to recreate the naturally elevated sections of our very flat coast and are important to block saltwater intrusion and trap sediment. Barrier islands are the first speed bump that a hurricane hits as it comes ashore and over the last decade Louisiana has rebuilt many of the barrier islands that skirt our coast.

For the last three years, part of our outreach effort has been engaging with congregations from all faith communities to understand and advance restoration. The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana has frequently participated in our efforts. Clergy and lay leaders have attended workshops to build their skills as advocates for restoration. We've taken Sunday afternoon field trips to see the coast at the Barataria Preserve, and clergy have joined us for tours of the coast on airboats and airplanes. Several clergy have met with their legislators and visited the Capitol to demonstrate strong support for coastal restoration efforts.

Congregations can play an important role in advancing large scale coastal restoration; there are essentially two important ways to get involved. The first is the "boots-on-the-ground" approach. Getting outside to plant trees with Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation or to bag oyster shells for reef building with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana are direct investments in the future of our coast and deepen an individual's commitment to the issues and understanding of the coastal ecosystem. Congregations in this diocese have planted 850 trees along Louisiana's coast in the last two planting seasons. It has been an opportunity for the children and youth of these congregations to learn more



[Photograph by Helen Rose Patterson, Restore the Mississippi River Delta] Canon John Kellogg and Bishop Morris Thompson tour the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion with Restore the Mississippi River Delta.

about the ecosystem they call home and how they can work to ensure that it's got a bright future.

The second way that you can support our coast is by engaging with the decision-makers responsible for advancing large-scale restoration like sediment diversions, marsh creation, and barrier island restoration. We can plant trees every weekend and build oyster reefs all over the coast, but without the large-scale restoration proposed in the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, we cannot address the underlying causes of our land loss and create a coast that can stand the test of time. This is why participation in advocacy workshops, visits with legislators, and trips to the Capitol are such an important way for people to support coastal restoration efforts.

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana has been a robust participant in advocating for the coastal restoration that we so desperately need here in Louisiana. Clergy and lay leaders have brought an important moral and spiritual aspect to tough conversations about the changes that are coming with or without restoration activities. It is my sincere hope that the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana will continue to engage in the important and challenging work of advocating for a sustainable future for all of our coastal communities and ecosystems.

2019 Honored Women of the ECW

by Judy Knecht, Honored Women Chair of the ECW



[Photograph by Katherine Gilbert] Left to right: Kathryn Johnson, Janie LeBlanc, and Gail Duhe'

For 23 years the Episcopal Church Women have recognized three women each year for their ministry and service to the Church. These are the recipients of the Honored Women Award at the 132nd Annual Gathering of the ECW at St. Matthew's, Houma.

Gail Henry Duhe'

Gail Duhe' has been a lifelong member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houma, Louisiana. Mrs. Florence Henry had Gail baptized at St. Matthew's Church on November 10, 1947. Gail was confirmed in the church on November 29, 1959, and years later married her first husband. She is married forty-four years to the love of her life, Leonard Duhe', and together they have three sons, Chad Louis, and Beau. She has been blessed with five grandchildren. Her son Louis was married to Abby this past September at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans.

Gail has given of her time and talents to St. Matthew's Church and the Episcopal Diocese serving in many capacities. She has served on the vestry twice taking on the job as Junior Warden. She has chaired the Ushers' and Bake Sale for many years. She was president of ECW for six years and has co-chaired many ECW fundraisers. Gail has been a volunteer secretary in the church office, is an active member of the Altar Guild, and is currently chairing United Thank Offering for St. Matthew's. She also co-chairs the Southwest Deanery for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

Maria DeHart, Gail's godmother, was one of the first ladies to be on the Roll of Honored Women in 1997. Gail has followed in her godmother's footsteps of serving her church and community with all her heart and soul.

Kathryn Weisner Johnson

Kathryn Weisner Johnson was born in Karmack, Texas and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1957 as Valedictorian. She matriculated at Prairie View A&M College, Prairie View, Texas, where she majored in Elementary Education with a minor in Library Science, graduating in thirty-six months, Summa Cum Laude in May 1961. She married Clifton J. Johnson, Jr. in August 1961 and they subsequently had five sons. After graduating from Prairie View in 1961 she moved to Houston in September to take her first job as teacher-librarian at Galena Park High School, Galena Park, Texas, where she taught eighth grade geography and was the school librarian. Her husband went to live in Hawkins, Texas, where he coached tennis and basketball and taught physical

education. After working one year in Galena Park she moved to Hawkins with her husband and their first son was born. She was hired as school librarian at Fouke-Hawkins High School. In 1964, after the birth of their second son, she was hired at Jarvis Christian College as head librarian and remained there until 1966 when she decided to attend graduate school at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia where she earned her master's degree in Library Science in 1967. Their third child was born in September 1967. The family then moved to Shreveport, Louisiana where they both worked at Southern University, she as a librarian and he as tennis coach and physical education instructor. In 1970 the family moved to Baton Rouge where her husband coached tennis and golf at Southern University, and she was school librarian at an elementary school for a short while before being hired as professor-librarian at the John B. Cade Library at Southern University where she worked for twenty-nine years retiring in September 1998. Their last two sons were born in Baton Rouge.

Reared a Baptist, and after twenty-seven years as a Jehovah's Witness, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit steered her to St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge in 1996 where she fell in love with the time-honored ritual of the worship of Jesus Christ.

In 1996 she started attending St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church and was confirmed at St. Michael's in 1997. Shortly afterwards she was introduced to the ECW Diocesan Board and appointed as College Liaison by Lynette Frazier, then Board President. She has been serving as ECW Diocesan Board College Liaison since that time, some twenty-two years, taking the position of College Liaison to the ECW Diocesan Board seriously, and as a worthy ministry, Kathryn works diligently to fulfill the duties of this position. Her efforts garner commendations and praise from priests all over the nation and of course from the Diocesan Board. In addition, she works faithfully in her church having served as ECW president, ECW secretary and now serves as the ECW secretary/treasurer. She has been singing in the church choir since 1998 and has served as a Lay Eucharist Minister (LEM) since 2003. She has served on the Vestry for two terms and is now Senior Warden helping to steer the church and keep it on its mission until the Lord calls her home. Since the church has no priest, she does the church bulletins

and conducts Morning Prayer most Sundays when no priest is available.

Sarah Janie LeBlanc

Janie LeBlanc is a lifelong Episcopalian and has a great love for the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion in Plaquemine, Louisiana, where her family are founding members.

She has been married to Jerry LeBlanc for fifty-seven years. They have three sons, a daughter, and nine grandchildren.

Her hobbies include painting, swimming, raising quarter horses and caring for her family and friends. She loves Grand Isle and the family camp there where many a family reunion occur. The Grand Isle "breakfast" that she serves is legendary. She loves Camp Waldemar in Texas where she was a first-time camper at age six and attends Women's Week every September.

Janie has served in all offices in her ECW and chairs her Altar Guild group. She has served on the Vestry of Holy Communion both as Junior and Senior Warden. Under her leadership the church has seen many improvements and rarely is anything undertaken without seeking her experience and advice.

Janie and Jerry's children all attended St. James Episcopal School and Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge. She was the President of the St. James Mothers Club; she also chaired and served on several committees at Episcopal High School.

Janie has served as President of the Diocesan ECW and continues to be an integral member of that board.

Janie is a role model not only in our church family but in our community as well. Many of us aspire to serve the Lord as she gladly does.

The Clericus (February - June 2019)



[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] The clergy gather outside Christ Church Cathedral following the Chrism Mass on April 15.

Transitions in the Diocese

The Rev. Dennis Ryan retired as priest-in-charge of St. Michael's, Mandeville, effective June 16.

The Rev. Canon Ron Clingenpeel was called as permanent supply priest of St. Luke's, New Orleans.

The Robert Beazley was called as priest-in-charge of St. Michael's, Mandeville, effective July 1. He was serving as associate and school chaplain of St. Andrew's, New Orleans.

Transitions Out of the Diocese

The Rev. Dan Puchalla accepted the call as interim rector of The Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church in Gurnee, Illinois. He was serving as permanent supply priest at St. Luke's, New Orleans.

The Rev. Anne Maxwell was called as the dean of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral, Jackson, Mississippi, effective July 15. She was serving as the associate rector of Christ Church, Covington.

The Rev. Caroline Carson graduated from the School of Theology at The University of the

South on May 10. She accepted a call as rector of Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents in Beach Haven, New Jersey, effective June 24. She will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on June 27 in the Diocese of New Jersey by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wm "Chip" Stokes on behalf of the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.

The Rev. John Tober accepted a call as rector of St. James' Episcopal Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico, effective June 23. He was serving as curate and chaplain at Trinity Episcopal Church and School, Baton Rouge.

Clergy Deaths

The Rev. Terrell Griffis died at the age of age 86 on April 19 at the Veteran's Nursing Home in Collins, Mississippi. A funeral service was held on April 25 at the Church of the Mediator, Meridian, Mississippi.

The Rev. Daniel Hanna died at the age of age 83 on May 22, 2019, at Lambeth House in New Orleans. A funeral service was held on June 15 at St. Anna's, New Orleans.



English Tea at St. John's (left)

[Photograph from the *Trinity, Morgan City, Facebook Page*] Parishioners of Trinity, Morgan City, and the Rev. Travers Koerner enjoying the 31st Annual English Tea at St. John's, Thibodaux, on February 2.



Candlemas (right)

[Photograph from the *St. Francis, Denham Springs, Facebook Page*] St. Francis, Denham Springs, celebrated Candlemas on February 2. Candlemas marks the midway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It is a traditional day to bring candles to the church to be blessed.



Black and Gold and Penalty Flag Sunday

[Photograph on the left by Leslie Tate, *Christ Church, Covington*; Photograph on the right by Karen Mackey, *Diocese of Louisiana*] After the New Orleans Saints lost their NFC Championship game due to a non-call, Christ Church, Covington, and St. Paul's, New Orleans, decided to turn the tears into an opportunity to shine a light on injustice in the world. They asked parishioners to right an injustice they see in this world on a penalty flag. The flags were then offered up to God. Parishioners were urged to fight to make right the injustices they see.

Out and About in the Diocese



Stepping Stones Retreat (left)

[Photograph from the Stepping Stones Retreat Instagram Page] Stepping Stones Young Adult Retreats kicked off their 2019 series of retreats at Trinity Church, Baton Rouge on February 16. The Stepping Stones Retreat is meant to give young adults some tools and a means of discernment which is not specifically about discerning a call to ordination. Retreat themes include self-reflection, prayer, spirituality of relationships, spirituality of work, and lay ministries.



Happening #82 (right)

[Photograph from the St. James EYC Instagram Page] Youth of the diocese gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center February 8-10 for Happening #82. Happening is a youth-led spiritual formation weekend designed for high school teens in grades 9-12. The purpose of the Happening program is to be one of the instruments within the Anglican Tradition to renew the Christian Church in the power of the Holy Spirit, in order that the Church may respond more readily to its call to spread the Kingdom of God throughout the world.



Taize Service (left)

[Photograph from the Christ Church, Slidell, Facebook Page] On February 10, Christ Church, Slidell, held a Taize Service. The church was filled with beautiful candlelight, music, and moments of meaningful silence.



Blessing Bags (right)

[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] On February 16, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, assembled 116 blessing bags consisting of food, socks, water, and toiletries. The bags were distributed to the homeless in Baton Rouge.

Out and About in the Diocese



Mardi Gras Around the Diocese

[Photographs from various Facebook pages] Top left: Trinity Church, New Orleans, Bottom left: St. Matthew's, Houma, youth sold concessions during the Houma parades to earn money for their mission trip this summer. Right: Baton Rouge Deanery churches marched and rode in the Southdown Parade.



Children's March in the Civil Rights Era (left)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Instagram Page] In February, Trinity Church, New Orleans, held several events to commemorate Black History Month. One event was called "The Children's March in the Civil Rights Era." Parishioners and guests watched portion of the movie *The Mighty Times* and heard from guest speakers who shared their experience of being teenagers and children participating in protests in New Orleans in the Civil Rights Era.

Scout Sunday (right)

[Photograph from the St. Francis, Denham Springs, and Trinity Church, Morgan City] On February 3, St. Francis, Denham Springs, and Trinity Church, Morgan City, celebrated Scout Sunday, a day to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to the Boy Scouts.



Valentine Luncheon at St. Philip's (left)

[Photograph from the Facebook Page, St. Philip's, New Orleans] The men of St. Philip's, New Orleans, cooked and served lunch to the women of the church in appreciation for all they do.



Richard Allen and Absalom Jones Festive Eucharist (right)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook Page] On February 13, a festive Eucharist honoring Richard Allen and Absalom Jones was held at Trinity Church, New Orleans. Absalom Jones was the first black priest of the Episcopal Church, and Richard Allen was the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The service was sponsored by the Racial Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and Trinity Church.



Mini-Camp Hardtner Day (left)

[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] St. Paul's, New Orleans, held a mini-Camp Hardtner Day on March 10. All were invited to play camp games, do crafts, sing songs, worship, and have snacks all in the tradition of Camp Hardtner. It was an opportunity to learn more about Camp Hardtner



Sewanee Choir at Christ Church Cathedral (right)

[Photograph from the Christ Church Cathedral Facebook Page] On March 10, the Sewanee University Choir performed at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans.



Environmental Stewardship Day

[Photograph by Karen Mackey, Diocese of Louisiana] On March 16, the Environmental Commission of the Diocese of Louisiana hosted Serving & Preserving the Environment at St. George's, New Orleans. Speakers at the forum included the Rt. Rev. Mark Andrus, Bishop of the Diocese of California; Professor Mark Davis, Tulane University ByWater Institute; and Helen Rose Patterson, Restore the Mississippi River Delta. Participants learned about the role of faith communities in the work of environmental care, environmental issues impacting Louisiana, and partnerships between non-profit organizations and congregations in the work of restoring our coast. Representatives from several churches in the diocese also spoke about the work they are doing regarding environmental care.



Fr. Ron and Friends CD Release Concert (left)

[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] Fr. Ron and Friends held a CD release concert at St. Margaret's Baton Rouge on March 15. The band is led by the Rev. Canon Ron Clingenpeel. They recently released a new CD called *On My Way Home*.

Global School in El Salvador (right)

[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] In March, the Rev. Tommy Dillon and a few parishioners from St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, participated in Global School in El Salvador. This seminar provided an opportunity to deepen understanding of human rights, apply this understanding to the Central American refugee crisis, and develop concrete tools to respond. It was sponsored by Cristosal, an organization working to advance human rights in Central America through rights-based research, learning, and programming.



Celebrating 175 Years

[Photograph from the St. John's, Thibodaux, Facebook Page]

Happy 175th Anniversary to Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans, St. James, Baton Rouge, and St. John's, Thibodaux. All three celebrated their bicentennial in March.

St. John's kicked off a yearlong celebration on March 15. It was a three-day celebration filled with music, art, and worship.

Church of the Annunciation held a service followed by a party on March 24.

St. James' received a special commendation from the Louisiana State Senate on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the granting of the charter by the Louisiana State Legislature. This year also marks the 200th year of having an Episcopal presence in Baton Rouge. In 1819, a group of people began meeting for worship and established an Episcopal church two years after the founding of Baton Rouge.



Field Trip to Jean Lafitte (left)

[Photograph from the St. Mark's, Harvey, Facebook Page] St. Mark's, Harvey, participated in a Lenten study on creation care. On March 25, they took a field trip to the Jean Lafitte National Park.

Men's Retreat (right)

[Photograph by Mark Berry, Christ Church, Covington] From March 22-24, men from across the diocese gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center for their annual retreat. The weekend was organized by Christ Church, Covington, and featured Scott Stoner, founder of Living Compass, as the keynote speaker.



Out and About in the Diocese



Holy Week & Easter in the Diocese of Louisiana

[Photographs from various Facebook pages] First Row Left: Palm Sunday at St. Francis, Denham Springs; First Row Center: Palm Sunday at Mount Olivet, New Orleans; First Row Right: Palm Sunday at St. Philip's, New Orleans;

Second Row Left: Palm Sunday at Christ Church, Slidell; Second Row Center: Good Friday at Trinity, Baton Rouge; Second Row Right: Good Friday at Grace Church, St. Francisville

Third Row Left: Easter morning service on the levee with Mount Olivet, New Orleans; Third Row Center: Easter at Trinity Church, Morgan City; Third Row Right: Easter at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge

Fourth Row Right: Easter at St. Patrick's, Zachary; Fourth Row Center: Easter at St. Anna's, New Orleans; Fourth Row Right: Easter at Church of the Annunciation, New Orleans.

Out and About in the Diocese



Geaux Teal Walk (left)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] On April 13, Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, participated in the Geaux Teal Ovarian Cancer Walk in Baton Rouge to raise awareness for women of all ages about the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer.



Running the Crescent City Classic for a Purpose (right)

[Photograph from the St. Paul's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] St. Paul's, New Orleans, ran the Crescent City Classic on April 20 to raise money and awareness of Covenant House, a non-profit providing shelter and services to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 16 - 22 in New Orleans.



St. Anna's Food Pantry (left)

[Photograph from the St. Anna's, New Orleans, Facebook Page] In April, St. Paul's, New Orleans, donated to the St. Anna's Food Pantry.



Easter Egg Hunt and Pet Adoption (right)

[Photograph from the St. Mark's, Harvey, Facebook Page] On April 13, St. Mark's hosted an Easter egg hunt and pet adoption event. The day was organized and sponsored by Bluetails Pet Rescue.



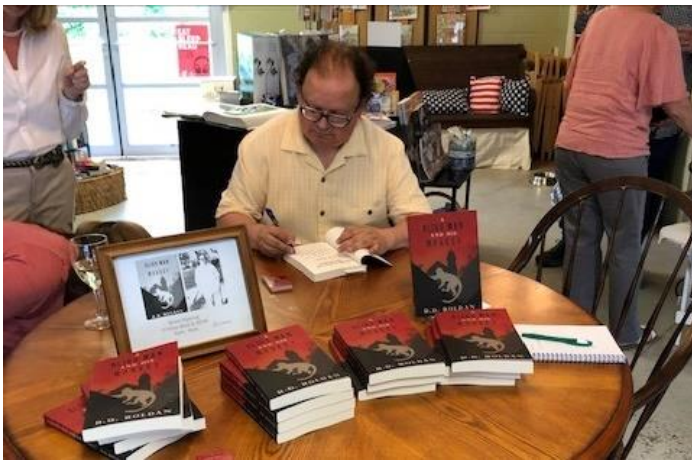
Blessing of the Fleet on Bayou DuLac (left)

[Photograph by Kristen Wheeler, Christ Church, Slidell] On April 28, Bishop Thompson blessed the shrimp boats along Bayou DuLac during the annual Blessing of the Fleet. St. Andrew's has hosted this event for over 60 years.



Blessing of the New Altar and Communion Rail (right)

[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook Page] Trinity Church, Baton Rouge, renovated their sanctuary to create a space that was easier for people with mobility issues to enjoy worship and receive communion. On April 30, Bishop Thompson blessed the new altar rail and movable altar.



The Very Rev. Roman Roldan—Author Book Signing (left)

[Photograph from the R.D. Roldan Author Facebook Page] The Very Rev. Roman Roldan, rector of Grace Church, St. Francisville, recently released his first book called *A Blind Man and His Monkey*. He held book signings in several locations in May.



Deacons Retreat (right)

[Photograph from the EDOLA Deacons Facebook Page] The deacons and spouses of the Diocese of Louisiana gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center for their annual retreat from May 17-18. The retreat was led by the Rev. Bridget Tierney, Director of Advent House.



132nd Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women

[Photographs by Katherine Gilbert] The 132nd Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women took place from May 17-18 at St. Matthew's, Houma. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Kellie Wilson, associate priest for faith development at Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville, South Carolina. There was time for dancing, worship, and learning about the ministries of our churches. Bishop Thompson presented his State of the Church address. George Bond of St. George's, New Orleans, gave a presentation on Interfaith Power and Light, a religious response to global warming.

Out and About in the Diocese



Crawfish Boils (left)

[Photograph from various Facebook Pages] We love our crawfish in the Diocese of Louisiana. Top left: St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; Top center: Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans; Top right: St. Luke's, Baton Rouge; Right: Mount Olivet, New Orleans; Bottom right: Annunciation, New Orleans; Bottom center: Trinity Church, Baton Rouge; Bottom right: St. Patrick's, Zachary.



Memorial Garden at St. Margaret's (left)

[Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Facebook Page] St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, recently built a memorial garden. It was blessed on Pentecost Sunday.

Love Wins (right)

[Photograph by Kristen Wheeler, Christ Church, Slidell] Clergy and parishioners from across the Diocese of Louisiana marched in the New Orleans Pride Parade to show that God loves all and the Episcopal Church welcomes you. Our participation in the parade was organized by Inclusive Louisiana, the diocesan ministry to the LGBTQ+ community.

Bishop's Journal: January—May 2019

January 1: The office is closed for New Year's Day. I watch more football than is healthy.

January 2: I have meetings in the morning and then a couple more in the afternoon. It feels good to get back to work after the holidays.

January 3: I have an annual meeting with Mother Bridget Tierney.

January 4: I spend the morning working on my sermon and have a doctor's appointment in the afternoon.

January 5: I have no meetings this Saturday.

January 6: My visitation is with St. Martin's, Metairie. I teach Sunday School before the service in which I preach and celebrate. Later that afternoon I officiate the Frances Gaudet Service at St. Luke's, New Orleans. The turnout is very good.

January 7: I pick up our speaker, James A. Autry at the airport, for the Presbyters' Conference. I am very excited that Mr. Autry is going to lead us in conversations around servant leadership. James was CEO of the Meredith Corporation and currently is a coach for corporate leaders. He is also one of my favorite writers and poets. After lunch, we drive to SECC. The clergy gather for Evening prayer, dinner and then the first teaching from Jim Autry.

January 8: Jim Autry leads the clergy in another teaching and then we gather in the chapel for Eucharist. The clergy have the afternoon off to rest, fish or visit. Later in the evening, we have the annual fireside chat and some social time.



[Photograph from the Christ Church Cathedral Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Christ Church Cathedral on January 20.

January 9: The last day of the clergy gathering. Mr. Cove Geary, the diocesan chancellor, presents a program on the canons of the church. We wrap things up at 11:00 and I take Jim Autry to the airport, but before we get there, we get stuck in traffic and it takes us three hours to get to the airport from the Solomon Center. The time quickly passes as I become better acquainted with Jim Autry.

January 10: I make a quick trip to Jackson to check on a mold issue. I am back in New Orleans by 2:45.

January 11: I spend the morning working on sermon material and wait for the heating serviceman to arrive.

January 12: I drive to the SECC for Executive Board meeting. It is a good meeting. After the meeting, I drive to Baton Rouge and have dinner with two priests to listen to ideas on clergy wellness.

January 13: My visitation is at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge. I teach Sunday School. I preach, celebrate and confirm several new Episcopalians. A very nice reception follows.

January 14: I have the morning off and a General Convention committee meeting in the afternoon. Condo Association meeting in the evening.

January 15: We have our first staff meeting of the year in the morning and then I celebrate the noon service at the cathedral. In the afternoon I have two meetings. I drive to Baton Rouge to spend the night.

January 16: I have an early meeting with Fr. Bryan Owen at St. Luke's for his annual consultation. Following I have lunch with Fr. Jerry Phillips. He is the new chaplain at St. James Place. From the comments I hear from the residents, Fr. Jerry is much appreciated. Later in the day, I officiate the new ministry service for Fr. Chris Duncan at St. James', Baton Rouge. The church is packed and the mood is alive. I drive back to New Orleans arriving late.

January 17: I'm up early and at the airport by 5:00 am to fly to Sewanee, Tennessee, to help seat the new Chancellor. My part of the service is to read three paragraphs in Latin. I never studied Latin so I am quite anxious. I have dinner with our seminarians Caroline Carson and Allison Reid.

January 18: We practice for the 4:00 p.m. service. I survive the reading but don't remember much.

January 19: I am up early to drive to Nashville and fly back to New Orleans. A long day of flying.

January 20: My visitation is with the Cathedral where I preach, celebrate, baptize two, and confirm several. It

is a good day. In the afternoon I watch the Saints come within inches of winning a birth to the Super Bowl, only to have a terribly missed call. I end the day by celebrating at the Real Presence service and blessing their new altar. The service is exactly what I need after a bad ball game.

January 21: It is a quiet day.

January 22: We have our weekly staff meeting followed by a meeting with someone from another tradition wanting to discern a call to become an Episcopal priest. Later I have lunch with Ann Ball.

January 23: I get up early to attend Trinity, New Orleans, Men's Bible study and breakfast. Fr. Andy Thayer is a fabulous teacher and the men fix a mean breakfast. Later in the morning, I meet with Fr. Lamb from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans. In the afternoon I meet with a woman who is seeking clarity in a call to ordained ministry. Rebecca and I take two people from 815 New York to dinner. They are here to show us the demographics of our churches and neighborhoods.

January 24: The staff meets with the representatives from 815 New York most of the morning and then have lunch with them before they leave. I drive to Slidell for a meeting and then run by Linda and Les Bradfield's home. Les will have back surgery a week from today.

January 25: I have an early morning meeting with two men representing The Brotherhood of St. Andrews. Canon Manning and I work on a disciplinary matter with one of our clergy.

January 26: I'm up early to get to the Solomon Center by 8:00 a.m. for all-day meetings with individuals who are in the discernment process. I arrive home around 4:30 p.m.

January 27: I have no visitation today.

January 28: I take my day off.

January 29: The day begins with our weekly staff meeting and then I spend time with the two canons. In the afternoon I drive to Baton Rouge for Episcopal High's Board meeting. I return home in the evening.

January 30: In the morning I have a Reference Panel conference call. In the afternoon I meet with Fr. Bill Miller for his annual consultation.

January 31: I'm up very early to fly to Sewanee to help induct the new Chancellor for the University of the South.

February 1: The service for the new Chancellor goes well and at night there is a wonderful reception to honor Bishop Rob Skirving and other honorary degree recipients.



[Photograph from the Church Pension Group Facebook Page]
IBAMS Account Management Leaders, meet with Bishop Thompson and staff at the Diocese of Louisiana.

February 2: I get up early to fly back to New Orleans.

February 3: My visitation is with St. Andrew's, New Orleans. It is a very nice morning and a lovely reception followed.

February 4: I take my day off.

February 5: Our weekly staff meeting is held in the morning followed by Fr. Duane Wiggin-Nettles annual consultation. After that, I go home feeling a bit under the weather.

February 6: I'm at home trying to get over whatever it is I have.

February 7: Spend most of the day working from home not wanting to infect anyone, especially Karen.

February 8: Sermon work.

February 9: I drive to the Solomon Center for a board meeting.

February 10: I'm up very early to fly back to Sewanee for the Regents' quarterly meeting.

February 11: The Regents' meeting begins with Eucharist. Our meetings follow.

February 12: We hit the road running again today and wrap up everything by 12:00 p.m. I have dinner with Bill Rue, a fellow Regent.

February 13: I drive to Nashville in the morning to catch my flight back to New Orleans.

February 14: I'm in the office early to sign papers and then Rebecca and I go out of town for a Valentine's treat.

Out and About in the Diocese

February 15: I spend time working on my sermon and other material.

February 16: No meetings this Saturday.

February 17: My visit is with St. Michael's and All Angels, Baton Rouge. It is a wonderful day on which I baptize an adult. A beautiful reception follows.

February 18: I spend the day on the phone and facilitate servicemen in our home.

February 19: The day begins with a staff meeting. I record a brief reflection. Later I celebrate the noon mass at the Cathedral followed by a phone call on my way to Baton Rouge. I have dinner with Fr. Dillon to discuss matters from the presbyters' retreat.

February 20: I'm up early to say mass for St. Luke's School and then meet with several clergy before I return to New Orleans. On my way back I have a phone call from Bishop Chip Stokes. I have a meeting with Merry Sorrells at St. Martin's School and then return home for the evening.

February 21: Rebecca and I drive to see our daughter-in-law perform in her first, and hopefully not last, Meridian Little Theatre play, Four Weddings and an Elvis. Emily is fantastic. We see our grandchildren!

February 22: We return to New Orleans to the beginning of parades.

February 23: More parades.

February 24: My visitation is at St. George's, New Orleans, where I confirm and receive. I leave quickly after the service so I can return home before the parades began. It is close. Rebecca and I enjoy a very

nice visit from Alec Kellogg who thoroughly enjoys the festivities.

February 25: I take my day off.

February 26: The day begins with our staff meeting and preparation for the short work week due to Mardi Gras. I meet with Canon Kellogg for his annual consultation. He is a gift to the diocese. I have several hard conversations that follow with a few individuals.

February 27: In the morning I say mass at St. Andrew's School and then take a tour of the campus. In the afternoon I have a meeting with a parishioner and his wife. In the evening I meet William Barnwell at Christian Unity Baptist Church for a Bible study led by their pastor, Dr. Kevin Stephens. Afterward, I am invited to dinner with William and Corrine Barnwell and Cheryl and Kevin Stephens.

February 28: I have breakfast with Fr. Henry Hudson who is back in town for Mardi Gras. I have a meeting with Deacon Alyce Jefferson. This meeting is followed by a meeting with Deacon Michael Hackett to talk about reentry prison program. In the afternoon I have a conference call regarding a disciplinary process going on. I end the day with a call from Ms. Catherine Meeks from Atlanta in reference to racial reconciliation and a training she is going to give in our diocese. I arrive to see our daughter who has flown in from Kansas City for Mardi Gras.

March 1: Our son and his family arrive for Mardi Gras.

March 2: Mardi Gras and no meetings this Saturday.

March 3: No visitation this Sunday.

March 4: Lundi Gras.

March 5: Mardi Gras and the house is filled with clergy and their family and friends. It's a wonderful day.

March 6: Ash Wednesday and I preach and celebrate at the Cathedral. In the afternoon I have a meeting with a parishioner and his family.

March 7: I travel to Covington to see where we are going to hold convention and the reception this year and then I meet with a few people from St. Michael's, Mandeville. The day ends with a phone call from a priest from another diocese.

March 8: I go to the office early to sign some checks and have a meeting with Fr. Jim Morrison.

March 9: The Canons and I drive to the Solomon Center for the Executive Board meeting. It is a good meeting.

March 10: My visitation is with Mount Olivet, New Orleans, where I confirm one and receive three. The church is full and the spirit high. Unfortunately, I must leave without going to the reception so I can fly to



[Photograph from the Mount Olivet, New Orleans, Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Mount Olivet, New Orleans, on March 10.

Out and About in the Diocese

Kanuga for the House of Bishop's meeting.

March 11: HOB. Coaching training.

March 12: HOB

March 13: HOB

March 14: HOB

March 15: Up early to fly back home. My plane is delayed five hours and consequently, I miss all my connecting flights. The closest Delta can get me to New Orleans is Gulfport, Mississippi. Rebecca picks me up and then takes me to the New Orleans airport to pick up my luggage and car. I was originally confirmed to return to New Orleans at 11:45 am. I get home at 9:10 pm. What a day.

March 16: The Environmental Commission holds its first diocesan-wide teaching at St. George's, and it is a huge success. The keynote speaker is Bishop Marc Andrus from California. Deacon Joey Clavijo who planned this marvelous event is not able to attend due to heart surgery. I am able to spend some time with Bishop Andrus before I leave for Baton Rouge for the evening.

March 17: My visitation is with Trinity, Baton Rouge. I meet briefly with the confirmands and then head to the service. A very nice reception is held afterward.

March 18: I take the morning off to run some errands and then to the dentist in the afternoon. In the evening I participated in the Executive Council's Committee on Anti-Racism.

March 19: We have our weekly staff meeting and this is followed by my meeting with both canons. I preach and celebrate at the noon Eucharist and then have lunch with staff. In the afternoon I have phone calls to return and then drive to Baton Rouge for a board meeting at Episcopal High. I drive back to New Orleans that evening.

March 20: Lunch with Fr. AJ Heine and Fr. Fred Devall before we fly over the Mississippi River to see the diversion taking place. The work being done to help rebuild Louisiana is daunting. Thank you, Helen Rose.

March 21: I meet with Dean duPlantier for his annual consultation. The work on the Cathedral is going well. In the afternoon I have a doctor's appointment and then St. Martin's Board meeting.

March 22: I'm at home writing my sermon.

March 23: The SECC Board meets with architects to begin conversations regarding the youth facilities. After this meeting, I drive to Christ Church Covington to meet with the Racial Reconciliation Commission.

March 24: My visitation is with Holy Comforter, New Orleans. We have a nice service with confirmations



[Photograph from the Church of the Annunciation Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Church of the Annunciation on March 24. Church of the Annunciation was celebrating their 175th Anniversary.

followed by lunch in the parish hall.

March 25: My day off but I have a few things to do. I've been asked to be the coach for new Bishop Phoebe Roaf. We spend some time talking on the phone about her new call.

March 26: Our weekly staff meeting is followed by lunch with Kellan Lyman who has returned from her second year with Young Adult Corps in the Philippines. In the afternoon I meet with Mother Martha Klein-Larsen, a priest who has moved to New Orleans. My last meeting of the day is with Deacon Debby Scalia for her annual consultation.

March 27: I have several phone calls in the morning and then meet Dr. Catherine Meeks at the airport. Dr. Meeks is in New Orleans to lead a training session for my staff in Racial Reconciliation. We drive to our home for dinner and then take Dr. Meeks to the hotel for the evening.

March 28: The staff of the Cathedral, St. Paul's and Diocese meet at St. Paul's for the training session of racial reconciliation. Dr. Meeks lead the session that lasted all day. It is a powerful day of listening and sharing.

March 29: Rebecca and I are up early to drive to Baton Rouge. We fly to St. Martin to begin our cruise.

March 30: Vacation

March 31: Vacation

April 1: Vacation

April 2: Vacation

April 3: Vacation

April 4: Vacation

April 5: Vacation

April 6: Vacation

April 7: Vacation

April 8: Vacation

April 9: Staff meeting followed by consultation with Deacon Elaine Clements. Elaine tells me she is ready to retire. We have staff lunch together

April 10: I drive to Baton Rouge to meet with a parishioner who feels called to ordained ministry. This is followed by a meeting with Mother Sharon Alexander. In the afternoon I attend St. James Board meeting, then drive back to New Orleans

April 11: I drive to SECC for a St. Martin's Board retreat.

April 12: I spend the day at SECC as we continue our retreat for St. Martin's. I drive back to New Orleans.

April 13: I drive back to SECC for the SECC Board meeting. It's fun to see the props for the filming of the movie. After the board meeting, I drive to Morgan City for my visitation.

April 14: It's Palm Sunday at Trinity Church, Morgan City. It is a great day and I walk up to the levee to see the flooded Mississippi. It is very impressive along with seeing an alligator.

April 15: Pay my taxes and then preach and celebrate at the Holy Week Chrism Mass. It is good being with the clergy from around the diocese to renew our ordination vows. I look forward to this service every year.

April 16: We have our weekly staff meeting followed by

a meeting with both canons. Later Canon Kellogg and Deacon Mark Hudson and I have a lunch meeting.

April 17: I have a mid-morning conference call and then a quiet afternoon to catch up on overdue items.

April 18: I celebrate at the Cathedral for Maundy Thursday service. This is one of my favorite services of the liturgical year.

April 19: Good Friday. Rebecca and I travel to Jackson. We had a huge tree blown over the night before during a storm. Not the kind of Good Friday I expect.

April 20: Sermon work.

April 21: Preach at the Cathedral for Easter and the Dean Celebrates. As always, the choir is terrific.

April 22: My day off. The office is closed.

April 23: The office is quiet today.

April 24: I travel to Meridian, Mississippi, to officiate a funeral for the Rev. Terrell Griffis. Fr. Griffis spent his years of ministry in Louisiana.

April 25: Funeral for the Rev. Terrell Griffis. I drive to Jackson to check on the work of the fallen tree.

April 26: Sermon work.

April 27: I drive back to New Orleans.

April 28: My visitation takes me to St. Andrew's, Bayou DuLarge. It is a great experience going to St. Andrew's. They put on the annual crawfish boil and then the blessing of the shrimp boats.

April 29: AC workers at the condo, two conference calls and take both cars to have tires rotated. It is a busy day off.

April 30: Drive to Trinity, Baton Rouge, to bless the altar and altar rail. The vestry voted to make their naïve as wheelchair accessible as possible. My compliments to them.

May 1: Canon John Kellogg and I go fishing with Fr. Craig Dalfreres. We catch nothing!

May 2: Rebecca and I drive to Memphis for the ordination of Mother Phoebe Roaf the bishop-elect of West Tenn.

May 3: Meeting with Province IV Bishops

May 4: Ordination of Phoebe is fantastic. She will be a fine Bishop in the Church. The drive back to Louisiana is horrible. The rain is relentless until we arrive in Baton Rouge where we spend the night for my visitation.

May 5: My visitation takes me to St. James where I preach, celebrate and confirm several parishioners. Following the service Rebecca and I enjoy a nice lunch with a few parishioners to celebrate their baptism. We



[Photograph from the Trinity Church, Morgan City Facebook Page] Bishop Thompson's visitation to Trinity Church on Palm Sunday.

Out and About in the Diocese

return to New Orleans later that afternoon.

May 6: My day off and I'm not going to drive anywhere today.

May 7: I officiate the Baccalaureate at St. Paul's middle school then return to the office for a meeting with several parishioners. Later I drive to Episcopal High in Baton Rouge for a board meeting. I spend the night in Baton Rouge.

May 8: I have annual meetings with Fr's Ashley Freeman, Ralph Howe, and Chris Golding. I'm happy to report they are doing good work. In the afternoon I have a board meeting at St. James Place and then drive back to New Orleans. There is an awful wreck on the highway and it takes me an extra 2 hours to get home. A very long day.

May 9: The day begins with Deacon Jay Albert's consultation followed by a meeting with Fr. Bill Miller. In the afternoon Charles Lyle who is chairing exploring possibilities of a youth facility at SECC meet. Later Mother Jane-Allison Wiggins-Nettles comes for her annual consultation and that was followed by Fr. Bobby Hadzor.

May 10: Sermon work.

May 11: We hold the Diocesan Executive Board meeting at SECC. It is a good meeting.

May 12: Mother's Day and my visitation takes me to Trinity, New Orleans.

May 13: I take part of my day off. In the evening I meet with the Racial Reconciliation Commission to talk about the restructuring. It is a positive meeting.

May 14: Staff meeting takes place early on and then I have a meeting with Mother Anne Maxwell. Later in the day Fr. Richard Easterling and I meet for his annual consultation. This meeting is followed by a meeting with Deacon Marigold Brown who will be helping out at St. Luke's, New Orleans.

May 15: I preach the Baccalaureate at Episcopal and Fr. Skully Knight celebrates.

May 16: I celebrate at Christ Episcopal School Baccalaureate in Covington.

May 17: Workers are at the condo today.

May 18: I drive to Houma for the ECW Annual Gathering where I preach, celebrate, and give them the annual state of the diocese address. I remind the women they are the backbone of the church. They do so much good for all of us.

May 19: My visitation is at St. Paul's, New Orleans, where I preach, celebrate, and confirm many new parishioners.

May 20: I have an early meeting with Caroline Carson,



[Photograph by Katherine Gilbert] Bishop Thompson State of the Church Address at the 132nd Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women at St. Matthew's, Houma.

a new graduate of seminary. I end the day with a long conference call for the Episcopal Executive Committee on Racial Reconciliation.

May 21: We have our weekly staff meeting. I preach and celebrate at the noon service at the Cathedral. Their new AC is working and it is actually cold in the chapel. Later we have staff lunch to celebrate several birthdays. The day ends with Fr. AJ Heine's annual consultation.

May 22: Fr. Jim Morrison comes in for his annual consultation and then I eat lunch with all of our Deans. I appreciate their work in the diocese.

May 23: Rebecca and I take a few days off to be with grandchildren during the holiday.

May 24: Off.

May 25: Off.

May 26: No visitation so I get to hear my son preach. Not bad!

May 27: Memorial Day.

May 28: Spend the day working on my journal and other office work.

May 29: Phone call from a bishop in Kenya then on to St. Martin's board meeting and Baccalaureate.

May 30: Walk through the building with Chad Brown to see if we can find space for our archives. They have grown and we have run out of space. I think we can put them on the third floor.

May 31: Travel to Rosedale for the funeral of Buzz Obier.

Calendar of Upcoming Diocesan Events

June 19 & 20 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Small Church Leadership Day

All Saints' Episcopal Church, 100 Rex Dr, River Ridge on June 19

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 12663 Perkins Rd, Baton Rouge on June 20

More information and registration: bit.ly/smallchurch2019

July 9 at 1 p.m.

Safe Church Minister Training

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 2216 Metairie Rd, Metairie

More information : edola.org/safeguarding-gods-children-training

July 9 at 6 p.m.

Safe Church Minister Training

St. Margaret's, 12663 Perkins Rd, Baton Rouge

More information: edola.org/safeguarding-gods-children-training

July 17 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Clergy Day

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8833 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge

More information and registration: bit.ly/clergy-july-2019

July 18 at 1 p.m.

Safe Church Minister Training

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

More information: edola.org/safeguarding-gods-children-training

July 25-27

Education for Ministry (EfM) Foundation of Seminar Life Mentor Training

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

More information here: registration: seccla.org/secc_events

August 2-4

Co-Ed Recovery Weekend

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

More information here: seccla.org/secc_events

August 16-18

Happening #83

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

More information: seccla.org/secc_events

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