

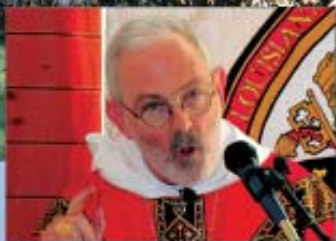
ALIVE!



Catastrophic Weather strikes Monroe and the Diocesan Convention

See Convention Story, page 12

Members of the Convention Team who made a difference. This is certainly not the entire team, but those who were involved when the pictures were taken. Left-to-right, *First row:* Susan Sparks, Convention Chair, and the Rev. Whit Stodghill. *Second row:* Lee Jefferson, Rita Jefferson, Laura Stone, Dee Cage, the Rev. Deacon Bette Jo Kauffman, and the Rev. Dale Farley. *Third row:* Lisa Colvin, the Rev. Richard Norman, Alexa Hokanson, and the Rev. Dawnell Stodghill.



Fishing Stories

Before they split for good, my parents gave their disintegrating marriage one final go. My mother joined my father in Louisville, Georgia. As a result, the first portion of my elementary school years was spent in a small town surrounded by farmland, forests, and fishing holes.

My father supervised a shirt factory in Louisville. Eventually, he owned and operated a series of apparel-making plants around Central Georgia. None of them thrived for long.

Manufacturing shirts and pants and shoes was what my father did to make a living. But that's all it was. A way to pay the bills. He had no passion for the business. Fishing was his passion. When he looked in the mirror, Sam Owensby saw a fisherman.

My father spent the better part of his life on Kelly's Lake. Before the Civil War, the Kelly family had formed a small body of black swamp water by erecting an earthen dam across the Ogeechee River.

Bass fishing was what my father loved best. Before the days of sonar fish finders, he knew every inch of Kelly's Lake: the river current's course through the lake; every fallen tree and

submerged stump; sudden drop-offs, unexpected shallows, and creek feeds.

Most importantly, he seemed to understand the fish themselves. He knew where they would be at different times of day and in different seasons of the year. He selected bait and lures to appeal to their shifting tastes. And, as his work schedule allowed, he planned his time on the water to coordinate with what he believed to be mealtime for bass.



He never said it this way, but my father followed his own fisherman's creed. Know your lake. Know your fish. Go to where your fish are, don't expect them to come to you. You're not going to catch many fish waiting for them to jump in the boat with you.

Jesus' first disciples were fishermen. It was their livelihood. The Bible tells us nothing about their skills. We do know that on a bad fishing day Jesus showed them where to get an enormous haul. But it's likely that they had more good days

See *Gone Fishing*, page 4

Around the Diocese

Applications for Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) for Middle School Youth now being accepted

Applications are available on the youth page of the diocesan website: <http://www.diocesewla.org/ministries/youth/>.

YLI is designed to help middle school youth become leaders in our church and the community. Adult and youth leaders in our diocese will facilitate this program. Participants will commit to meet five weekends over the course of ten months, concluding with the graduates being presented at Diocesan Convention 2015 (see schedule below).

Each session will focus on a different theme related to the structure of the Episcopal Church and will take place at a church in a different convocation. Included in the curriculum are team-building activities as well as instruction in group dynamics, public speaking, and other aspects of leadership development. Participants will spend the night at the church where they are meeting and worship together with that congregation the next day.

In between meetings, each participant will get together with a mentor in his or her home church (this might be the rector, youth minister or other person in leadership) and

work on a small project that relates to the training from the previous session. Projects will be presented and discussed each time the group reconvenes.

2015 Young Leadership Institute Schedule

Date	Province/Diocese	Activity
January 9-10, 2015	Province/Diocese	Overnight at St. Michael's, Pineville: Saturday morning at Mt. Olivet including talk by and Eucharist with Bishop; ends with lunch
April 11-12, 2015	Convocation	Overnight, meet and Sunday worship at St. Barnabas, Lafayette; session will include a nice dinner out in a Lafayette restaurant
August 22-23, 2015	Parish	Overnight, meet, and Sunday worship at St. Luke's, Grambling
Sept. 26-27, 2015	Community	Shreveport: overnight at St. Mark's Cathedral; meet and Sunday worship at Holy Cross
October 24, 2015	Diocesan Convention	Lake Charles: Present graduates Saturday morning at convention; end with celebratory lunch

Applications are due November 24, 2014. Cost is \$75/participant.
For additional information, contact Mtr. Mitzi George (mothermitzi@hotmail.com) or Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org).



The Season after Pentecost

Not actually a season with a single common focus, the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent, are often referred to as "the long growing season," when we nourish the seeds planted at Easter and put down the roots of our faith.



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Robert Harwell Editor

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Copy deadline, next issue:
Friday, November 14, 2014

upcoming..... Winter Fest/ The Bishop's Ball

Winter Fest is a middle and high school youth mission project and retreat at Camp Hardtner which also includes the Bishop's Ball.

When: 6:00 p.m., December 29, 2014 to 10:00 a.m., January 1, 2015

Each convocation should send two adults and one college student to chaperone the youth attending.

Do you have questions?
Contact Mother Mitzi George,
mothermitzi@hotmail.com
or
Joy Owensby: jowensby@diocesewla.org

Forming Disciples Engaging God's Mission SECOND ANNUAL DIOCESAN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CONFERENCE




Saturday, March 21, 2015,
10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St.
James, Alexandria (check-in
begins at 9:00 a.m.)

Keynote Speaker: *Dr. Lisa Kimball, Director of the Center for Ministry of Teaching and Professor of Christian Formation and Congregational Leadership at Virginia Theological Seminary*

What concerns you in the area of Christian Formation?
Instead of a "one size fits all program," Dr. Kimball has asked for our input about ideas and questions of specific relevance to the Diocese of Western Louisiana. If you would like to suggest a topic for her to address at the conference, please email it to Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org).

Save this date!
Daughters of the King Spring Assembly, March 7, 2015, St. Timothy's, Alexandria

Around the Diocese



YOUTH SPONSORS TRAINING

November 8
at Camp Hardtner
10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bronwyn Clark Skov



CLEY Youth Retreat Weekend at Camp Hardtner
November 21 – 23, 2014
Hardtner Camp and Conference Center

Attention members of the clergy and other adults who are interested in youth ministry.

Youth Sponsors Training at Hardtner
Facilitated by Bronwyn Clark Skov

Saturday, November 8, 2014, at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Clergy and other adults who work with youth as well as any other adults who are interested in youth ministry are encouraged to come to Camp Hardtner on Saturday, November 8, from 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for an important leadership training event.

The program will be facilitated by Bronwyn Clark Skov, Officer for Youth Ministries and Team Leader for the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team for the Episcopal Church. Bronwyn has been involved in youth ministries for over 20 years at the parish, diocesan, and denominational levels. She now coordinates the triennial Episcopal Youth Event, the General Convention Official Youth Presence, and other church-wide youth events and frequently visits Episcopal dioceses and provinces to teach, preach, listen and learn.

Cost is \$20 per participant which includes lunch.

CLEY stands for Christian League of Episcopal Youth. This retreat model was initiated many years ago by one of our local clergy and was one of the first youth retreats ever offered at Camp Hardtner.

Our first bishop was even part of the first CLEY weekend. The weekend is designed for high school students and is held the weekend before Thanksgiving.

CLEY is staffed by college students with assistance from several adult leaders. The weekend's theme is developed by the staff and varies from year to year but always supports the retreat's two-fold purpose:

- to give our high school youth an opportunity to come together during the school year just to be with one another and build community;
- to provide an age-appropriate, spiritually fun program that affirms

the strengths and skills of our youth while challenging them to grow.

Youth may attend CLEY every year they are in high school, and all congregations are encouraged to send their high school students to this fun-filled and relaxing retreat.

This year's retreat will take place November 21- 23, 2014. Registration is online at the Camp Hardtner website: <http://www.camphardtner.org>

Cost is \$85/participant if received online by November 10. After this time, call Camp Hardtner to see if space is still available. Late registration is \$95/participant.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF LATE REGISTRATION.

For additional information contact, Mother Mitzi George (mothermitzi@hotmail.com) or Joy Owensby (jowensby@diocesewla.org)

Remember the registration deadline for CLEY is Monday, November 10.

Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport:

A Birthday Celebration for our Neighbors and Hope House

by the Rev. Mary Richard

October 1 of this year saw ten years of ministry in downtown Shreveport through Hope House! In 2004 Father Kenneth Paul, rector of Holy Cross, led the church in opening the day shelter at 762 Austin Place. Since then, Hope House has provided daily showers, laundry facilities, mail boxes, local phone service – and, of course, coffee and fellowship – to our neighbors who are homeless.

Because we have wonderful people who manage Hope House, Donna Earnest and Tom Hennigan, other ministries happen there: prayer, listening, helping people find answers, help with food stamps and Medicaid, St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Ministry, Celebrate Recovery meetings and GOE

See *Holy Cross*, page 10



Convention Sermon

Gone Fishing

continued from page 1

than bad days on the lake. They were, after all, professionals.

So when Jesus called these fishermen to follow him, he realized that he was inviting them to do something that seemed completely alien to them. In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus is restoring all things, reconciling the creation to God, and reconciling all people to



one another. Or, to use Jesus' words, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17)

Jesus is engaging God's mission of restoration and reconciliation. In gathering these fishermen, Jesus is laying the foundations of the Church. God has a mission, and God is building a Church to engage that mission. These disciples are to be at its very foundation.

That's a long way from fishing. Or is it?

In some very important respects, fishing skills carry over remarkably well to what it means to be the Church. That's why Jesus says, "I will make you fish for people." (Matthew 4:18-22)

Many of us assume that Jesus meant sim-



ply this. Convince people to go to church. Reel them in. We sit in our churches and work out strategies for getting people into our doors. We craft beautiful worship services and develop attractive programs all in the hope that more people will join us.

One wag characterized our usual approach to fishing for people this way. We're like the person who decided to catch some fish. He bought an aquarium and outfitted it with a little sunken ship, a bit of seaweed, and an aerator that looked like a deep sea diver. Then he took the aquarium to the shore and set it down at the water's edge waiting for the fish to jump in.

That's certainly not how the disciples went about catching fish. And our pattern of going to church is probably not what they

imagined when Jesus said that he would lead them to fish for people. My guess is that Jesus' words resonated with their own fisherman's creed. A creed very similar to my father's:

Know your lake. Know your fish. Go to where your fish are. Don't expect them to come to you. You're not going to catch many fish waiting for them to jump in the boat with you.

Or, to translate that into fishing for people, let's consider how to be Church:

Know your ministry context. Know your neighbors. Go to where they are instead of waiting for them to come to you.

Walk twenty minutes in each direction from

your church. Who lives there? Are they young? Old? Do they live alone or in extended families? Do they worry what to do with their children after school or how to care for their aging parents while they're at work?

Is a grocery store readily accessible, or do you worship in the middle of a food desert? Do children play freely in their yards or do they huddle behind locked doors for fear of violence and drugs? Do the schools have the supplies they need and do the children have people to help them with schoolwork after the bell rings? Are children going hungry on weekends and during school vacations? Do those on fixed incomes like the elderly and the handicapped go hungry? Go lonely? Have adequate access to health care services?

Don't assume that God has been cooling his heels waiting for us to do something. You can bet that God is already working through hands and feet, agencies and organizations, businesses and religious groups. Listen to those already engaged in God's mission. Humbly ask how you can join them as partners in engaging God's reconciling work.

Above all, do not wait around for people to make their way into your doors. Go to where the people are. Be the Church in your community. Get out there! And don't just write a check. Show up. Invest yourself as well as your money.

If anybody asks you what you're doing, just tell them, "I've gone fishing. Why don't you join me!"

Missional Church

continued from page 5

junction with CVI, our Christian Formation and Youth and Young Adult Commissions are sponsoring important workshops.

Next month, look for the Youth Sponsors Training at Camp Hardtner. Leading that event will be Bronwyn Clark Skov, Officer for Youth Ministries and Team Leader for the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team for the Episcopal Church. Coming in March is the 2015 Christian Formation Conference (you may recall this year's conference "Blowing Up the Church"). Keynoting in 2015 will be Dr. Lisa Kimball, Director of the Center for Ministry of Teaching and Professor of Christian Formation and Congregational Leadership at Virginia Theological Seminary.

This year we are kicking off the Youth Leadership Institute for middle schoolers. The Diocesan YLI is a new program designed to give middle school youth the opportunity to learn to be leaders in our church

and the community. Youth in grades 7-9 can apply, and participants will commit to meet five weekends over the course of ten months (January-October 2015), concluding with the graduates being presented at Diocesan Convention 2015.

In the coming year, with the help of Archdeacon Bette Kauffman and the Very Rev. Ron Clingenpeel, I will be undertaking a study of campus ministry in our diocese. My dream is to form Canterbury communities on our campuses that will serve as spiritual homes, as servant communities, and as contexts for vocational discernment for students, faculty, and staff. In short, I aim to bring the model of missional church to campus ministry. Stay tuned.

Some remarkable things have been happening already, and I will name but just a few.

Our Servant Leadership Corps kicked off this past year. Their work in partnership with Christ Church, St. Joseph, is very promising. For instance, they have begun an after-school tutoring program as well as

an English as a Second Language program.



A new worship community is emerging in Grayson as a result of lay initiatives. They now meet the requirements for a Mission tation and have with my assent chosen the name of St. Michael for themselves. We are

grateful to the Methodists of Grayson who welcome us to worship in their facility. Meanwhile, Evening Prayer has cropped up once a month in Eunice. A Bed and Breakfast serves as the worship center, and Fr. Herman Ogea has extended his pastoral care to this effort.

A Hispanic ministry is being birthed from St. Alban's in Monroe. Led by a college student under the direction of Fr. Whit Stodghill, this ministry is in its earliest stages. Stay tuned.

The Holy Spirit is on the move in Western Louisiana. As Jesus said to Nicodemus, the Spirit blows where it will. That's the way of the missional church. We are blowing with God's reconciling winds, not scurrying for shelter from a storm.

Followers of Jesus—disciples—are risk-takers. We try bold, creative things. Fear of failure does not hold us back. That's because we are people of resurrection. What may look like a failure to some we can recognize as but the first draft of what God is molding into his masterpiece.

We are the Church. And with God's help, we are going places.

Convention Address



Every Sunday morning, millions of Americans decide whether or not to go to church. Some won't really think about it. Church-going has become a habit. Others will weigh the relative benefits of sleeping in or relaxing with a second cup of coffee. Still others will find themselves on their child's sports field, at the lake, in a deer stand, or on a weekend getaway.

Church leaders—clergy and lay alike—fret because fewer people than ever are making the choice to go to church on Sunday. Strictly speaking, increasing numbers of people never even give a thought to attending a worship service.

The question on many anxious minds is, "How do we get more people to go to church?" Church growth gurus give us loads of strategies for luring people into church. Be relevant! Turn back to Rite I language! Serve coffee! Use more incense! Sing contemporary music! Celebrate the richness of tradition! Be approachable! Plumb the depths of mystery!

My own approach is different. It's simply this: Stop going to Church!

You heard me right! Stop going to Church!

You *are* the Church! Be what you are! Lose the language of "going to church" because it makes no sense. Start being the Church.

Step back and think about the image of "going to church" for a minute. "Going to church" implies that church can be over there while you're over here. It's some place or event or activity or organization that you might participate in or opt out of from time to time.

Now consider what we say in our Baptismal Covenant. The Church is the people of God. Through Baptism God folds us inseparably into this Body, the Body of Christ. In the Holy Eucharist God draws us more into more intimate connection with him, deepens the bonds between this Body's members, nourishes and strengthens us for

service, and sends us out to engage God's mission.

We are the Church! We gather to worship. We gather to serve. When for one reason or another we opt out of these gatherings, we are the Church Dissolute. The Church who is losing its way.

A moment ago, I urged us to be what we are. To be the Church. To understand the Church, we begin with this. God has a mission, and God has a Church for that mission.

Since the beginning of my episcopate, I have used the phrase "missional church" and the term "mission." While I have your ear, let me be clear about what I mean by these words.

Let's start by clearing up some common, understandable confusion.

Some people hear "mission" and assume we're referring to going to a place like Africa or Central America or Appalachia. They think of mission trips: episodic ministry events at a distance from where we live.

That's not what we mean by "mission."

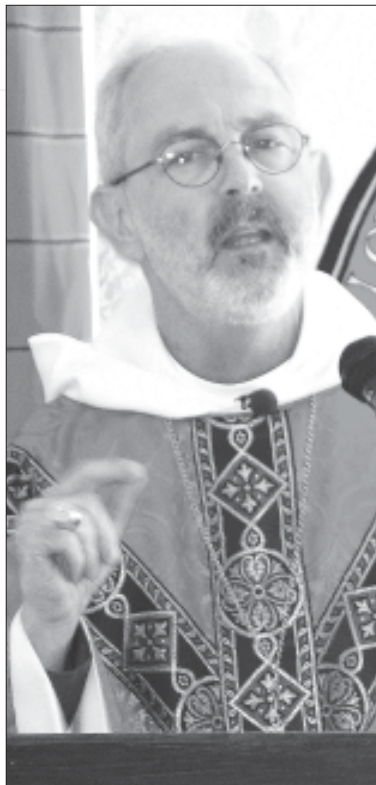
Others hear "mission" as a synonym for outreach. In other words, they assume that being missional church means having outreach

programs or giving money to outreach organizations. Usually, outreach programs work on a benefactor-recipient model. We view ourselves as the privileged benefactors who will help those less fortunate than ourselves as one of the many things we do as a congregation.

That's not what we mean by "mission."

Missional churches will probably sponsor mission trips, run outreach programs, and give financial support to worthy charitable organizations, but doing such things does not make a congregation missional. Being missional is not one thing that a congregation does. Being missional is the DNA—the living essence—that defines every dimension, every activity, of a missional congregation.

For starters, let's define a missional congregation by contrasting it with an



attractational congregation. Whether we realize it or not, most of us were raised with the attractational model of church. In the attractational church, the point is to get people inside. To make them members.

Attractational churches measure their success with average Sunday attendance and pledge numbers. The motto of the attractational church is: get more people to come to church. Use catchy worship styles, kids' programs, coffee shops, felt need groups, and a myriad of other programmatic offerings to bring in spiritual consumers.

Do you see the logic? Attract-consume. The church has a mission, and that mission is to get more members. To increase market share.

By contrast, missional church starts in an entirely different way and proceeds in the opposite direction. For the missional church, the starting place is that God has a mission. We do not say that the Church has a mission. God has a mission. And the sole purpose for any congregation is to engage God's mission.

God's mission is to heal the world: to reconcile the creation to himself and to reconcile all of us to each other. God is already at work doing this, and God has brought congregations into existence to join him in accomplishing it.

Each congregation is where it is precisely because God has called that congregation into being in that location. Missional congregations understand that God's mission is going on all around them and that their purpose is to engage what God is doing out in the world.

As a first step, I encourage everyone in a congregation to walk the neighborhood of the congregation. Literally. Walk the neighborhood 20 minutes in each direction. Get to know the people, the businesses, the institutions, and the schools.

When you walk, walk with ears to hear. Do not assume that you have something to say or something to give that others don't have. Assume that God is already at work. You are looking for partners. How have others discerned God's activity, even if that's not the language they use to talk about it? What are they doing to engage God's mission? How can you join them in engaging God's healing work in your corner of the creation?

Under my guidance and encouragement, your Diocesan Council and your Diocesan staff are offering programs that will nurture and support your creative missional activity. I'll list just a few.

The 2015 budget puts our money where our mouth is. In order to encourage missional thinking and risk-taking, this budget includes a grant program that we call the Ministry Application Program or MAP. This year a total of \$150,000 has been designated for this grant program. Details will be available on our website and from our staff. In short, annual grants for missional initiatives for up to \$7,500 are available. Grants for capitol improvements in support of mission cap at \$5,000. Both kinds of grants will be awarded to new initiatives. They will not be used to supplement operating budgets. These grants are in addition to our longstanding grant program for Formation in Small Congregations.

Under the leadership of Canon Bill Bryant, the Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI) premiered last month with a stewardship workshop. This acted as a kind of preview of what was to come. Beginning in January, the CVI kicks off in earnest with five workshops devoted to helping us take hold of our missional DNA. Look for more details at our website and from Canon Bryant. I urge every congregation to participate with a team of at least one clergy person and three lay persons.

The missional church takes seriously the call to make disciples. In other words, we take Christian Formation for all ages very seriously. That's what CVI is. Working in con-

See *Missional Church*, page 4

News of the Diocese

Blessing the Beasts at Redeemer, Ruston

The fine old tradition lives on! The Rev. William Easterling and of members Redeemer, Ruston gathered Sunday, October 5, for the annual blessing of their beasts, none of which appear to be very "beastly."



Candidates and staff gathered at Camp Hardtner, October 23-26 for Cursillo #147. Bishop Jake joined the group's Sunday Closing service.



Moss Bluff EYC stages intergenerational community event

by the Rev. Frances "Boo" Kay

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Moss Bluff is a mission with about 45 members. The congregation is about one-third children. We finally have six children who are old enough to start an EYC. They meet every Sunday afternoon. The six of them planned and executed a wonderful intergenerational event for our surrounding community. They planned "Trunk or Treat," games, face painting, bobbing for apples and a haunted house. Everyone had to help. There were not enough people to run the games so the participants got to self-organize and play them just the way they wanted. In our rough estimation over 200 people came counting our friends and family.



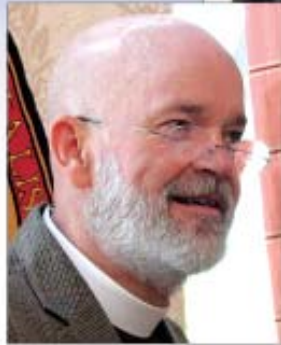
**CURSILLO
#147**

More Diocesan Convention on pages 10, 11, and 12



**In the Spotlight:
FISHING STORIES**

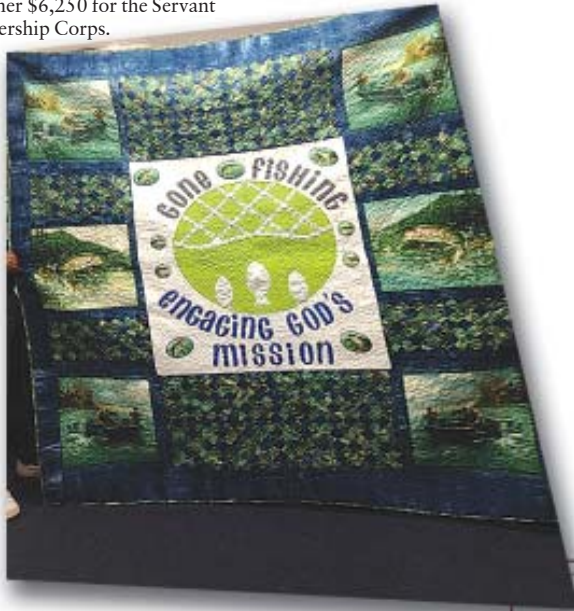
Bishop Jake quite ably expanded the concept of "Fishing for Souls," in his convention Eucharist sermon and Convention address. Following the Bishop's presentations, "Fishing Stories" highlighting practical applications of those concepts were presented by Mother Morgan McIntire of St. James, Shreveport; Mother Mitzi George, Rosine Bouroba, and Garrett Boyle of the Servant Leadership Corp; the Rev. Whitfield Stodghill for the Monroe Convocation, and the Rev. John Bedingfield of St. Barnabas, Lafayette.



"Gone Fishing" quilt and Silent Auction raise funds for Servant Leadership Corps

The "Gone Fishing" quilt, beautifully created by Ms. Dottie Johnson of St. Alban's, Monroe proved to be popular around the Diocese with ticket sales to the raffle of the quilt totaling over \$5,000 with the proceeds designated to the Servant Leadership Corps..

The winning bids in the silent auction held at Convention amounted to another \$6,250 for the Servant Leadership Corps.



Excellence in any surroundings

After having to literally "rehearse in the dark" after tornados swept through Monroe, the choral reflection by the Grace choir was outstanding. Dr. Richard Seiler is Choirmaster/Organist at Grace.

The advent of the Convention "Selfie"

It was a bound to happen, all over convention duos and trios were documenting their time at Monroe. Shetwan Robinson does the honors with Joy Owensby.



From Louisiana's Far North to the Deepest South

Hosting the Thirty-sixth Convention of the Diocese in October 2015 will be the Lake Charles Convocation. From "stormy" Monroe in the north, to Lake Charles and its "placid" weather.



Around the Diocese

The leaves are slowly changing color, the temps are dropping and I can't wait for summer!

by Jason Ezell

The leaves are slowly changing color, the temperatures are finally dropping, and I can't wait for summer! Besides awaiting warmer temperatures, I am ready for the hustle and bustle of summer camp to return sooner than later. Summer camp is always a lively topic of conversation this time of year whether recalling



previous summer memories or looking forward to the next one. Most of our recent conversations have centered on 2015 Summer Camp Registration.

Summer Camp registration is OPEN now! Go to the newly updated and growing Camp Hardtner website,

your password. You may click on the buttons for "Forgot Username?" and "Forgot Password?" at the bottom left of the login screen for help accessing your account.

Very, Very Important before you log on!

****Very Important**** Before logging in to your account, make sure you have the camper's medical history available including vaccination records, health insurance information, and camper's physician contact information. This will save you some time in registering. If you have previously registered for summer camp, your information is retained in the system. Please double check your camper's online information for accuracy. Once logged into the system, please confirm the camper's CURRENT GRADE in school. If the wrong grade is showing and you are unable to change it, please email your camper's first and last name to help@camphardtner.org with subject line CAMPER GRADE. Please include

This summer also features the return of progressively longer sessions as the age of the group attending increases. This also results in different prices for different camp sessions. As you can see from the 2015 Summer Schedule, the costs of our camp sessions have increased. The pricing of camp sessions represents the true cost of camp. Scholarships are available on a limited basis. We are only able to give scholarships

Two Camp Able sessions in 2015

Camp Able is Hardtner's newest ministry serving adults with special needs and is also experiencing growth for summer 2015. After two summers of one Camp Able session for adults, we now will offer two Camp Able sessions for campers ages 9 and older with special needs. The Louisiana Easter Seals have expressed interest in supporting our Camp Able ministry and sending more campers to us each summer. Year One of Camp Able at Hardtner had 33 campers. Year Two had 47 campers plus 3 campers that were unable to attend but guaranteed their return this summer. With the addition of approximately 20 more campers through Easter Seals, the need has been expressed from within our own community for more opportunities for our brothers and sisters with special needs. Camp Hardtner is blessed to have the space and resources necessary to provide two opportunities in 2015 for the Camp Able ministry to touch the lives of campers, their families, and our staff alike.



Right now at Camp

We enjoyed having Cursillo #147 in October and await the Youth Sponsors Training, CLEY, and Pollock First Baptist Church Youth Group retreat in November. As always, contact us if we can be of any service, and we appreciate your prayers, support and love!

—Jason Ezell is the executive director of the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center.

Camp Session	Campers Accepted	Camp Dates	Cost
First Camp	Grades 1&2 with parent/guardian	June 4, 4:00 p.m. June 6, 11:00 a.m.	\$175 per person
Camp Able 1	Grade 3+ & 9+ years old; special needs only	June 9, 2:00 p.m. June 13, 9:00 a.m.	\$450
Primary Camp	Grades 3&4	June 16, 2:00 p.m. June 20, 9:00 a.m.	\$460
Jr. High Camp 1	Grades 5&6	June 23, 2:00 p.m. June 28, 9:00 a.m.	\$575
Jr. High Camp 2	Grades 7&8	July 2, 2:00 p.m. July 7, 9:00 a.m.	\$575
Sr. High Camp	Grades 11&12	July 10, 2:00 p.m. July 16, 9:00 a.m.	\$690
Mid High Camp	Grades 9&10	July 19, 2:00 p.m. July 25, 9:00 a.m.	\$690
Camp Able 2	Grades 3+ & 9+ years old; special needs only	July 28, 2:00 p.m. Aug 1, 9:00 a.m.	\$460

www.camphardtner.org, and look for the REGISTER link on the right side of the Home Page. This link will take you to the sign in page for Campwise registration. Log in using your established username and password. If you don't yet have an account, you may click on the button to create an account at the bottom right-hand side of the log in screen. Only one user account is allowed per camper. If you have forgotten your username, please email your camper's first and last name to help@camphardtner.org with subject line USERNAME. We will respond with the username on file. We do not have access to

the grade in which the camper is currently enrolled for the 2014-2015 school year. After the grade adjustment is made, we will send a response email notifying you at which time you will be able to register. Please do not register a camper for the wrong session. The policy being enforced is that campers may only attend one camp session as a camper. The 2015 schedule has no two sessions for any one grade level.

Full sessions in 2015

We are excited to be back on track for another FULL summer of camp sessions ranging from 1st graders to 12th graders.

based on the amount of money donated to the scholarship fund. Our desire is to provide summer camp to every child that wishes to come. That desire can become a reality through continued generosity and support of our Fr. Joe Bordelon Campership Fund. Last year we were able to provide \$17,000 worth of scholarships. We can do it again this year with your support. Donations can be mailed to the camp office with a note designating the funds for Camperships or you can donate online at www.camphardtner.org.

Look for the Donate button at the very top left of the Home Page. There you will also notice our other current giving opportunities to the Annual Giving Fund and the Camp Able Fund.

Your Contribution to the Fr. Joe Bordelon Campership Fund will help send a young person to camp. To understand the impact that can have read: **"OUR ABC'S OF CAMP HARDTNER"** on page 9 of this issue of ALIVE!

TO SUBSCRIBE TO ALIVE! OR CHANGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Contact Robert Harwell, ALIVE! editor 318-868-2303 or e-mail robertharwell@centurytel.net

Around the Diocese

A Taste of St. James is big hit at the Shreveport congregation

St. James Shreveport held "A Taste of St. James" which featured delicacies from "St. James Daily Bread Second Verse" on Sunday, November 2. The event was free with opportunities to purchase copies of the cookbook.



Raffle tickets were also sold for centerpiece baskets and silent auction baskets. Each of these baskets included a copy of the cook book as well as kitchen gadgets and holiday decorations.

"Taste of St. James" was well attended, with many enjoying the delicious food and grand fellowship.

St. James Daily Bread, SECOND VERSE is now for sale for \$15 a copy and is deemed "ideal" for Christmas gifts. **Contact St. James at:** stjames_sport@comcast.net for information on how to purchase the book.

James at: stjames_sport@comcast.net for information on how to purchase the book.

Editor's Note: Tyler and Bryan Paulk, of St. Michael's, Pineville attended a Hardtner Summer Camp session this year on scholarships provided by the parish. Their return was marked by this article that appeared in the St. Michael's newsletter. Enjoy!

Our ABC's of Camp Hardtner

By Tyler and Bryan Paulk



We would like to share with everyone our gratitude for providing us the opportunity to attend the greatest camp experience that we have ever had! We are both looking forward to attending camp again next year. In the meantime, we would like to teach you our ABC's of Camp Hardtner.

Should you have any questions, feel free to ask us, and we will be happy to explain; however, we do have the right to plead "The 5th" in certain circumstances!

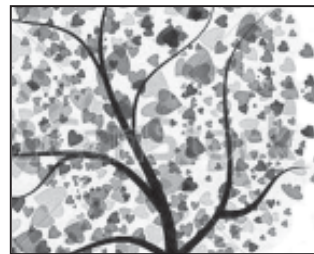
A - AMAZING	N - NEW HOME
B - BRITISH BULLDOG	O - OPPORTUNITIES
C - COUNSELORS (Jake, Rob, Alec; AJ, Pedro)	P - PRAISE
D - DEVOTIONAL	Q - QUESTIONS
E - EPISCOPAL (but you don't have to be)	R - REST HOUR
F - FRIENDS	S - SINGING and SWIMMING
G - GOD	T - TOGA PARTY
H - HARDTNER	U - ULTIMATE FRISBEE
I - INSPIRATIONAL	V - VICTORY
J - JUDGMENT DAY (Frisbee game...not in The Book of Revelations!)	W - WORLD WAR Z
K - KAOS FROCKER (Soccer and Frisbee combined for one awesome game)	X - XCITING
L - LeMAN (A game played by the guys BEFORE the dance)	Y - YOUTH
M - MILK and COOKIES	Z - Z-z-z-z-z (what you do all the way home when camp is over!)

A heartfelt thanks, once again, to those who make this camp a possibility for us all. Love in Christ, Tyler and Bryan Paulk of St. Michael's, Pineville

THE FAMILY OF ST. PAUL'S IS SEEKING A YOUTH MINISTER



The Family of St. Paul's, Shreveport is seeking a dynamic person to lead the young people of our parish as Youth Minister. This is a full-time position, with benefits, at this conservative, evangelical, growing parish. If interested, please contact The Rev. Paul D. Martin, 318-865-8469 or frpaul@stpauls-shreveport.org. We will consider applications through November 30.



CVI
CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY INSTITUTE



First CVI Event of 2015

MY CONGREGATION IN OUR COMMUNITY

With the Rev. Mac McCarter

January 16 & 17, 2015
Overnight session at Camp Hardtner in Pollock, LA

Bishop Jake will deliver the keynote address at the Friday opening session.

The Congregational Vitality Institute (CVI) is a leadership training program focused on strengthening the spiritual community and organizational life of the congregations within the Diocese of Western Louisiana.

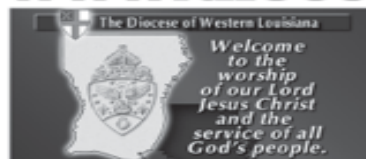
To equip lay leaders to serve in their congregations in mutual ministry is the mission of CVI. Specific training to enable these skills is provided by CVI. The desired result is stronger, healthier congregations that are visible in their communities, and fully responsive to God as missional churches.

CVI will present five programs in 2015. A one-time fee of \$25 entitles you to attend all five presentations.

Each session 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For reservations, contact The Rev. Canon Bill Bryant, rectory@shreve.net

www.diocesewla.org



Your information source for The Diocese of Western Louisiana

Around the Diocese



Save this date!

**DAUGHTERS
OF THE KING**
Spring Assembly
March 7, 2015
St. Timothy's, Alexandria



Holy Cross

continued from page 3

classes, a weekly Eucharist. And the most precious ministry of our neighbors ministering to us.

There's so much to celebrate in the ten years God has led us in ministry! So that's what we did: Sunday, October 19, after the 11:00 a.m. service, we had a big celebration. There must have been 300 people gathered for hot dogs right off the grill, Cokes



Top: "Men of the Way" gospel group
Left: Sandy & David Miller
Top right: Dr. Austin & Georgeanna Gleason



through Friday. This results in a daily average of 36 people using our two showers and 24 loads of clothes washed and dried. In addition, towels for the showers are constantly being washed and dried on the back porch. We are always making improvements, and of course repairs are needed from time to time. Hope House could really keep four showers and a couple more washers and dryers busy, but expansion will have to wait for funding.

In 1954, 119 people formed The Church of the Holy Cross because they believed the church should have a presence in the inner city. Their intent was, clearly, that Holy Cross' ministry be in the neighborhood where the church was planted. The people of Holy Cross have stayed true to that vision. We believe that where the will is to enter into God's mission, God provides the way to do that.

—**Mother Mary Richard** is rector of Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport.

and ice cream sandwiches, gospel music, tours of Hope House, and medical care by St. Luke's. It was a beautiful day!

A few statistics might be of interest. This year we have expanded the ministry to include neighbors living in apartments or houses who do not have free laundry facilities. At last count, about a third of the people coming in each day are housed, and two thirds are homeless. More than five hundred people are registered at Hope House, which means we keep records of where they live and the services they receive, as well as additional services they might need.

Since August Hope House has seen more than eighty people each day, Monday

Planning an event in the diocese?

CONTACT JOY OWENSBY FIRST!

After a great deal of planning and hard work, the Diocese has established and will maintain a central diocesan calendar of events to be held in the diocese.

The creation and maintenance of that calendar is the responsibility of Missioner for Children, Youth, and Young Adults, Joy Owensby.

(JOwensby@diocesewla.org)

SO, if you are planning an event to be held in the diocese, your first move is to CONTACT JOY! Still in its infancy, this central calendar has already helped avoid overlapping events.

Remember, your first move is to CONTACT JOY!
JOwensby@diocesewla.org



Elected at Convention

Convention was tasked with electing two clergy members of the Disciplinary Board, a lay representative to the Disciplinary Board, a clergy member of the Standing Committee from the Monroe Convocation, a lay member of the Standing Committee from the Shreveport Convocation, and a lay trustee for the University of the South (Sewanee).

Nominees for these positions were profiled in the October issue of *ALIVE!* There was one candidate nominated to fill each position, with exception of the Disciplinary Board where three nominees were standing for one position.

At Convention no other names were placed in nomination. Bishop Jake suggested that those nominated, be elected by acclamation.

In the case of the Disciplinary Board, where there were three nominees for one lay position, Bishop Jake said electing one nominee would satisfy the minimum number of lay members required for the Disciplinary Board. He also said that there was no prohibition to electing more than the minimum number of members, and since we had three nominees who were prepared to undertake a difficult job, (should it be necessary) why not elect all three nominees. Convention promptly elected all nominees by acclamation.

Clergy members of the Disciplinary Board:

The Very Rev. Thomas T. Nsubuga, St. Luke's, Grambling
The Very Rev. Mary B. Richard, Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport

Lay members of the Disciplinary Board

Donald W. Little, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport
Kathie Messinger, Christ Episcopal Church, Bastrop
Harris N. Rowzie, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles

Clergy member of the Standing Committee, Monroe Convocation

The Rev. Richard H. Norman, Jr., Grace, Monroe

Lay member of the Standing Committee, Shreveport Convocation

Rosemary Lafargue, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport

Lay trustee, University of the South

Philip C. Earhart, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles

Elected by their Convocations to the Diocesan Executive Council

Acadiana: John Guillory, Church of the Epiphany, New Iberia

Alexandria: Dwain West, St. Timothy's, Alexandria

Lake Charles: The Rev. "Boo" Kay, St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff

Monroe: The Rev. Dawnell Stodghill, St. Thomas, Monroe

Shreveport: The Rev. Dr. Frank Hughes, St. John's, Monroe

Appointed to the Diocesan Council by the Bishop for one year:

The Rev. Whitfield Stodghill, St. Alban's, Monroe

DIOCESAN DATES OF NOTE

November 2014

- 2 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Luke's, Grambling*
- 4 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m.*
- 8 — Youth Sponsors Training, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 9 — Bishop's Visitation, *Epiphany, Opelousas*
- 10 — Registration Deadline for CLEY Participants
- 14 — *ALIVE!* copy deadline for the December issue
- 16 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge*
- 21 — CLEY Retreat for High School Youth, *Camp Hardtner*
- 23 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christ Church, St. Joseph*
- 24 — Youth Leadership Institute Applications due

December 2014

- 1—Happening Staff Applications due
- 6 — Commission on Youth and Young Adults Meeting, *Online*
- 7 — Bishop's Visitation, *Grace, Monroe*
- 14 — Bishop's Visitation, *Redeemer, Ruston*
- 15 — *ALIVE!* copy deadline for the January issue
- 19 — Registration Deadline for Winter Fest participants
- 21 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Thomas, Monroe*
- 24 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Mark's Shreveport*
- 29 — Winter Fest at Camp Hardtner, *Begins 6:00 p.m. 12/29/14; Ends 10:00 a.m., 1/1/15*
- 30 — Bishop's Ball, *Camp Hardtner, 6-10 p.m.*

January 2015

- 9 — Youth Leadership Institute, *6:00 p.m. 1/9/15-1:00 p.m. 1/10/15, Pineville*
- 10 — Commission on Youth and Young Adults Meeting at Mt. Olivet
- 11 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. James, Alexandria*
- 16-17 — Convocational Vitality Institute Presentation: "What We Are" *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 18 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Shreveport*
- 19 — *ALIVE!* copy deadline for the February issue
- 25 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Timothy's, Alexandria*
- 20 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m.*
- 24 — JEYL Staff applications due

February 2015

- 1 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. John's, Minden*
- 8 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christ Church, Bastrop*
- 9 — Registration deadline for Happening participants
- 15 — Bishop's Visitation, *Epiphany, New Iberia*
- 19 — Happening Staff Overnight, *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center*
- 19 — *ALIVE!* copy deadline for the March issue
- 20 — Happening at Camp Hardtner, *6:00 p.m. 2/20/15- 5:00 p.m. 2/22/15*
- 22 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Matthias, Shreveport*
- 26 — Registration deadline for JEYL participants
- 28 — Convocational Vitality Institute Presentation: "The Elements of the Missional Church," *Hardtner Camp and Conference Center,*

March 2015

- 1 — Bishop's Visitation, *Christ Memorial, Mansfield*
- 6 — JEYL Retreat at Camp Hardtner, *6:00 p.m. 3/6/15- Noon 3/8/15*
- 7 — Daughters of the King Spring Assembly
- 8 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Patrick's, West Monroe*
- 19 — *ALIVE!* copy deadline for the April issue
- 22 — Bishop's Visitation, *Holy Comforter, Lecompte*
- 28 — Commission on Youth and Young Adults Meeting, *Online via GoToMeeting*
- 29 — Bishop's Visitation, *(Palm Sunday) St. James, Alexandria*

April 2015

- 5 — Bishop's Visitation, *(Easter Sunday) St. Mark's, Shreveport*
- 11 — Youth Leadership Institute – Session 2, *St. Barnabas, Lafayette*
- 12 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Winnfield*
- 19 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. Paul's, Abbeville*
- 26 — Bishop's Visitation, *St. George's, Bossier City*
- 21 — Meeting of the Diocesan Council, *St. James, Alexandria, 10:00 a.m.*



Convention adopted two resolutions on second reading that with their passage amended the diocesan constitution. To amend the constitution, an amendment must be passed by two consecutive annual meetings of convention by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

RESOLUTION INITIALLY PASSED BY THE 2013 DIOCESAN CONVENTION DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA October 18-19, 2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Western Diocese of Louisiana is hereby amended to add the following subsection, to wit:

(b) "Deacons canonically resident and ministerially active in the Diocese as acknowledged by the Bishop, if there is one, and the Standing Committee, or, if there is no Bishop, the Standing Committee alone, shall elect one voting Diaconal delegate for every four Deacons, from among and for the Deacons as acknowledged in the subpart, with the election to take place by caucus of the Deacons prior to the annual Diocesan Convention."

Explanation: This resolution is passed in anticipation of a Diocesan expansion of the Diaconal ministry and the ordination of new Deacons pursuant thereto, and follows the Diocese of Alabama's model regarding Diaconal voting at convention.

This resolution was passed by the 35th Annual Convention by the required two-thirds majority.

RESOLUTION INITIALLY PASSED BY THE 2012 DIOCESAN CONVENTION DIOCESE OF WESTERN LOUISIANA, AT ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA October 13, 2012

BE IT RESOLVED, that Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Western Diocese of Louisiana is hereby amended to add the following subsection, to wit:

(h) "Each retired Priest must be canonically and physically resident in the Diocese only for the purpose of determining a quorum in accordance with the Articles hereof. Each retired Priest who is canonically resident in the Diocese shall be considered part of the voting membership of the Convention for all other purposes."

NOTE: An amendment to the Constitutions requires adoption by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote at two (2) consecutive annual meetings of the Convention.

This resolution was passed by the 35th Annual Convention by the required two-thirds majority.



Table fellowship

Intentional seating, that mixed delegates and guests from different congregations proved again to be popular.



A quiet moment with a good read.



A stark reminder of the violent weather endured earlier in the week stood just outside the otherwise untouched Bayou Desiard Country Club, scene of the convention.

Catastrophic Weather strikes Monroe and the Diocesan Convention

Doubtless you're familiar with that old admonition that so many of us have seen come to pass: "The best laid plans of Mice and Men often go astray."

Just when Diocesan Convention Chair Susan Sparks and the Monroe Convocation churches and workers had convention preparations "in the barn," disaster in the form of a tornado of F2 intensity struck Ouachita Parish. According to Gannett of Louisiana, 653 homes were touched by the storm. Particularly hard hit was Monroe's Garden District with Grace Episcopal Church in the epicenter of the turmoil created by the storm.

Tuesday and Wednesday of "storm week" witnessed frantic efforts to make sure that all souls impacted by the storm were safe. Those tasked with the staging of Diocesan Convention set for Friday, October 17 and Saturday the eighteenth successfully changed the scope and venue of the event.

Holding the gathering at Grace Church was out. Power lines, fallen

trees, and other damage made that impossible, so Convention planners, in concert with Bishop Jake Owensby, made needed changes. Convention's start time was moved to after lunch on Friday. All workshops were cancelled, and events and activities not absolutely needed were eliminated.

The site of Convention was moved to the Bayou DeSiard Country Club with all activities conducted in the Club's main dining room, including the Convention Eucharist.

Was Convention fatally affected by the story wrought changes? NO! most delegates and guests would answer, perfectly understanding the plight of so many in the Monroe area still without power, and struggling with damaged homes and storm-impacted livelihoods.

Delegates and guests took every opportunity to praise the work of Convention chair Susan Sparks and those members of the Convention team who "made things work" under trying circumstances.

Convention did not come off without a hitch, but its staging was a complete success!

Listen!

