



News & Updates

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Bishop Duckworth's visitation to St. Stephen's, Innis on January 29, 2023.

Bishop's Lenten Meditation: Who is My Neighbor?

We are joining Episcopal Relief & Development this Lenten Season to meditate on the commandment to love our neighbor and consider the meaning of this fundamental instruction in our daily lives.

Every Wednesday during Lent, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth will offer a reflection based on these justice-centered meditations and how we see this work in action in our own diocese through the Creation Care Ministry, Racial Healing Ministry, and Youth Ministry. The reflections will be sent by email and available on all our social media platforms.

Besides bishop's weekly meditation, you can also sign up to receive daily meditations in your inbox directly from Episcopal Relief & Development or read the meditations online. More information here: www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/



Parochial Reports

Parochial Reports and Annual Reports are due on March 1, 2023. If you need assistance, start here: www.edola.org/parochial-reports/

UTO Grants

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. The UTO grant focus for 2023 will be on innovative mission and ministry projects addressing all aspects of the worldwide incarceration crisis, specifically preventative programs and intervention, prisoner support outreach, prison reform work, or post-prison re-entry. More information here: www.episcopalchurch.org/grants-and-scholarships/united-thank-offering-grants/

Applications are due in the diocesan office by February 27. Email the completed application to Jessica Lee at jlee@edola.org. The diocesan office will select one application to forward to the United Thank Offering by March 10.

The Clericus: October 2022–January 2023

New clergy in the diocese

- **Trish Tobouren** was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on December 14, 2022, at Christ Church Cathedral. She will finish her last semester of seminary at the School of Iona this May.
- **Carrie Wright** was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on December 14, 2022, at Christ Church Cathedral. She will complete her last semester of seminary at Seminary of the Southwest this May.

Transitions in the diocese

- **The Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth** was ordained and consecrated a bishop in The Episcopal Church and as the 12th bishop of Louisiana on November 19, 2022, at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. She was enthroned at Christ Church Cathedral on November 20.
- **The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.** resigned as bishop of Louisiana, effective November 19, 2022. He served for 12 years in the diocese and is now retired and living in Mississippi.
- **The Very Rev. Paul Bailey** retired as rector of Grace Memorial, Hammond, effective November 6, 2022. He served 23 years as rector of the parish. The Diocese of Louisiana is grateful for his service as dean of the Northshore Deanery, as chair of the Commission on Ministry, chair of the Commission on Liturgy and Music, and President of the Board of Visitors for the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center.
- **The Ven. Charlie deGravelles** was appointed by Bishop Duckworth as archdeacon of the diocese, effective January 2, 2023. He will continue to serve as deacon at Church of the Nativity, Rosedale.
- **The Rev. Deacon Cindy Obier** was appointed to serve as Bishop Duckworth's chaplain, effective January 2, 2023.
- **The Rev. Canon Morgan MacIntire** was called to serve as canon to the ordinary of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, effective January 2, 2023. She served as associate rector of Christ Church, Covington, since 2015.



The Rev. Canon Morgan MacIntire was installed a canon during the clergy conference on January 10, 2023, at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. [Photograph by the Very Rev. Tommy Dillon]

- **The Rev. Jim Morrison** was called to serve as rector of St. Matthew's, Houma, effective February 12, 2023. He served as rector of St. Andrew's, New Orleans, since 2014.
- **The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel** was called to serve as vicar of St. Andrew's, Bayou Dularge, effective January 12, 2023.

Transitions out of the diocese

- **The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson** was ordained and consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church and as the 14th bishop of Virginia on December 4, 2022.
- **The Rev. Benjamin Sanchez** was called to serve as vicar of a new Latino congregation soon to be planted in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, effective December 19, 2022.

Clergy deaths

- **The Rev. Ted Pettersen** died on November 8, 2022, at the age of 87 in Brunswick, Maine. In 1998, he retired after serving as rector of St. Paul's, New Orleans, for 13 years.



Mission Stories

FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE



On February 5, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, held a dedication and tour of their new buildings which houses their church and school offices and youth room. The church office was named in honor of the late Dennis Edmon, a beloved long-time member of the church.

ECW Day of Prayer

The ECW held a day of prayer on February 5. [Click here](#) to download the prayers written by Kristen Wheeler.

A New Newsletter For and About Diocesan Deacons

The deacons of the diocese have a new newsletter called "The PeliDeacon" with articles written for the purpose of highlighting their work and ministry. Download the latest [issue here](#). It is inspiring!

St. Matthew's, Houma, Will Welcome the Rev. Jim Morrison, on Feb 12

The people of St. Matthew's, Houma, are excited to welcome their new rector, the Rev. Jim Morrison on Sunday, February 12. Please join them at 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, and stay for a reception and Mardi Gras parades!

The Revived Episcopal School Commission

The re-invigorated Episcopal Schools Commission met on January 14 at the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge. It was a wonderfully, rich conversation and the participants were very excited about the potential of this group to collaborate and learn together. There was a lot of experience and shared wisdom in that room today. They are planning to meet quarterly. The purpose of the Episcopal School Commission is to provide a network of support for all Episcopal schools in our diocese.

Inclusive Louisiana Offering a Eucharist in Thanksgiving for the Ordination & Consecration of Bishop Duckworth

On Monday, February 27 at 6 p.m., Inclusive Louisiana, the LGBTQ+ Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana will offer a Eucharist in thanksgiving for the Ordination and Consecration of Shannon Duckworth as the 12th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. A rainbow stole will be presented to the bishop as part of the liturgy. A small reception will follow. The service will be held In the chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans. The entrance to the chapel is on Coliseum St. between Jackson and Josephine St.

A Gift of Generosity

On January 29, five members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Abbeville, visited St. Andrew's, Bayou du Large. The purpose of the trip was to deliver Prayer Books and Hymnals to St. Andrew's as a gift from the people of St. Paul's. St. Andrew's lost most everything due to Hurricane Ida, in 2021. The roof was ripped off, water and wind damaged the interior of the building and the congregation had to worship in homes for more than 16 months. The gift from Abbeville replaced the Prayer Books and Hymnal 1982, ruined by water.



Out & About

IN JANUARY 2023



Welcome Canon MacIntire (left)

January 3, 2023: Canon Morgan MacIntire with Bishop Shannon Rogers Duckworth on her first day as canon to the ordinary of the diocese. *[Photograph by Karen Macke]*

Baton Rouge Deanery Christmas Party (right)

January 5, 2023: Christmas party for the Baton Rouge Deanery clergy hosted by the Rev. Peter Wong and Katie Huelsbeck. *[Photograph provided by the Rev. Peter Wong]*



Celebrating the Rev. Bryan Owen's 10th Anniversary (left)

January 8, 2023: St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Rev. Bryan Owen as their rector. *[Photograph from the St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, Facebook page]*

Bishop's Visitation to St. Andrew's and the Rev. Jim Morrison's Last Sunday (right)

January 8, 2023: Bishop Duckworth visited St. Andrew's, New Orleans. It was also the last Sunday as rector for the Rev. Jim Morrison who was called to serve at St. Matthew's, Houma. *[Photograph by Brother Todd van Alstyne]*



Two Bishops (left)

January 8, 2023: Bishop James Brown and Bishop Shannon Rogers Duckworth at her annual visitation to St. Andrew's, New Orleans. *[Photograph by Brother Todd van Alstyne]*

Clergy Conference (right)

January 9-11, 2023: The clergy of the diocese gathered at the Solomon Episcopal Conference for rest, community building, and continuing education. The keynote speakers this year were the Rev. Canon Michelle W. Bolt and the Rev. Giuliana C. Gray. *[Photograph by the Very Rev. Tommy Dillon]*



Episcopal School Commission (left)

January 13, 2023: The re-invigorated Episcopal Schools Commission met for a wonderfully, rich conversation and collaboration. *[Photograph provided by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth]*

Celebrating National Vision Board Day (right)

January 14, 2023: The Maggie Ladies of St. Margaret's gathered to create their 2023 vision board on National Vision Board Day. *[Photograph from St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, Facebook page]*



Bishop's Visitation to St. Patrick's, Zachary (left)

January 15, 2023: Bishop Duckworth's annual visitation to St. Patrick's, Zachary. *[Photograph from the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Zachary, Facebook page]*

La Mesa Ministry (right)

January 15, 2023: La Mesa Ministry is a language and culture exchange program offered at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on Sunday evenings. *[Photograph St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook page]*



Collaboration Between Churches (left)

January 16, 2023: The St. Paul's Commission for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion visited Historic St. Luke's, New Orleans, for a tour of the sanctuary and talk about future collaboration between the two congregations.

[Photograph from the Historic St. Luke's, New Orleans, Instagram Page]

New Bishops and Spouses Conference (right)

January 19, 2023: Thirteen new bishop or bishops-elect and their spouses, including Bishop Duckworth and Jimmy Duckworth, were at the Roslyn Conference Center in Richmond, Virginia, for a week of community-building and formation.. [Photograph provided by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth]



Preparing for Mardi Gras Fun (left)

January 21, 2023: St. George's, New Orleans, is preparing for their annual Mardi Gras Spirits fundraiser to be held February 10-21. [Photograph from the St. George's Facebook page]

Winterfest (right)

January 24, 2023: St. James, Baton Rouge, hosted choristers for the annual RSCM Gulf Coast Course Winterfest. [Photograph from the RSCM Gulf Coast Course Facebook page]



St. James Place 40th Anniversary (left)

January 25, 2023: St. James Place is celebrating 40 years of providing high quality care to the retirement community. The celebration began with a rededication service. [Photograph from the St. James Place Facebook page]

TENS Board Meeting Held at the Noland Center (right)

January 26, 2023: TENS: The Episcopal Networks for Stewardship held their annual board and staff retreat at the diocesan office. They invited members of our Stewardship Committee to dinner. [Photograph provided by the Very Rev. Tommy Dillon]



Bible Study (left)

January 26, 2023: Bible study with Bishop James Brown. [Photograph from the St. Andrew's, New Orleans, Facebook page]

Hey Girl, Hey! (right)

January 20, 2023: An evening of prayer, reflection, and nourishment for women in an alcohol-free environment at Trinity Church, New Orleans. [Photograph from the Trinity Church, New Orleans, Facebook page]



Conference on Ministry (left)

January 27-28, 2023: The Conference on Ministry was held at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center to provide support to those in the ordination process, as well as their families and discernment committees. [Photograph by the Very Rev. Tommy Dillon]

Mission Commission (right)

January 28, 2023: The Christ Church, Covington, Mission Commission volunteered with Just Love Your Neighbor. [Photograph from the Just Love Your Neighbor Facebook page]



English Tea (left)

January 28, 2023: The St. John's, Thibodaux, hosted their annual English Tea. [Photograph by Karen Mackey]

Bishop's Visitation to St. Stephen's, Innis (right)

January 29, 2023: Bishop Duckworth's visitation to St. Stephen's, Innis. [Photograph provided by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth]



Mardi Gras Door Decoration Sale (left)

January 29, 2023: Camp Able NOLA built and sold king cake door decorations at Christ Church Cathedral. [Photograph from the Camp Able NOLA Facebook page]



Ministry Fair (right)

January 29, 2023: Ministry Fair at St. George's, New Orleans. [Photograph from the St. George's, New Orleans, Facebook page]



Annual Meeting (left)

January 129, 2023: Annual Meeting at St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge. [Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, Facebook page]

Annual Meeting (right)

January 29, 2023: Annual Meeting at St. Patrick's, Zachary. [Photograph from St. Patrick's, Zachary, Facebook page]



Demonstrating the New AED (left)

January 29, 2023: At the St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge, annual meeting, the new AED (automated external defibrillator) purchased by the church was on display. [Photograph from the St. Margaret's, Facebook page]

Prayer Books & Hymnals for St. Andrew's, Bayou Dularge (right)

January 29, 2023: Five members from St. Paul's, Abbeville, brought gifts of Books of Common Prayer and hymnals to the parishioners of St. Andrew's, Bayou Dularge. St. Andrew's lost most everything due to Hurricane Ida, in 2021. [Photograph from the Jericho Road, Facebook page]



EDOLA Calendar

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

February 2023

9

6 PM

Celebration of New Ministry

The Rev. Maggie Sullivan will be installed rector of St. Francis, Denham Springs, on Thursday, February 9 at 6 p.m. Clergy are invited to wear green stoles. Reception following the service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 726 Maple St, Denham Springs

**10-
21**

Mardi Gras Holiday / Bishop's Office Closure Schedule

Closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10

Closing at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15 - Friday, February 17

Closed Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras

Open Ash Wednesday and the rest of the week.

27

6 PM

Inclusive Louisiana Eucharist

Inclusive Louisiana, the LGBTQ+ Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana will offer a Eucharist on February 27 at 6 p.m. in thanksgiving for the Ordination and Consecration of Shannon Duckworth as the 12th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

In the chapel of Trinity Episcopal Church, 1329 Jackson Ave, New Orleans. The chapel is located on Coliseum St between Jackson Ave and Josephine St.

**24-
26**

Silent Retreat

Renew and discover the inner peace that is found in silence. SECC Parable Retreat will include reflection on gospel parables during morning prayer, Holy Eucharist, and evening praye. This will all be entwined with contemplative silence. The retreat will be led by the Rev. John Pitzer of Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans. Register: seccla.org/secc_events/

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger

March 2023

3-5

Rest & Recharge High School Retreat

Rest and Recharge at this retreat with puzzles and crafts and hot cocoa by the fire! Grades 9-12 will catch up on rest and relax. Come as you are for this cozy weekend.

Register: Bit.ly/restandrechargeretreat

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 Highway 445, Loranger



Clergy Calls & Lay Job Opportunities AROUND THE DIOCESE

Clergy Calls

More information can be found here: www.edola.org/clergy-deployment-transition/

Christ Episcopal Church, Covington, is seeking to call an associate rector responsible for formation, outreach, and pastoral care.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, is seeking to call an associate priest to provide for the spiritual needs of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School community.

Trinity Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, is seeking to call a priest associate for Christian formation.

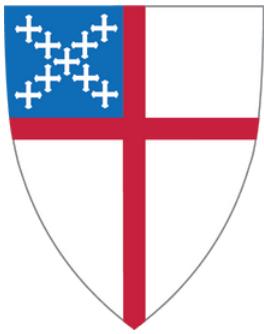
Trinity Episcopal Church, Morgan City, is seeking to call a rector.

Lay Job Opportunities

Episcopal churches, schools, and institutions are invited to advertise lay job openings here. Please send details to Karen Mackey at kmackey@edola.org.

Service Learning Coordinator

The Episcopal School of Baton Rouge is currently looking for a Service Learning Coordinator to begin the fall of 2023. The job description can be found at <https://www.episcopalbr.org/discover-episcopal/careers?id=318849/service-learning-coordinator&action=apply>.



NEWS FROM The Episcopal Church

Highlights from recent press releases found at
www.episcopalchurch.org/public-affairs/

Presiding Bishop Curry invites gifts to Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites people of all backgrounds and faiths to give generously to the Absalom Jones Fund in support of the work of two historically Black institutions of higher education in cultivating and preparing diverse leaders: Voorhees University and Saint Augustine's University. Many congregations take dedicated offerings around Feb. 13 in observance of the Feast Day of Absalom Jones, the first Black priest ordained by the church. Jones recognized education as a key to empowerment.

EYE 2023

Regreso a Casa: A New Age of Faith. Registration open for 2023 Episcopal Youth Event delegations

The Episcopal Church Youth Ministries Office announces open registration for delegations of young people and chaperones planning to attend the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) July 4-8 at the University of Maryland in College Park. Volunteers are also sought for multiple roles. Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2023, EYE is the church's second-largest event after General Convention, drawing nearly 1,500 young people ages 15-19 from every province every three years. Attendees participate as part of a delegation, which can be from a diocese or coordinated through a congregation, school, or other Episcopal organization.

Parochial Reports are due by March 1

Online filing for the 2022 Parochial Report for all Episcopal Church congregations is now available. Reports must be filed by March 1. An email was sent

to congregations on Monday, Dec. 7. Those who did not receive the email or need help with their login name should contact their diocesan office for assistance.

**In our diocese, Contact Chris Speed at cspeed@edola.org for assistance.*

Presiding bishop nominating committee announces application timeline

Members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop have decided on a timeline for receiving names of potential nominees to be the 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. The nominating committee plans to release its profile and call to discernment for the next presiding bishop and begin receiving names on May 15. Names will be received until July 15. Bishops who discern a call to enter the nomination process will have until Aug. 15 to submit their applications. The committee plans to announce its slate of nominees in the spring of 2024.

Episcopal Migration Ministries launches project, survey focused on LGBTQ+ forced migrants

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is excited to announce The Rainbow Initiative, a 2023 project focused on working with Episcopal congregations to bring visibility and aid to LGBTQ+ forced migrants. Participation is also encouraged in an online survey. EMM is partnering with Max Niedzwiecki*, who holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology and whose work has focused on the intersection of forced migration, LGBTQ+ communities, and faith within The Episcopal Church and more broadly. Through this work, EMM will focus on activities in June 2023 including Pride marches, Pride services, and World Refugee Day (June 20), as well as foster new partnerships involving Episcopal congregations, forced migrants, U.S.-based resettlement agencies, community groups, and more.

A pastoral word from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on the death of Tyre Nichols

Sense cannot be made of the murder of a young man at the hands of five men whose vocation and calling are to protect and serve. This was evil and senseless.

There is a passage from the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah, which is later quoted in Matthew's Gospel when innocent baby boys are killed by an immoral dictator:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more."
—Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:18

With the murder of Tyre Nichols, another mother, as in the biblical texts, weeps, with the mothers of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others. A family grieves. A community fears. A nation is ashamed. Like the psalmist in the Bible, something in us cries out, "How long, O Lord, how long?" How long violence, how long cruelty, how long the utter disregard for the dignity and worth of every child of God? How long?

As if this wasn't enough, there is another horrible dimension to what happened. Tyre Nichols was beaten, kicked, and cursed as if he was not a human being. Then, after he was lying on the ground, having called for his mother, they let him stay there for several minutes without anyone, including the police and EMT who were present, providing medical assistance. Not one Good Samaritan.

Jesus once told a story to teach about what it looks like to love one's neighbor, which Moses and Jesus both said is a commandment of God. It's a story about a man beaten nearly to death and left on the side of the road to die by people who knew what Moses taught about love for God and neighbor—and what the prophet Micah taught when he said that God requires three things of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Only one person stopped to help the man, and he did so without regard for the fact that they were of different religions, nationalities, ethnic groups, and even different politics. This second man was a Samaritan, and he helped because the man on the road was human. He helped because he was a fellow child of God. He helped because the man lying on the side of the road, regardless of race, class, clan, stripe, or type, was his brother. And the man who helped has been called the Good Samaritan.

The fundamental call and vocation of law enforcement officials, and indeed every one of us, is that of the Good Samaritan. Here is where there is hope: The Good Samaritan in the parable of Jesus was not the last one.

There are Good Samaritans who are government officials in Memphis who, after assessing what happened, fired the offending officers, charged them with crimes against human life and dignity, and have committed to addressing systemic and cultural issues that created an environment in which this evil was enabled.

There are Good Samaritans doing what is necessary to radically reform the environment and culture of law enforcement—to create an atmosphere in which the dignity and worth of every human being is respected, protected, affirmed, and honored.

There are Good Samaritans in law enforcement, and other first responders, who often work while others sleep, laboring to protect and serve, at times risking their own lives for the neighbor they do not even know.

There are Good Samaritans, people of goodwill and human decency, who are peacefully protesting. There are Good Samaritans who are activists working tirelessly for the realization of communities and countries where there is truly, as the Pledge of Allegiance proclaims, "liberty and justice for all."

While we grieve, we cannot give in or give up. Just throwing up our hands in despair is not an option lest we leave a brother, a sister, a sibling on the side of the road again. No, let more Good Samaritans arise so that Tyre Nichols' death will not be in vain.

Please pray for Tyre's family, the whole Memphis community, this nation, and world. But also pray for people to rise up like the Good Samaritan and work to create change so this never happens again.

And may the soul of Tyre, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church